

# 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, when 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
```

**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 isn't - otherwise it would do "only 2".  
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/738\\_text\\_cleanup\\_examples.html](http://www.thorntons.com/738_text_cleanup_examples.html)

Unique solution ID: #1006

Author: Chris Thornton

Last update: 2008-11-24 10:05