

Visual Studio Code - delete all blank lines - regex

Asked 3 years, 4 months ago Active 2 months ago Viewed 62k times



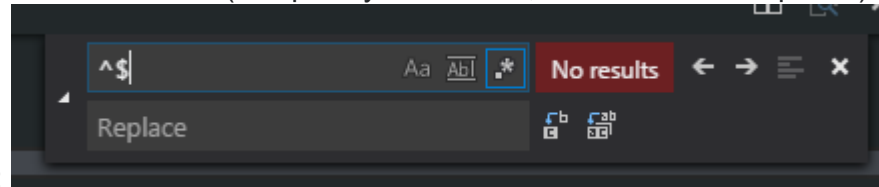
107



31

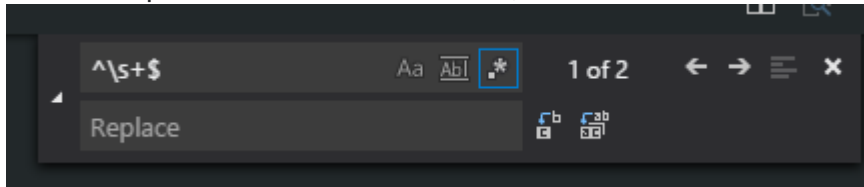
I spent some time trying to figure out how to delete all blank lines in Visual Studio Code and I can't get it working. Anybody knows how to do it please?

If I search for `^$` while typing it in search field VSC does find the blank lines (completely blank lines, means no white spaces) but it



doesn't remove them when I hit Replace All. It does nothing:

For blank lines with spaces `^\s+$` Search works, but it does not remove them. What it does is it replaces them with a blank line without



spaces :))

It must be I am doing something wrong. I just can't figure out what is it. Anybody knows? Thanks.

regex

visual-studio-code

blank-line

edited Jun 1 at 8:16



lepe

19.6k 6 69 81

asked Apr 1 '16 at 7:22



jozefk

663 2 6 6

1 I added a comment on the issue you opened about this but for anybody else, `$` doesn't actually match the new line character, it matches a zero-width token that exists before the new line character. To replace a new line you need to use `\n` but VS Code doesn't currently support multi-line regex matches ([#313](#)) – Marie Apr 6 '16 at 19:28

Thank you Marie. It seems we have to wait for a while. – jozefk Apr 7 '16 at 5:36

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13 Answers



154



For those who might be interested - what worked for me in version 1.3.1 (and still works in 1.33.1) to delete blank lines I used `ctrl` + `h` (find and replace) `alt` + `r` (Use regular expression)

In find box then:

```
\n\n
```

In replace box:

```
\n
```

This should make two consecutive end of line signs into one.

edited:

If you need to replace more empty lines (more than two) at once, you can use following regular expression in find box:

```
\n+
```

If you need to replace also empty lines with whitespaces, then you need to use following regular expression in find box:

```
\n+\s*\n
```

VS code is using javascript regular expressions

edited May 8 at 7:03

answered Oct 5 '16 at 18:57



[suchoss](#)

1,750

1

10

15

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It's working now. Thanks :) A lots of versions of VSC in between but that's alright. Replace `\n\n` with `\n` worked nice. – [jozefk](#) Nov 18 '18 at 21:59

Also look at the [@Dzumret](#) solution below. In my solution it deletes only lines where there is nothing. His solution deletes lines where there is also some whitespace character (spaces, tabs) – [suchoss](#) Jan 23 at 10:43

- Great! To remove more than one consecutive empty lines I replaced `\n+` with `\n`. To account for whitespaces too replace `(^\s*\n)+` with nothing – [Ilario](#) Feb 18 at 11:06

What also works is this regex pattern:

94

`^\s*$\n`

Then `CTRL+Enter` to replace all lines.

