Removing empty lines in Notepad++

▲

342

▼

How can I replace empty lines in Notepad++? I tried a find and replace with the empty lines in the find, and nothing in the replace, but it did not work; it probably needs regex.

`regex`   `notepad++`

★

94

edited May 3 '14 at 3:20

Ry- ♦
173k 42 355 373

asked Oct 5 '10 at 17:11

nomoreflash
1,781 2 12 9

20 Answers

▲

350

▼

✔

You need something like a regular expression.

You have to be in `Extended` **mode**

If you want all the lines to end up on a **single line** use `\r\n` . If you want to simply remove **empty** lines, use `\n\r` as @Link originally suggested.

Replace either expression with nothing.

edited Apr 15 at 22:52

answered Oct 5 '10 at 17:13

Brad
12.3k 6 30 50

---

19 Should first select 'extended` in search mode. – q0987 Apr 17 '12 at 15:47

---

13 To get your lines not to be joined together you have to search for `\r\n\r\n` and replace with `\r\n` . – Robert Kaucher Jul 13 '12 at 14:48

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook✕

1   @ST3 hmm what was I thinking, This one is much better: `(\r\n|\r|\n)(\s*(\r\n|\r|\n))+` and replace with `\r\n` see it in action here: regex101.com/r/qD9dB1/1 – Myster Aug 17 '15 at 23:58

There is now a built-in way to do this as of version 6.5.2

511

`Edit -> Line Operations -> Remove Empty Lines` or `Remove Empty Lines (Containing Blank characters)`
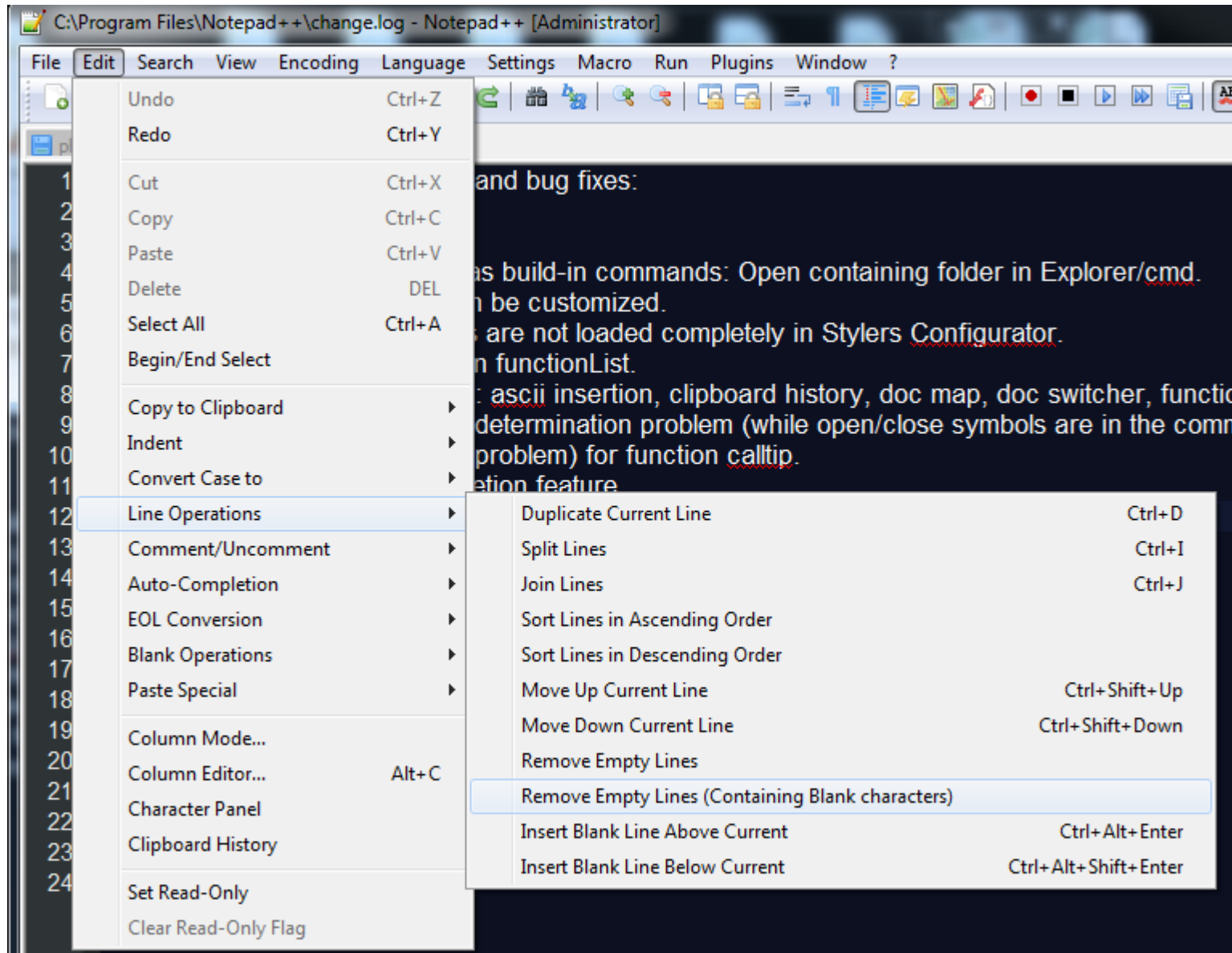
Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G **Google**   Facebook

