

How do you auto format code in Visual Studio?

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I know Visual Studio can auto format to make my methods and loops indented properly, but I cannot find the setting.

678

visual-studio

indentation



173

edited Oct 8 '18 at 14:09



Martin Zeitler

20.7k 3 46 75

asked Apr 22 '11 at 13:33



user719550

3,399 3 11 7

2 From top menu: Edit --> Advanced --> Format Document –
[zipzit](#) Feb 6 '17 at 21:47

what about for 2019? – [|--""""-----""""""""](#) Apr 2 at 17:15

22 Answers



To format a selection: `Ctrl + K`, `Ctrl + F`

1099

To format a document: `Ctrl + K`, `Ctrl + D`



See the [pre-defined keyboard shortcuts](#). (These two are `Edit.FormatSelection` and `Edit.FormatDocument`.)

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58.8k 13 145 176

answered Apr 22 '11 at 13:37



Bogdan Verbenets

14.7k 9 54 103

-
- 16 vs 2010 seems to be ctrl + k, ctrl + d – [Sarawut Positwinyu](#)
May 8 '14 at 9:50
-
- 27 Its Ctr + K, Ctrl + D in Visual Studio 2013 to format a document. – [Kris](#) Aug 21 '14 at 14:49
-
- 5 In VS2010, if you have Format document is not available... error message, please read:
stackoverflow.com/q/8812741/1016891 – [tom_mai78101](#)
Sep 10 '14 at 3:47
-
- 4 These are accurate for VS2013 – [James Wierzba](#) Apr 28 '15 at 17:01
-
- 7 I dont know why Microsoft keeps changing these. For future reference, it can be found under Edit -> Advanced -> Format Document Who knows, they're probably going to rename that menu in the next iteration. – [Jeremy](#) Jun 12 '17 at 7:23
-



For Visual Studio 2010/2013/2015/2017

136



- **Format Document** (**Ctrl+K** , **Ctrl+D**) so type **Ctrl+K** , AND THEN **Ctrl+D** as it is a sequence
- **Format Selection** (**Ctrl+K** , **Ctrl+F**)

Toolbar **Edit -> Advanced** (If you can't see *Advanced*, select a code file in solution explorer and try again)

Your shortcuts might display differently to mine as I am set up for C# coding but navigating via the toolbar will get you

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If it isn't working, look for errors in your code, like missing brackets which stop auto format from working

edited Jul 11 '17 at 16:32

answered Oct 4 '12 at 9:49



[ono2012](#)

3,607 1 23 40

11 If you find that it isn't working, check your brackets {}, (), when it doesn't work for me, it is because there are open brackets somewhere in the file. – [ono2012](#) Oct 17 '12 at 12:35



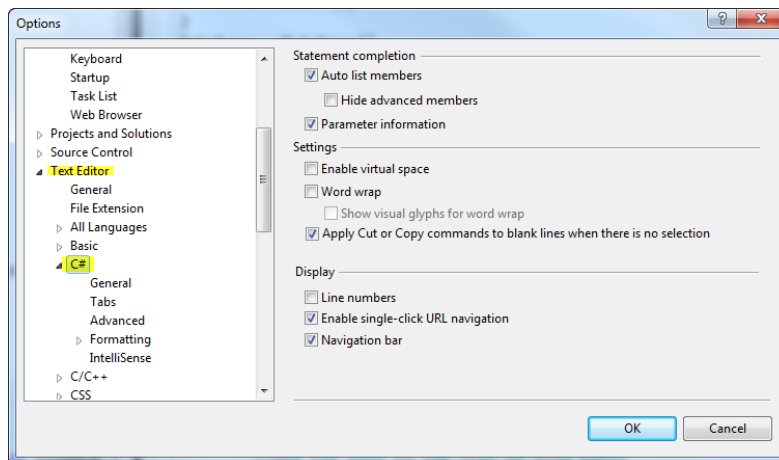
Follow the steps below:

40



- Go to `Tools`
- Go to `Options`
- Go to the `Text Editor options`
- Click the language of your choice. I used `c#` as an example.

