

Using RegEX To Prefix And Append In Notepad++

Asked 10 years, 9 months ago Active 11 days ago Viewed 114k times



80



wordone
wordtwo
wordthree



50

I have quite a large list of words in a txt file and I'm trying to do a regex find and replace in Notepad++. I need to add a string before each line and after each line.. So that:

become

able:"wordone"
able:"wordtwo"
able:"wordthree"

How can I do this?

[regex](#)[notepad++](#)

edited Nov 24 '11 at 18:01



BoltClock ♦

547k

133

1200

1227

asked Nov 12 '08 at 10:59



zuk1

7,346

21

54

62

Sorry those word strings are meant to be on separate lines! I bet that has confused things now... – [zuk1](#) Nov 12 '08 at 10:59

sweet save me a lot of googling :) – [melaos](#) Jul 6 '11 at 1:04

4 Answers



Assuming alphanumeric words, you can use:

159

Search = `^([A-Za-z0-9]+)$`
Replace = `able:"\1"`



Or, if you just want to highlight the lines and use "Replace All" & "In Selection" (with the same replace):

Search = `^(.+)$`

`^` points to the start of the line.

`$` points to the end of the line.

`\1` will be the source match within the parentheses.

edited Nov 12 '08 at 11:12

answered Nov 12 '08 at 11:03



[Jonathan Lonowski](#)

97.3k 28 176 186

thank you, after about 30 mins of search i reached here for success :) – [dhaval](#) Jan 27 '11 at 7:16

thanks! this helped a lot :) – [Peter Perháč](#) Apr 20 '11 at 12:28

Reg expressions are lifesavers. Thanks for the help. – [Techgration](#) Jun 27 '11 at 20:44

Excellent job +1 for explaining – [SSH This](#) Mar 20 '12 at 21:34

Woot! This is just what I needed. – [Chuck Le Butt](#) May 18 '12 at 10:07



28



Why don't you use the Notepad++ multiline editing capabilities?

Hold down Alt while selecting text (using your usual click-and-drag approach) to select text across multiple lines. This is sometimes also referred to as column editing.

You could place the cursor at the beginning of the file, Press (and hold) Alt, Shift and then just keep pressing the down-arrow or PageDown to select the lines that you want to prepend with some text :) Easy. Multiline editing is a very useful feature of Notepad++. It's also possible in Visual Studio, in the same manner, and also in Eclipse by switching to Block Selection Mode by pressing Alt+Shift+A and then use mouse to select text across lines.

edited Aug 28 '12 at 11:12

answered Apr 20 '11 at 12:27



Peter Perhác

14.6k 18 110 145

2 Just used this and worked perfectly. – Valien May 9 '11 at 16:45

1 +1 This is really great, I had no idea you could do this. Is it possible to append something to the end of each line, when the length of each line is different? For example, when the 'column' width varies, it would be neat if you could append text to each line. I have a list of functions and I need to append "();" to each line but each function name is a different width. I am currently using a Macro to do this, thanks! – SSH This Mar 20 '12 at 21:45 ✎

5 for appending is probably best to just use simple find/replace using the "Extended" search mode. You can search for line ending, e.g. `\r\n` and replace that with `<whatever you want to append>\r\n` – Peter Perhác Mar 20 '12 at 21:52 ✎

This is actually a really great solution, especially with the above APPEND comment. – Chuck Le Butt May 18 '12 at 10:31

2 This is useful for prefixing, but not so useful if you want postfix mixed-length lines (append at the end). I wish Notepad++ has a built-in "Modify Lines" command like in Notepad2, which allows you to select the lines, press Alt+M, and add text before and/or after each line. – thdoan Jun 23 '15 at 9:16

Regular Expression that can be used:

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Find: `\w.+`**Replace:** `able:"$&"`

As, `$&` will give you the string you search for.

Refer: [regexr](#)

answered Jul 5 '17 at 10:09



Mukul Aggarwal

934 11 11

5 Great mention of `$&` ! The `\1` doesn't work in all environments. – pfabri Nov 2 '17 at 15:39 ✎

Great answer about `$&` . It works in SublimeText, too. – WesternGun Feb 5 at 15:51

Use a Macro.



Macro>Start Recording



Use the keyboard to make your changes in a repeatable manner e.g.

home>type "able">end>down arrow>home

Then go back to the menu and click stop recording then run a macro multiple times.

That should do it and no regex based complications!

answered Nov 12 '08 at 11:04



[Rob Stevenson-Leggett](#)

22.4k 18 79 134

3 What is "complications" supposed to mean? :-)- [Tomalak](#) Nov 12 '08 at 11:06

+1 for ease of use! I needed to append a 'tab' to the end of each line in a file and this tip did the trick. - [NateJ](#) Aug 7 '09 at 0:45

protected by [Community](#) ♦ Mar 30 '12 at 14:17

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