C:\Program Files\Notepad++\change.log - Notepad++ [Administrator]

File   Edit   Search   View   Encoding   Language   Settings   Macro   Run   Plugins   Window   ?

Undo	Ctrl+Z
Redo	Ctrl+Y
Cut	Ctrl+X
Copy	Ctrl+C
Paste	Ctrl+V
Delete	DEL
Select All	Ctrl+A
Begin/End Select	

and bug fixes:

as build-in commands: Open containing folder in Explorer/cmd.
be customized.
are not loaded completely in Stylers Configurator.
functionList.
ascii insertion, clipboard history, doc map, doc switcher, functio
determination problem (while open/close symbols are in the comn
problem) for function calltip.

Copy to Clipboard	▶
Indent	▶
Convert Case to	▶
Line Operations	▶
Comment/Uncomment	▶
Auto-Completion	▶
EOL Conversion	▶
Blank Operations	▶
Paste Special	▶
Column Mode...	
Column Editor...	Alt+C
Character Panel	
Clipboard History	
Set Read-Only	
Clear Read-Only Flag	

Duplicate Current Line	Ctrl+D
Split Lines	Ctrl+I
Join Lines	Ctrl+J
Sort Lines in Ascending Order	
Sort Lines in Descending Order	
Move Up Current Line	Ctrl+Shift+Up
Move Down Current Line	Ctrl+Shift+Down
Remove Empty Lines	
Remove Empty Lines (Containing Blank characters)	
Insert Blank Line Above Current	Ctrl+Alt+Enter
Insert Blank Line Below Current	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+Enter

edited May 5 '17 at 16:02   answered Jan 6 '14 at 15:39

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook

If this is a one-time operation, you can extract the selected lines to the new notepad++ tab and perform that operation there. Copy-paste procedure for 5seconds. Any other workaround that cannot be accomplished in that time is a waste in my opinion. But if you are doing that every day 100 times... – creed Oct 16 '18 at 10:17

life saver..thanks a ton! – gaurav Jan 9 at 15:26

I was using this (even assigned my shortcut), but it's a lot slower than option above, so use smartly... – Betlista Jun 9 at 20:43

▲

121

▼

There is a plugin that adds a menu entitled `TextFX` . This menu, which houses a dizzying array of quick text editing options, gives a person the ability to make quick coding changes. In this menu, you can find selections such as Drop Quotes, Delete Blank Lines as well as Unwrap and Rewrap Text

Do the following:

```
TextFX > TextFX Edit > Delete Blank Lines
TextFX > TextFX Edit > Delete Surplus Blank Lines
```

edited May 11 '12 at 0:19   answered Oct 5 '10 at 17:44

kolufild   user238469

488   1   6   17

---

7   Not sure as of when, but it would seem that this plugin is installed by default now. Slightly off-topic, but one of the other incredibly useful features, under `TextFX > TextFX Tools` , is line sorting, optionally removing duplicates. Very handy way of doing a Unix `sort -u` on a Windows box without cygwin or unxutils or similar. – Cam Jackson Oct 6 '11 at 1:00 ✎

