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## Vim, removing blank and commented lines in one regex

Asked 7 years, 4 months ago   Active 2 years, 3 months ago   Viewed 15k times



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I want to remove blank and commented lined at one time. I already found the similar question regarding removing blank lines, so for blank lines I use:

```
:g/^$/d
```



and for commented lines:

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```
:g/^#/d
```



I'm curious is there any way to merge these regex in one? Something like

```
:g/^[${}]/d
```

but obviously it doesn't work in vim.

regex

vim

asked Sep 30 '12 at 15:52



[evfwcqcq](#)

12.3k 12 48 68

### 5 Answers



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You can try this command:

```
:g/^\(#{1,}|\$)/d
```



Or



```
:g/^\(#{1,}|\$)/d
```



- `$` matches literal '\$' inside [...] (type `:help /\$` for help)
- `\|` is for alternation

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edited Sep 30 '12 at 16:09

answered Sep 30 '12 at 15:56



kev

122k

31

227

249

only one thing I would suggest here is to send the deleted lines to the blackhole register by adding an underscore after the `d` operator. Like so: `:g/\v^(#|$)/d_` This will be noticeably faster if the file is huge. Also the deleted comments are not likely needed for subsequent pastes so why keep them – [Peter Perháč](#) Jul 9 '17 at 22:44

Another way of solving this is keeping the non-commented lines:

5

`:g!/^[^#]/d`

answered Sep 30 '12 at 18:32



Heikki Naski

1,900

1

16

12

You can combine regex patterns with the "or" operator: `\|` , eg:

3

`:g/^(#.*\|$/d`

Though, in this particular case, you actually just need to specify that `#.*` is optional, eg:

↻

`:g/^(#.*\|)?$/d`

Finally, be aware that you can chain together most commands with VIM's (not regex's) "pipe" operator, also `|` , eg:

`:g / ^#/d | / ^$/d`

edited Sep 30 '12 at 16:17

answered Sep 30 '12 at 15:58



Will Palmer

4,562

1

21

30

Try the following :

3

`:g/^$/d | / ^#/d`

The `|` is there to combine multi command at the same time.

↻

edited Sep 30 '12 at 17:06

answered Sep 30 '12 at 15:58






you cannot pipe to `g`, but `g` applies across all commands in a pipeline. So this is better-written as `:g /^$/d`  
| `/^#/d` – [Will Palmer](#) Sep 30 '12 at 16:20

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Expanding on kevs answer:

If anyone would also like to delete the comments in config files that are tabbed,  
for example:

```
server {  
    listen 80 default_server;  
    listen [::]:80 default_server;  
  
    # SSL configuration  
    #  
    # Listen 443 ssl default_server;  
    # Listen [::]:443 ssl default_server;  
    #  
    # Self signed certs generated by the ssl-cert package  
    # Don't use them in a production server!  
    #  
    # include snippets/snakeoil.conf;  
    ...  
}
```

You can try this:

```
:g/\v^(#|$\t#)/d
```

answered Nov 14 '17 at 11:12



[shayan](#)

11 4

