## Command Reference: CompareFiles()

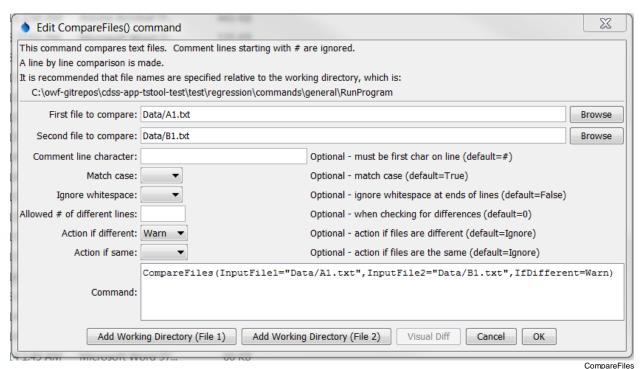
Compare text files to determine whether they are different

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The CompareFiles () command compares text files to determine differences. For example, the command can be used to compare old and new files produced by a software process. This command is suitable for comparing files that are similar, but is not suitable for comparing files that are very different, although it may be enhanced in the future to provide more sophisticated comparison features.

Each line in the file is compared. By default, lines beginning with # are treated as comment lines and are ignored (see CommentLineChar to specify the comment indicator). Therefore, only non-comment lines are compared. Comment lines in the middle of the file are simply discarded. Differences and simple statistics are printed to the log file. A warning can be generated if a difference is detected or if no differences are detected (see also the CompareTimeSeries () and CompareTables () commands).

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the syntax for the command. If the <code>DiffProgram</code> property has been defined in the TSTool configuration file and both files exist, the *View Diff* button will be enabled to display a visual difference. The KDiff3 software is one option for a visual difference program.



CompareFiles() Command Editor

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The command syntax is as follows:

CompareFiles(Parameter=Value,...)

## **Command Parameters**

Parameter	Description	Default
InputFile1	The name of the first file to read. Enclose the name	None – the file
	in double quotes to protect whitespace and special	name is required.
	characters. Can be specified with the	
	\${Property} syntax.	
InputFile2	The name of the second file to read. Enclose the	None – the file
	name in double quotes to protect whitespace and	name is required.
	special characters. Can be specified with the	
	\${Property} syntax.	
CommentLineChar	The character(s) that if found at the start of a line	#
	indicate comment lines. Comment lines are ignored	
	in the comparison because they typically may include	
	information such as date/time that changes even if the	
Matala Casa	remainder of the file contents is the same.	True
MatchCase	If True, lines must match exactly. If False, case is	True
Town a sea Mile i + a assa a a a	ignored for the comparison.	False
IgnoreWhitespace	If True, then each line is trimmed to remove leading	raise
	and trailing whitespace characters (spaces and tabs)	
	before doing the comparison. If False, then	
AllowedDiff	whitespace is retained for the comparison.  The number of lines allowed to be different, when	0
AllowedDill	checking for differences. This is useful, for example,	U
	when a non-comment line contains the date/time	
	when the file was generated.	
IfDifferent	Indicates the action to be taken if the files are	Do not generate a
	different:	warning if the files
	Ignore – do not generate warning	are different.
	Warn – generate a warning message	Differences are
	Fail – generate a failure message	printed to the log
	rall - generate a faiture message	file.
IfSame	Indicates the action to be taken if the files are the	Do not generate a
	same:	warning if the files
	• Ignore – do not generate warning	are the same.
	Warn – generate a warning message	
	Fail – generate a failure message	

The following example illustrates how two files can be compared. For example, use similar commands to compare results from two model runs, two database queries, or when testing software:

CompareFiles(InputFile1="Data/A1.txt", InputFile2="Data/B1.txt",
 WarnIfDifferent=True)