See the below image:



edited Dec 16 '15 at 15:28



[student](#)

11.6k 9 74 134

answered Apr 22 '11 at 13:38



[Pete](#)

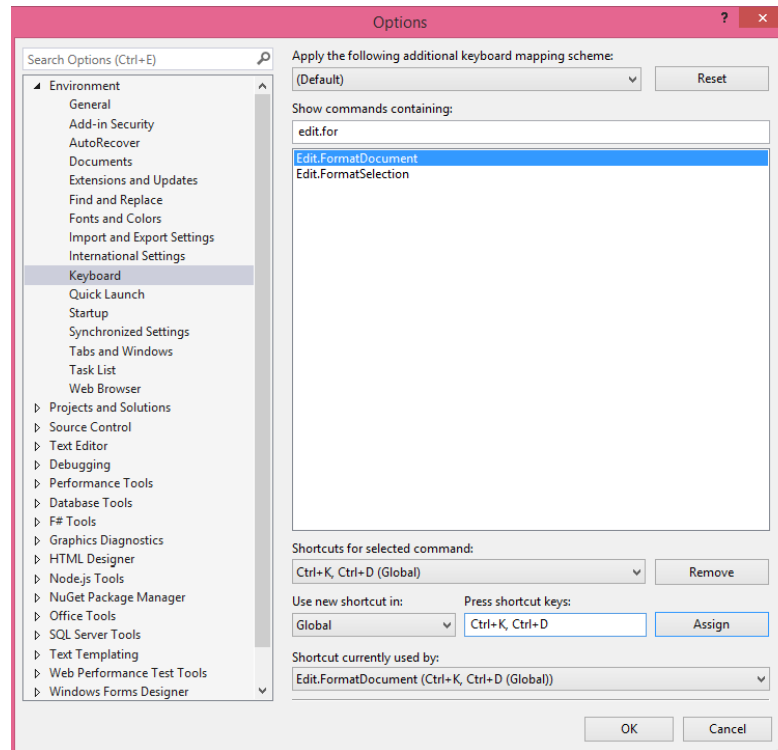
6,855 7 45 69

13 And once I've done this? I can't see any of those settings handle automatic indentation? – [MrJalapeno](#) Jun 20 '17 at 9:17

7 @MrJalapeno I have absolutely no idea what question I was answering here 6 years ago but 34 people have found it useful. Sorry for the confusion. I probably misinterpreted the question in which case my answer applies since there are formatting related options in my answer. In hindsight, it's safe to say the OP was looking for ctrl+k, ctrl+d. – [Pete](#) Dec 7 '17 at 3:16



Even though the question is a bit old, someone might find it handy.