3   Here's a link to the TextFx Plugin. I found it very useful. Use: `Settings > Import > plugin...` and find the dll file to install it. It becomes a menu item by `Plugins` — Nicholas Pickering Nov 2 '12 at 19:41 ✎

1   will this work on all open documents, or one document at a time? – SoilSciGuy May 31 '16 at 21:20

▲

    1. notepad++

5. Click the Find Next button to see for yourself how it matches only empty lines.

1   I had to use this method instead of some of the other methods to get it to easily work in a macro. Thank you. – Mafu Josh Oct 9 '14 at 15:32

This method also worked for me. Thanks. – Rolen Koh Dec 22 '16 at 9:24

5   even shorter and also lesser replacements needed because of multiple empty lines will be replaced at once: ^\s*$\r?\n – njank Dec 16 '17 at 20:00 ✎

This worked for me:

1. Press `ctrl + h` (Shortcut for replace)

2. Write one of the following regex in `find what` box. `[\n\r]+$` or `^[\n\r]+`

3. Leave `Replace with` box blank

4. In `Search Mode` , select `Regex`

5. Click on `Replace All`

Done!

This is the only solution that did not screw up my huge .csv files. Thanks! – VME Aug 30 '17 at 14:30

Welcome @VME :) – Kamal Nayan Aug 31 '17 at 7:25

1   plus one because I finally know the shortcut for replace :-D – Betlista Jun 9 at 20:49

13   Finally hit replace all

answered Oct 5 '10 at 17:16

Bassem
2,561   2   21   39

typo sorry about that.. – Bassem Oct 5 '10 at 17:18

actually, I tried it, see my clarification in my answer. *You were on to something!* – Brad Oct 5 '10 at 17:20

3   This assumes the line endings are Windows (CRLF) though, if your file is saved with Unix line endings search only for `\n` . – BoltClock ♦ Oct 5 '10 at 17:35

@Brad: I wrote in between the () "short for CR LF", didn't want codetrek to think \n is CR, hence the edit. – Bassem Oct 5 '10 at 17:37

