

Customizing the IDEA Settings Dialog

This topic explains how you can create a plugin that customize the system dialog box [Settings](#) displayed when you click on the IDEA toolbar. This dialog box (see the screenshot below) allows you to specify both the project-specific and IDE-specific settings.

To customize this dialog, your plugin must contribute to the `applicationConfigurable` (IDE settings) or `projectConfigurable` (project settings) [extension points](#) available in the IDEA core.

This topic considers a sample plugin that customizes the IDE-specific settings. However, you can create your own plugin for customization of the project-scpecific settings using the similar technique.

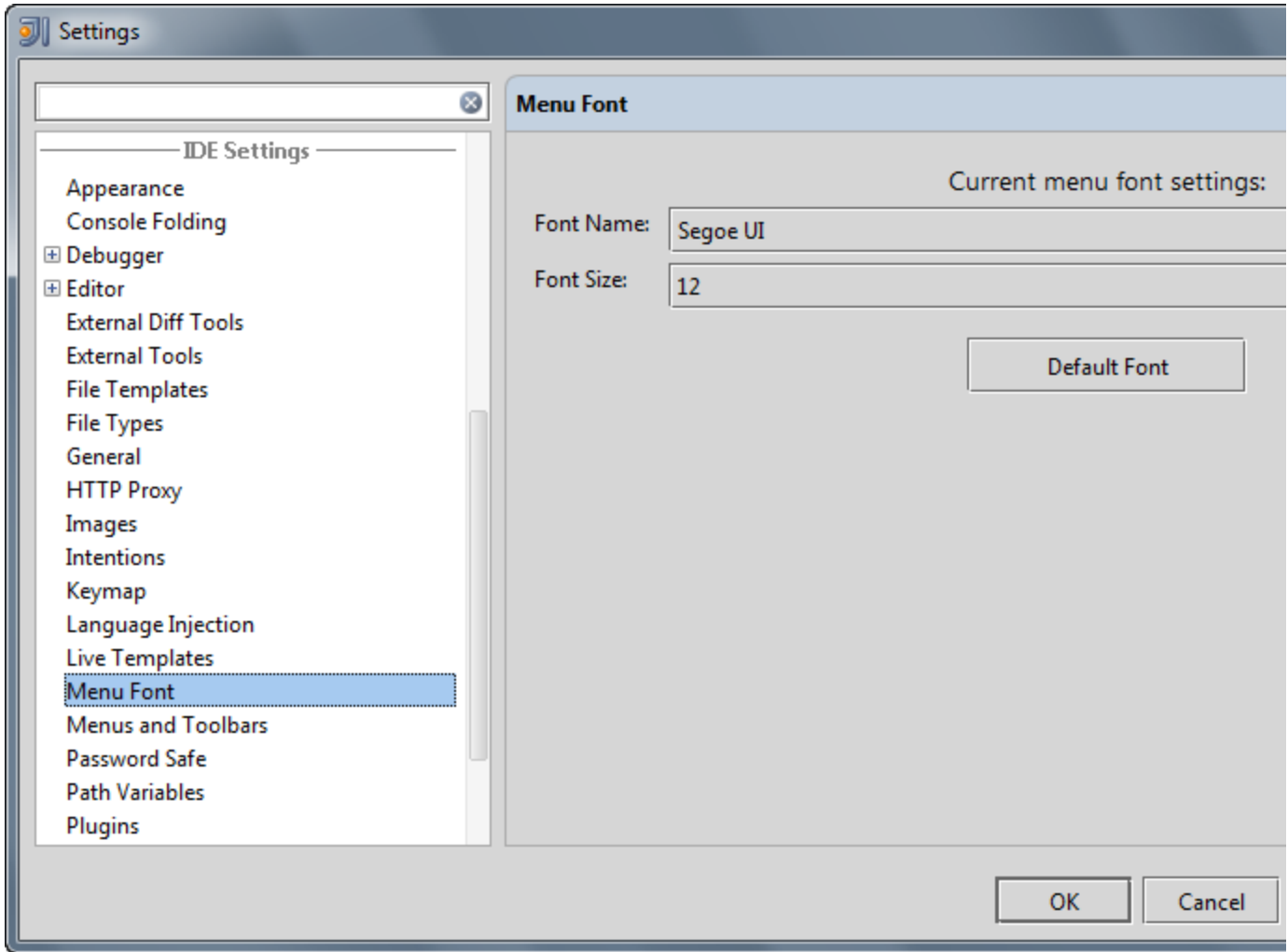
Creation of Extension to `applicationConfigurable`

To create a plugin that contributes to the `applicationConfigurable` extension point and customizes the IDE Settings area of the Settings dialog box, perform the following principal steps:

1. In your plugin project, create a Java class that implements the [Configurable](#) interface.
2. In this class, override the following methods:
 - `createComponent`: creates the UI visual form and returns its root element.
 - `apply`: this method is called when the user clicks the OK or Apply button.
 - `reset`: this method is called when the user clicks the Cancel button.
 - `isModified`: this method is regularly called to check the form for changes. If the method returns `false`, the Apply button is disabled.
 - `disposeUIResources`: this method is called when the user closes the form. In this method, you can, for example, release the resources used by the form.
3. In the plugin configuration file `plugin.xml`, create the `<extensions defaultExtensionNs="com.intellij"> </extensions>` section.
4. To this section, add the `<applicationConfigurable instance=%MyJavaClassName%></applicationConfigurable>` section, where the `%MyJavaClassName%` refers to the name of your Java class implementing the `Configurable` interface (see Step 1).


Sample Plugin


To clarify the above procedure, consider the `applicationConfigurable` sample plugin that adds the new menu command "Menu Font" to the IDE Settings area. Clicking this commands causes IntelliJ IDEA to display a visual form designed to specify a font for the IntelliJ IDEA menus. This UI is similar to the following screen:



To run this sample plugin

1. Start IntelliJ IDEA and open the applicationConfigurable project saved into the <%IDEA project folder%>/community/samples/applicationConfigurable directory.
2. Ensure that the project settings are valid for your environment. If necessary, modify the project settings.

To view or modify the project settings, on the toolbar, click , and then complete the [Project Structure](#) dialog box that opens.

3. Run the plugin by choosing the Run | Run on the main menu.
If necessary, change the [Run/Debug Configurations](#) .
4. On the toolbar menu, click  .
The Settings dialog box opens.
5. In the Settings dialog box, under IDE Settings, click Menu Font.
The plugin displays UI designed to change the IDEA menu font.