

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.

Set as follows:

```
Find: (\n{3,})
Replace: \n
```

Explanation
The RegEx `(\n{3,})` is a range return, `\n` is a linefeed, expressed in backslash notation, understandable by the RegEx parser. By placing in round brackets `()`, that groups them together so that the asterisk `*` can treat as a whole. `3` means "at least 3 of these", where "these" are the preceding pattern, which is treated as a whole due to the round brackets. The comma after the `3` separates min/max. Here min is 3, and max is unlimited (I could have written `(5,999)` instead, for example. The max is optional, but the comma isn't - otherwise it would do "only 2". We're replacing with `\n` (single space/linefeed).

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/faq78.html>

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