Diff.Net

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Diff.Net is a differencing utility I wrote in C#. It provides side-by-side differencing for files, directories, and text. For files and text it also provides an overview diff and a line-to-line diff.

This software is "charity ware". If you use it, I ask that you make a $5 US donation to the charity of your choice. The latest version of Diff.Net is available on <http://www.menees.com>.

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## Command Line Syntax

Diff.Net.exe Name1 Name2 [Options]

Name1 and Name2 should specify either file or directory names. Both names should be of the same type. Paths that contain spaces can be enclosed in double quotes.

File differencing options can be set with /f: followed by an option letter:

* c – Ignore Case
* w – Ignore Whitespace In Text
* g – Show or hide the “Compare Files” dialog.
* t – Comparison Type. The next letter sets the type: a=Auto, b=Binary, t=Text, x=XML. For example, /f:tx uses an XML comparison and /f:ta uses an Auto comparison.

Directory differencing options can be set with /d: followed by an option letter:

* l – Show If Only On Left
* r – Show If Only On Right
* d – Show If Different
* s – Show If Same
* c – Recursive
* g – Show or hide the “Compare Directories” dialog.

To set an option to true follow it with +. To set an option to false follow it with -. For example, /f:c+ turns on the “Ignore Case” option and /d:s- turns off the “Show If Same” option.

## Revision History

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.0.0 | 11/28/02 | * Released initial version. |
| 1.0.1 | 3/13/03 | * Added "View File" command for File Difference form. * Added tooltips. * Minor bug fixes to UI elements. |
| 1.0.2 | 5/28/03 | * Rebuilt with .NET 1.1. Changed to use a common "Menees" about box. |
| 1.0.3 | 6/18/03 | * Fixed a bug where directory names were compared case-sensitively. * The Compare Files dialog was showing up in the Taskbar. * In a file diff, Find Next and Find Previous didn't recheck the starting line if the search started in the middle of the line. This could cause matches to be missed. |
| 1.0.4 | 11/2/03 | * Added the ability to do a visual binary comparison of files. |
| 1.1.0 | 5/16/04 | * Added the ability to compare text. * Added drag-and-drop support for two files or directories. * Initialize find text from selection. * Option to go to first diff on file or text open. * Option to hide dialogs in some cases unless Shift is pressed. * Option to check for file or directory existence. This is on by default but you might want to turn it off if you’re accessing remote files on a slow network. * Recent Files and Recent Directories lists. * Show non-focused text selection in a different color. * Command line argument support. * Added support for “visual styles” on XP and up. * Converted Readme.txt into Readme.doc. |
| 1.1.1 | 6/4/04 | * Files and directories can be drag-and-dropped on an open diff dialog, which allows you to drag in one item at a time. * The DiffView control now shows the line number as “selected” for the line containing the caret. * Fixed a bug where the caret could disappear in a focused DiffView control. * Fixed awful color choices for non-focused selected text in DiffView control. * Fixed a bug where the /f:g- and /d:g- command-line options only worked if the “Only show if Shift is pressed” option was enabled. |
| 1.1.2 | 8/25/04 | * Added the ability to compare two selected text blocks from a file or text difference window. * Swapped the order of the Next Difference and Previous Difference buttons on the file/text DiffControl. * Fixed a couple of cases where DiffView.HasSelection would return true even though the selection was empty, which caused some of the buttons and menu items to be enabled even though there was nothing selected. |
| 2.0.0 | 3/12/06 | * Rebuilt with .NET 2.0 and Visual Studio 2005. * Updated to use new graphics and menus. * Fixed a bug where GoToNextDiff was done even if the first line contained a difference. * XML diffs now use the correct quote character for each attribute. * XML diffs now handle self-ending (i.e., “empty”) elements with attributes correctly. * Added a Recompare command for file and directory diffs. |
| 2.0.1 | 3/15/06 | * Fixed several places that were using StreamReader with the default UTF8 encoding for reading text files. This caused extended ASCII characters like © to get stripped out of the display text. * Changed the Recent Files and Recent Directories menus to separate the paths with a newline rather than a vertical bar to make the menus more compact and legible. |
| 2.0.2 | 3/19/06 | * Added support for AutoComplete on file and directory diff dialogs. * Added buttons and menu items for Go To First/Last Diff. * Fixed a minor scrolling issue where the initial GoToFirstDiff was done before the form was fully resized, which made the first diff show up way above center. Then hitting NextDiff or Recompare made the window scroll a lot. |
| 2.1.0 | 2/21/09 | * Rebuilt with VS 2008 but still targets .NET 2.0. * Changed the MeneesDiffUtils API to use generics in many places. * Minor display bug fixes (e.g., showing whitespace, CDATA node closing). * Option to show changes as deletes and inserts (like WinDiff did). * Option to show hatch lines on “dead space” lines. * Use .NET’s XML readers and writers for getting text lines in XML diffs. |
| 2.2.0 | 5/28/10 | * Rebuilt with VS 2010 and .NET 4.0. * Updated the main icon to look better on Vista or later. * Fixed a TreeView scroll syncing bug visible on Windows 7 or later. |
| 3.0.0 | 1/19/11 | * Added support for highlighting intra-line diffs on changed lines. * Made comparison types more explicit on the file and text compare dialogs. * Added support for an Auto comparison type from the GUI and command line. * Added support for additional keyboard and mouse actions on text diff views. * Default to using Consolas font instead of Courier New in text diff views. * Added an option to show whitespace in the main text diff views. * Made the diff overview show “dead space” like the text diff views. * Made Next/Previous Diff logic a little smarter about when it needs to scroll. * Removed some obscure options from the GUI. * Improved the error message if an XML comparison is used on non-XML text. * Used TextRenderer (GDI) for more accurate text and cursor positioning. |
| 3.0.1 | 7/3/11 | * Updated to use Menees.CommandLine for command line processing. |
| 3.0.2 | 11/15/11 | * Fixed a problem where long text lines could render as blank because of a TextRenderer.DrawText limitation. * Made auto-detection of XML ignore DTDs and schemas and not try to resolve external references (because <!DOCTYPE> nodes in HTML files would hang the default XmlUrlResolver). * Added a new default filter for directory diffs to easily exclude \*.obj;\*.pdb;\*.exe;\*.dll;\*.cache;\*.tlog;\*.trx;\*.FileListAbsolute.txt. |
| 3.0.3 | 1/16/12 | * Fixed a bug where the title bar icons were incorrect for MDI child windows. |
| 4.0 | 9/24/13 | * Rebuilt with VS 2012 and .NET 4.5. * Major refactoring of the code to use Menees.Common and Menees.Windows.Forms and to comply with most Code Analysis and StyleCop rules. * Split the old MeneesDiffUtils.dll into Menees.Diffs.dll (for non-UI code) and Menees.Diffs.Controls.dll (for Windows Forms code). * Added an option to use an MDI tab strip. * Added Similarity percentage to file and text diffs, calculated as (2\*len(LongestCommonSubsequence(A,B))) / (len(A) + len(B)). * Changed the licensing terms to use Apache License, Version 2.0 since so many people request to reuse the libraries and/or source code. |
| 4.0.1 | 1/7/15 | * Changed the Compare Directories dialog to use the newer style folder browser dialog. |
| 4.0.2 | 8/1/15 | * Updated the code to use C# 6 syntax and to build with VS 2015. |

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