answered Mar 11 '15 at 15:51



Sami

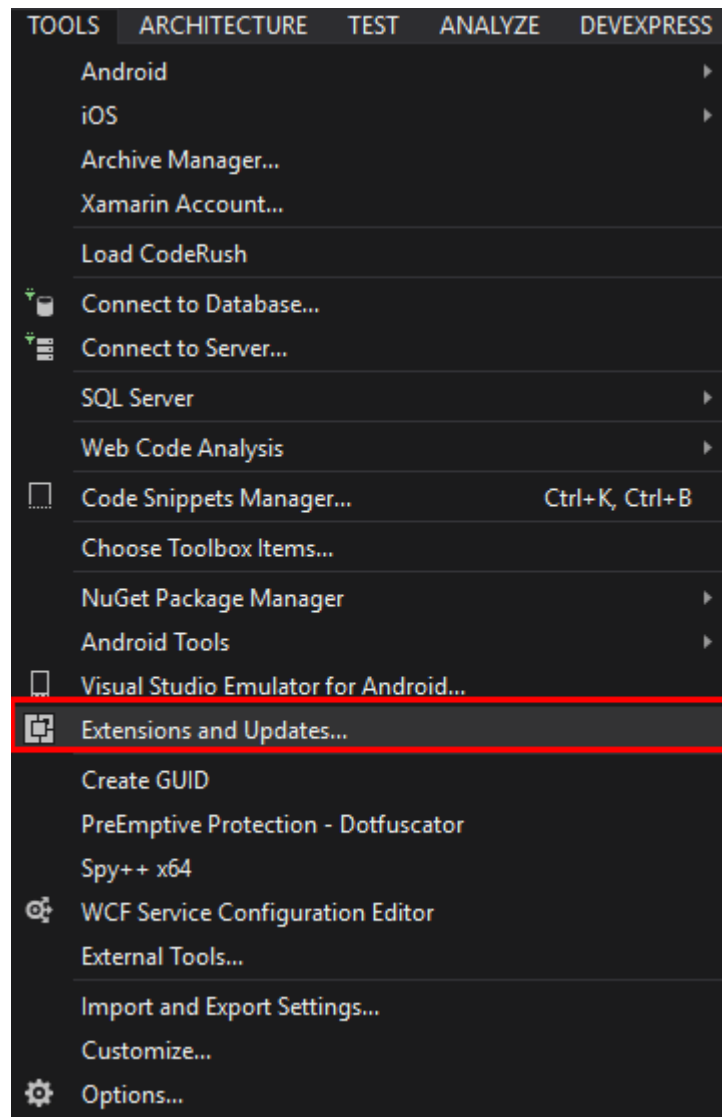
2,918 1 23 35

Thanks. For me Ctrl E + D in VS2005 scheme :) – [nawfal](#) Nov 17 '16 at 10:30

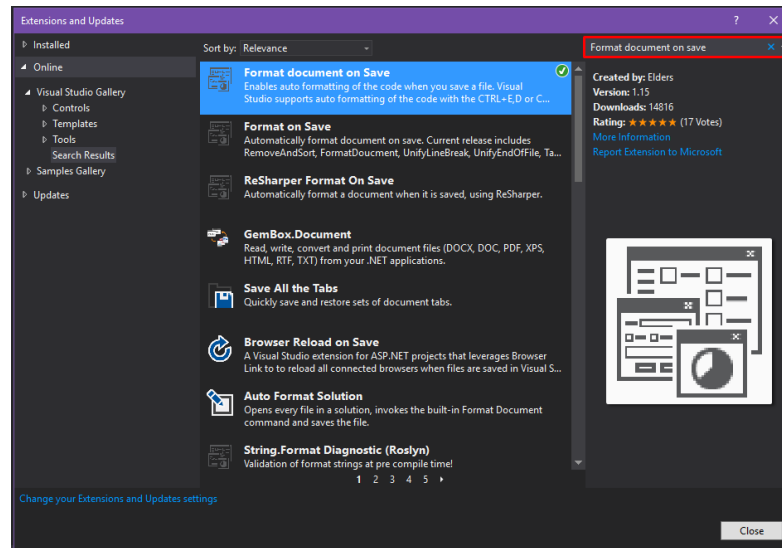
25

I have installed an extension named "Format document on Save" which formats the whole document every time you save it. For install it in VS15 or 17, on Tools just click the "Extensions and Updates...":

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And then just go to "Online" at the left panel and search for "Format document on save"



I hope it helps!.

edited Aug 30 '17 at 11:55

answered Mar 28 '17 at 7:28



Víctor Martínez

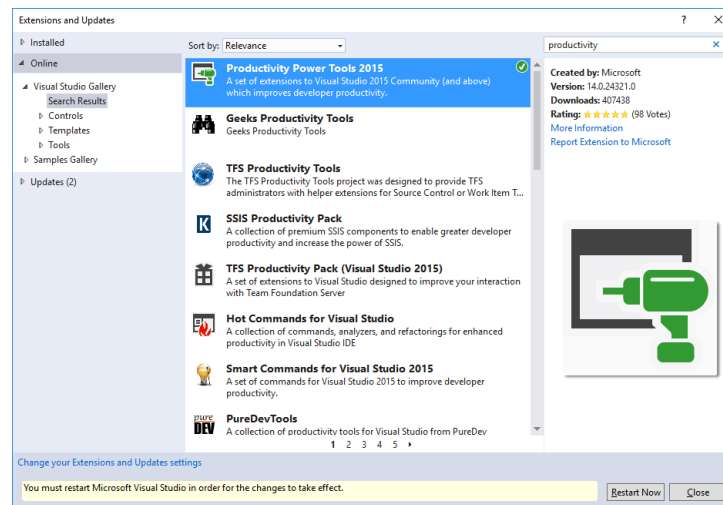
288 4 12

Also you can install it by visual studio market place
[marketplace.visualstudio.com/...](https://marketplace.visualstudio.com/) – Víctor Martínez Mar 28 '17 at 7:29