Wrong answer, puts all lines in one line. – m0skit0 Jul 13 '17 at 12:50

13

1. Press **ctrl + h** (Shortcut for replace).
2. In the **Find what** zone, type `^\R` (for exact empty lines) or `^\h*\R` (for empty lines with blanks, only).
3. Leave the **Replace with** zone **empty**.
4. Check the **Wrap around** option.
5. Select the **Regular expression** search mode.
6. Click on the **Replace All** button.
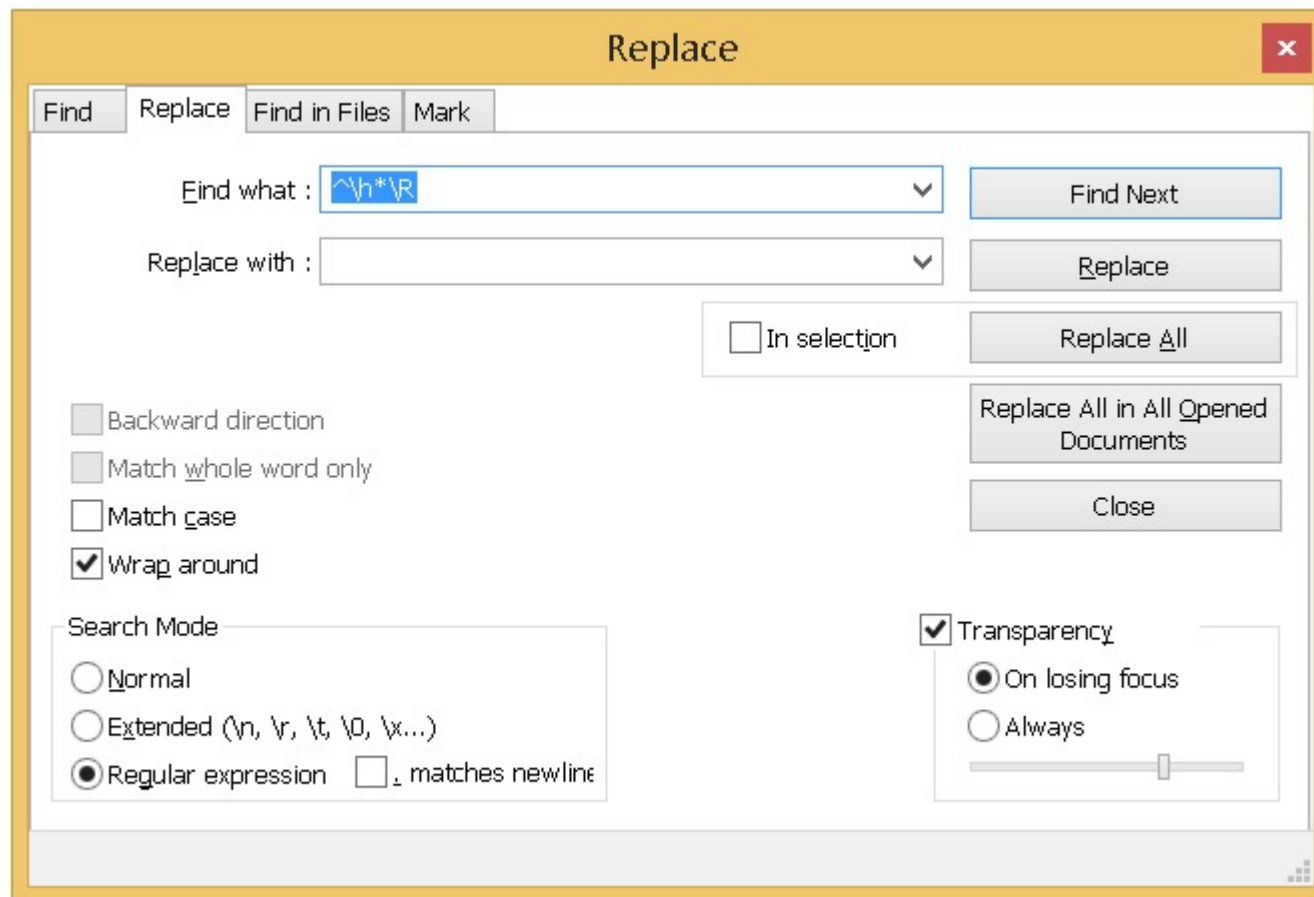
You can follow the technique as shown in the following screenshot:

Replace   ☒

Find   **Replace**   Find in Files   Mark

Find what :   `^\r\n`   ▼   **Find Next**   ☐

Replace with :   ▼   Replace

                                    ☐ In selection   Replace All

☐ Backward direction   Replace All in All Opened
☐ Match whole word only   Documents

☐ Match case   Close
☑ Wrap around

Search Mode   ☐ Transparency
○ Normal   ○ On losing focus
○ Extended (\n, \r, \t, \0, \x...)   ○ Always
● Regular expression   ☐ . matches newline

Find: Found the 1st occurrence from the top. The end of the document has been reached.

