Command Reference: CompareFiles()

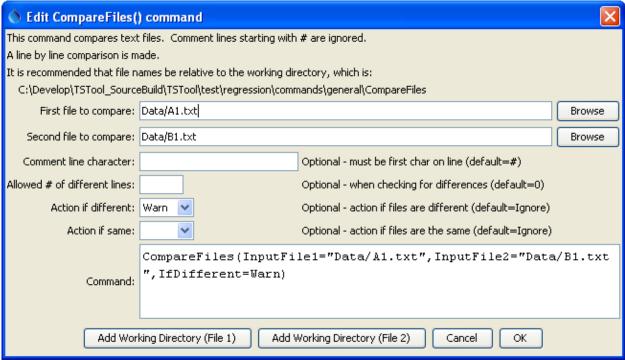
Compare text files to determine whether they are different

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The CompareFiles () command compares text files to determine data differences. For example, the command can be used to compare old and new files produced by a software process.

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. 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 () command).

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the syntax for the command.



CompareFiles() Command Editor

CompareFiles

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	is required.
	characters.	
InputFile2	The name of the second file to read. Enclose the name in	None – the file name
	double quotes to protect whitespace and special	is required.
	characters.	
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 are the same.	
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.	
WarnIfDifferent	If True and at least one difference is detected, a warning	Do not generate a
	will be generated by the command, which will result in	warning if the files
	software like TSTool displaying a warning. If False,	are different.
	only status messages are written to the log file. The	Differences are
	warning is useful if it is critical to detect any difference	printed to the log
	in the files.	file.
WarnIfSame	If True and no differences are detected, a warning will	Do not generate a
	be generated by the command, which will result in	warning if the files
	software like TSTool displaying a warning. If False,	are the same.
	only status messages are written to the log file. The	
	warning is useful if it is critical to detect files that are the	
	same.	

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)
```