## Command Reference: CompareFiles()

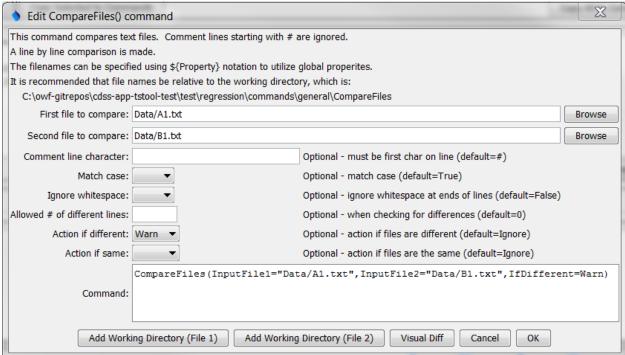
Compare text files to determine whether they are different

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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

CompareFiles() Command Editor

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 in	None – the file name
	double quotes to protect whitespace and special characters. Global properties can be used with the	is required.
	\${Property} syntax.	
InputFile2	The name of the second file to read. Enclose the name	None – the file name
	in double quotes to protect whitespace and special	is required.
	characters. Global properties can be used with the	1
	\${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	
	remainder of the file contents is the same.	
MatchCase	If True, lines must match exactly. If False, case is	True
	ignored for the comparison.	_
IgnoreWhitespace	If True, then each line is trimmed to remove leading	False
	and trailing whitespace characters (spaces and tabs)	
	before doing the comparison. If False, then	
711 lp'cc	whitespace is retained for the comparison.	
AllowedDiff	The number of lines allowed to be different, when	0
	checking for differences. This is useful, for example, 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 different:	Do not generate a
	Ignore – do not generate warning	warning if the files
	Warn – generate a warning message	are different.
	Fail – generate a failure message	Differences are
	Fall - generate a faiture message	printed to the log
		file.
IfSame	Indicates the action to be taken if the files are the same:	Do not generate a
	Ignore – do not generate warning	warning if the files
	Warn – generate a warning message	are the same.
	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)