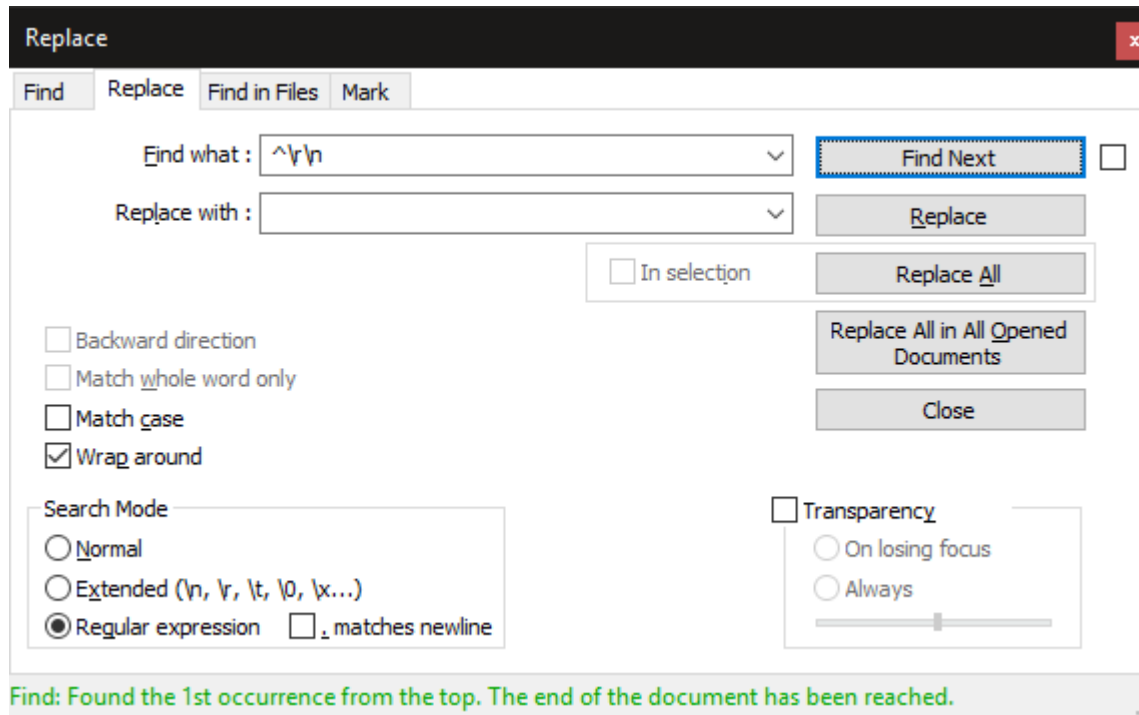**Note:** for *nix files just find by `\n`

<div align="right">edited Jan 10 at 5:17</div>

<div align="right">answered Jun 26 '18 at 10:53</div>

<div align="right">Saikat</div>
<div align="right">**3,148**   6   44   64</div>

2   This will not work with Linux eol `\n` . – Toto Jan 9 at 16:24

     Added note @Toto – Saikat Jan 10 at 5:18

▲   Well I'm not sure about the regex or your situation..

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

Ahmad

12.1k   8   44   76

▲

10

▼

Ctrl+H.

find - \r\r replace with - \r.

answered Aug 8 '11 at 16:48

mahesh adepu

101   1   2

This works for me, removing extra line, in the sense of finding double \r replace with single \r. Thanks!! – genpet Jun 3 '12 at 1:59

This worked well, however I found that I needed to run it several times in my document before all instances of \r\r were gone. I'm unsure why. – Hawkwing Aug 21 '13 at 16:59

▲

10

▼

You can search for the following regex: `^(?:[\t ]*(?:\r?\n|\r))+` and replace it with empty field

answered May 10 '14 at 18:10

Ya Basha

1,048   5   21   35

▲

6

▼

This obviously does not work if the blank lines contain tabs or blanks. Many web pages (e.g. http://www.guardian.co.uk/) contain these white lines, as a result of a faulty HTML editor.

Remove white space using regular expression as follows:

> change pattern: [\t]+$ into nothing.