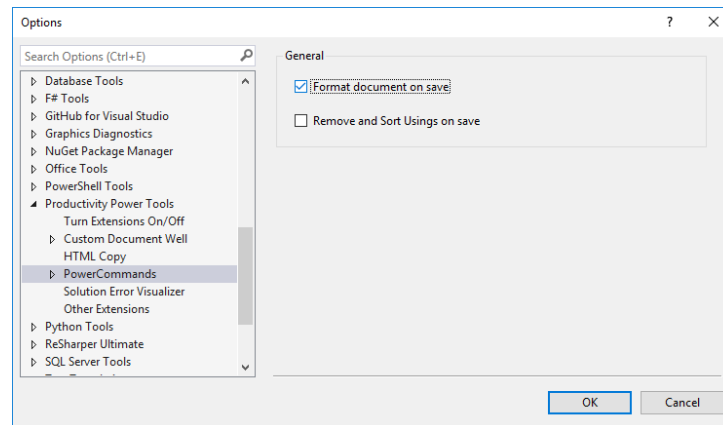


1. Go to Tools -> Extensions & Updates and type "productivity" in search:

11




2. Install 'Productivity Power Tools 2015'
3. Restart VS.
4. Go to Tools -> Options -> Productivity Power Tools -> Power Commands and check "Format document on save":



edited Sep 18 '17 at 11:23

answered Sep 18 '17 at 0:47

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Would have been good if it working while typing, as with VB.NET: – [tmighty](#) Dec 1 '17 at 12:41 

have to get used to formatting every new document you edit and committing changes before you actually change the file otherwise the commits can look pretty noisy – [smurtagh](#) Apr 10 '18 at 18:53



10



If you display the HTML Source Editing toolbar there is a "Format the Whole Document" button as well

answered Apr 22 '11 at 13:47



[Starwfanatic](#)

449 2 13 29

That's a really strange place for it. I have been searching all over for this. – [rory.ap](#) Jan 7 '15 at 15:29

1 I have VS13, that toolbar does not have a "Format Document" button available. – [emcor](#) Feb 12 '15 at 1:03

1 Using Microsoft Visual Studio Community 2015 Version 14.0.23107.0 D14REL there is a "Format the whole document" button on the toolbar mentioned. – [Ian Carpenter](#) Jul 27 '15 at 13:39



8



The solution provided in accepted answer does not apply to [Microsoft Visual Studio 2012](#).

In case of VS2012 the shortcuts are:

- For a highlighted block of code: Ctrl + K, Ctrl + F

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edited Dec 16 '15 at 14:33



student

11.6k 9 74 134

answered Mar 21 '14 at 23:59



Geowil

386 8 24

Actually it's not wrong. Both CTRL + K,F and CTRL + E,F do the exact same thing. If you go to EDIT -> Advanced, you will actually see the shortcuts listed as CTRL + E,D and CTRL + E,F. Also commenting can be done with either CTRL + K,C or CTRL + E,C. - Using VS2012 Premium with all the latest updates installed. – Alan006 Mar 25 '14 at 16:49

- 1 @Alan006 Interesting. My installation of VS2012 Pro says Ctrl+ e,f/Ctrl + e,d are not commands. – Geowil May 4 '14 at 19:36
- 5 I think it might be to do with what environment/development settings you choose initially on first launch. They both work for me though, so I wont complain :D – Alan006 May 4 '14 at 19:41

@Alan006 is right, the default environment for VS2010 and up uses the keyboard layout for "Visual Basic" (check **Tools -> Options -> Keyboard**). "Visual C# 2005" has slightly different keyboard bindings. – Bryan Way Jul 17 '15 at 22:01



7



I used to use these combinations. I automated this process on Save of a document. You can try mine extension

[Format Document on Save](#)

answered Jan 24 '14 at 13:15



mynkow

2,306 2 25 54



On ubuntu : `Ctrl` + `Shift` + `I`

answered Nov 12 '18 at 18:17



[Jackson Smith](#)

114 1 5



Under Under **Tools -> Options -> Text Editor**, then going to the **Formatting -> General** section of whatever language you wish to format you will find **General**. Check all three formatting check-boxes.

Under **Tools -> Options -> Text Editor**, then going to the **TABS** section of whatever language you wish to format you will find **Indenting**. Select **Smart** and it will activate automatic formatting whenever you use one of the closing elements ;) } within that block.

No need for keystrokes.

edited Jan 20 '15 at 22:38

answered Jan 20 '15 at 22:27



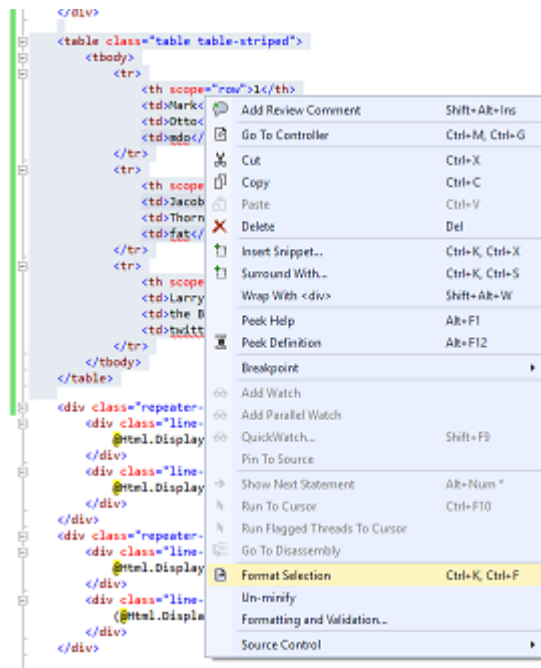
[Eric](#)

