

Editing/Formatting

Remove 3 or more linebreaks (multiple linebreaks)?

A user wrote:

I hope your filter include a feature to remove repeated (multiple, 3 or more in sequence) end of paragraph characters, during a "text cleanup". Of course I need two paragraph marks, one to end the paragraph, and one to provide one line space between paragraphs. In the editing work that I do, that is the single most irritating problem that I encounter, where the author puts more than two paragraph marks.

Your wish is granted (good!)

The RegEx Find & Replace can handle this easily. Well, it WOULD be easy if I were better at RegEx. But I figured it out.

Get as follows:

```
Find:  (\r\n){3,}
Replace: \r\n\r\n
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Explanation
REGEX is a single return, \r\n is a linefeed, expressed in backslash notation, understandable by the RegEx parser.
By placing in round braces {}, that groups them together so that the asterisk * can treat as a whole. 3 means "at least 3 of these", where "three" are the preceding pattern, which is treated as a whole due to the round braces. The comma after the 3 separates min/max. Here min is 3, and max is unlimited (I could have written {3,999} instead, for example. The max is optional, but the comma will - otherwise it would do "only 3".
We're replacing with 2 carriage return/linefeeds.

We're turning off the line-by-line option, so that the linefeeds are visible to the RegEx (otherwise it would not see them).

For this and more RegEx cleanup examples, see

<http://www.thorntons.com/faq/faq718.html?cid=106>

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Author: Chris Thornton

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