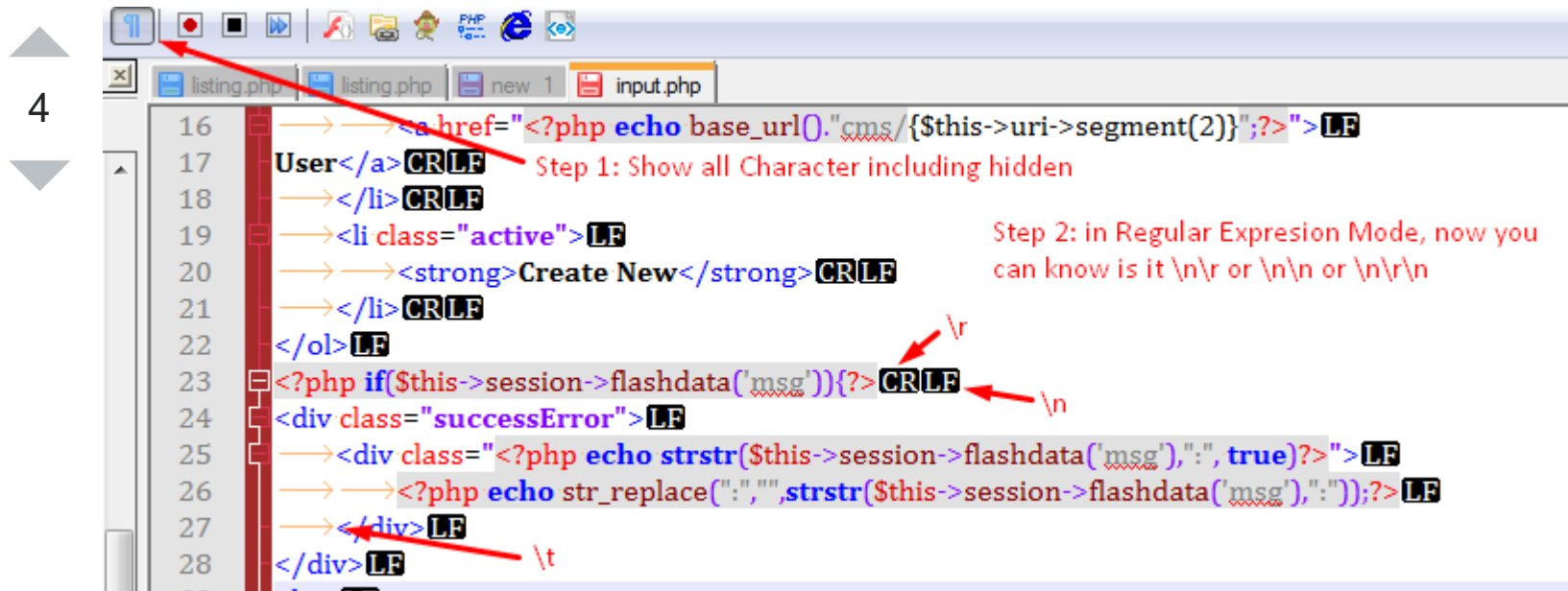**Join Stack Overflow** to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕

4

Sometimes \n\r etc not work, here to figure it out, what your actually regular expression should be.

Advantage of this trick: If you want to replace in multiple file at once, you must need this method. Above will not work...

answered Dec 16 '14 at 3:29

Wasim A.
4,894 19 71 105

1. Edit >> Blank Operations >> Trim Leading and Trailing Spaces (to remove black tabs and spaces in empty lines)

2. `Ctrl` + `H` to get replace window and replace pattern: `^\r\n` with nothing (select regular expression)

3

CTRL+A, Select the TextFX menu -> TextFX Edit -> Delete Blank Lines as suggested above works.

But if lines contains some space, then move the cursor to that line and do a CTRL + H. The "Find what:" sec will show the blank space and in the "Replace with" section, leave it blank. Now all the spaces are removed and now try CTRL+A, Select the TextFX menu -> TextFX Edit -> Delete Blank Lines

answered Mar 20 '13 at 8:34

user2189974

2

`/n/r` assumes a specific type of line break. To target any blank line you could also use:

`^$`

This says - any line that begins and then ends with nothing between. This is more of a catch-all. Replace with the same empty string.

answered Feb 10 '15 at 21:33

AshBrad

412 2 14

1

I did not see the combined one as answer, so search for ^\s+$ and replace by {nothing}

```
^\s+$ means
  ^ start of line
  \s+ Matches minimum one whitespace character (spaces, tabs, line breaks)
  $ until end of line
```

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook✕

if you want multiple lines you can try: `^\s+^(\S)` and replace with `\1` . – jiggunjer Nov 3 '17 at 5:57

▲

0

▼

An easy alternative for removing white space from empty lines:

   1. TextFX>TextFX Edit> Trim Trailing Spaces

This will remove all trailing spaces, including trailing spaces in blank lines. Make sure, no trailing spaces are significant.

answered Jul 3 '12 at 10:00

poisson
21   2

▲

0

▼

A few of the above expressions and extended expressions did not work for me, but the regular expression "$\n$" did.

answered Apr 29 '14 at 14:27

Chris
126   1   4

▲

0

▼

It's very Simple

ctrl + H

   Find : \r\n\r\n

     Replcate with : \r\n

       See Snap

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Email Sign Up   OR SIGN IN WITH   G Google   Facebook ✕