Explanation of the above pattern:

	^		beginning of string anchor	
	\s		any whitespace character	
	'*'		zero or more repetitions	
	\$		end of string anchor	
	\n		new line	

edited Jun 4 '17 at 19:57



Asif Raza

1,401 1 15 34

answered May 17 '17 at 7:02



Dzumret

941 4 3

Visual Studio Code 1.13.0 Linux Lite:

Hit `CTRL+U`

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- Find box: `^(\\s)*$\\n` (enter many ending `\\n` as you need)
- Replace box: empty
- Click replace all

Empty lines gone!

edited Oct 2 '17 at 22:23



Mwiza

2,087

2

15

19

answered Jun 10 '17 at 4:53



Antonio Delgado

411

4

2

Here's my regex, it catches all extra new lines and empty lines that contain only space,tabs etc

15

`\\n\\s*\\n`

And I replace all matches with `\\n`

Explanation

`\\n` : New Line
`\\s*` : Zero or more consecutive white space characters or new lines
`\\n` : Another New Line

P.S :Remember to choose the regex option in the search window!!

edited Oct 25 '18 at 10:22

answered Apr 23 '18 at 13:11



Shabin Muhammed

585

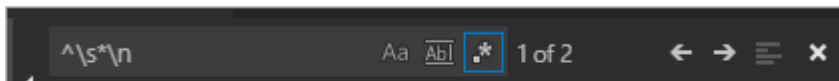
1

9

20

Try using `^\\s*\\n` in the Replace dialog of VS Code -

8



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edited Aug 31 '17 at 6:53



Stephen Rauch

33k 15 44 69

answered Aug 31 '17 at 6:31



NEO

102 1 4

no, you're doing it right.

5

I get the same behaviour here.

I also tried another regex: `(\r?\n){2,}` but it seems that it only works for single lines.

maybe there is a preference to change the default regexp behaviour, or maybe VS is just built in such a way (line based)

ofcourse it's not a big deal to cut-paste and back from another text editor.

answered Apr 11 '16 at 7:14



kobi7

681 1 5 14

3 this helped me only after I replaced all `^\s*$` with empty, then I tried `(\r?\n){2,}` – Mihai Popescu Oct 5 '16 at 10:50

I found the following works best for me in Visual Studio:

3

Replace: `^\n$` With: <no value here>

This will find all empty lines and clear them out.

edited Jun 5 '17 at 12:14



Asif Raza

1,401 1 15 34

answered Oct 14 '16 at 14:27



Alan

31 1

I don't know about you, but memorize a lot of commands for me seems a waste of time!

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This extension will help you organize blank lines in the code by removing multiple blank lines. The extension removes blank lines only from the selected lines if any, otherwise from the entire file

How to use it: check the description of extension, but it really seems nice!

```
blankLine.triggerOnSave boolean true    If set to true, the command will be triggered on save.
```

In other words, after save the file, it automatically cleans up!

edited Jan 9 '18 at 12:53

answered Jan 9 '18 at 12:42

[Marcelo Agimóvel](#)

824 1 8 19

It doesn't really work for html files – [Jun711](#) May 3 '18 at 0:16

Hi @Jun! Im using Sublime Text3 wich has solved a lot of problems, plus is lighter and has some nice features. – [Marcelo Agimóvel](#) May 3 '18 at 1:09

what plugin do u use with Sublime Text3? I used to use Webstorm and it is built in. – [Jun711](#) May 3 '18 at 2:38

Html / CSS / JS Prettify – [Marcelo Agimóvel](#) May 3 '18 at 2:52

At My case. kobi7 solution `(\r?\n){2,}` only worked for me, I had to run it again with small modification to make it work for single lines (just changed 2 to 1)

2

```
^(\r?\n){1,}
```

answered Nov 16 '18 at 18:59



[Mamdouh](#)

56 4

[Code Maid](#) Extension is all you need. You can use shortcut Ctrl M + Space bar to Cleanup your file, It will remove empty lines and

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answered Jun 4 '17 at 15:22



Nguyễn Top

169 5

Not found (on Manjaro Linux). – [Marcelo Agimóvel](#) Jan 9 '18 at 12:38

2 That's because it's a Visual Studio extension not a Visual Studio Code extension. – [Rene Juuse](#) Apr 30 '18 at 8:22

One or more line breaks (\n)+ and replace by \n

0

answered Sep 3 '17 at 15:06



Hector Matias Gonzalez

41 2

Replace: ^\n\$ With: "blank space"

-1

answered Jan 8 '18 at 6:44

user3937422

and remove every blank space in your document? – [Angry 84](#) Oct 25 '18 at 23:30

Windows 10, Visual Studio 2015

Ctrl + H

Find... -> ^\s*

Replace all

Ctrl + A

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Thank you for your question, I learned something new.

answered Jul 30 '16 at 23:58



the name does not
matter

5 1

5 Visual Studio 2015 is not Visual Studio Code. – [Robert Kaucher](#) Sep 16 '16 at 17:48

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