339 4 8

This doesn't improve "already messed up" code while VB.NET does this. – [tmighty](#) Dec 1 '17 at 12:40



Right click:



Works in VS 2015, maybe earlier version.

answered Jun 1 '16 at 17:08



RayLoveless

7,629 16 55 76

▲ The original question said "I cannot find the setting."

5

Simple answer is: Look at top menu, then

▼ Edit --> Advanced --> Format Document

You will also see the currently assigned key strokes for that function. Nothing special to memorize. This really helps if you use multiple developer environments on different operating systems.

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zipzit

2,013 3 16 36

▲ In VS 2017 Format Document is .

5

But...if you want to **add the Format Document button to a tool bar** do this.



Right click on tool bar.

Select "Customize.."

Select the "Commands" Tab.

Select the "Toolbar" radio button.

Select "Text Editor" from the pull down next to the radio button (or what ever tool bar you want the button on)

Now...

Click the button.

Categories: Edit

Commands: Document Format

Click

edited Apr 3 '18 at 12:16

answered Nov 3 '17 at 20:10



Chris Catignani

546 9 19

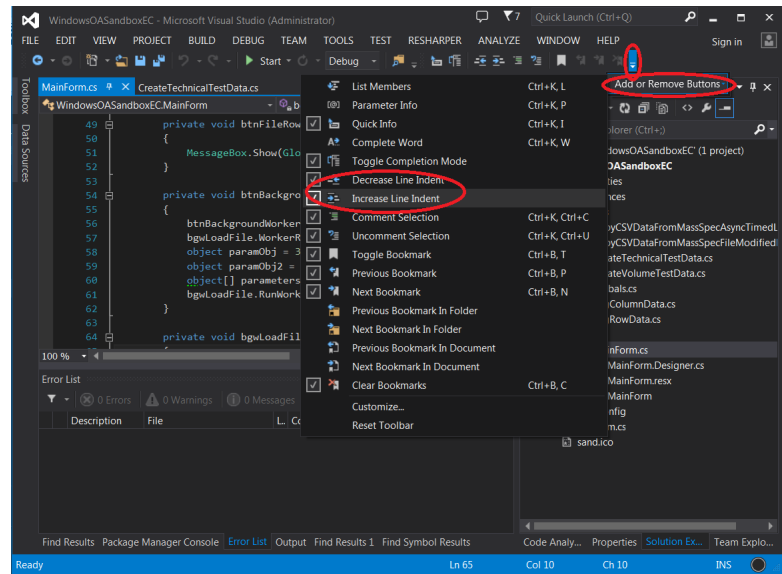


4

You can add the buttons to your toolbar by clicking the little drop down arrow to the right of the last toolbar button, select "Add or Remove Buttons" and then click the buttons you want to add a tick to them. The button(s) you select



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Then you just select text and click the Increase Indent or Decrease Indent buttons. I tested this on Visual Studio 2013 only.

edited Jun 23 '15 at 13:44

answered Jun 23 '15 at 13:39



Ewan

176 2 14



In newer versions, the shortcut for the document-wide formatting is: **Shift** + **Alt** + **F**

4



answered Mar 27 '17 at 14:12



Lucas Bernalte

73 1 7

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2

Just to further [Starwfanatic](#) and [Ewan](#)'s answers above. You can customise your IDE to add **any** button to **any** toolbar - so you can add the Format button (as the HTML Source Editing toolbar has) to any other toolbar (like Text Editing with all the other edit controls like increase/decrease indent).

Click the arrow to the right of the toolbar > Add or Remove Buttons > Customize... > Commands tab > Add Command... button.

Document Format and **Selection Format** are both under the **Edit** group.

(Tested in VS2010 and VS2013)

edited May 23 '17 at 12:26



Community ♦

1 1

answered Jan 7 '16 at 3:10



[spaced - out](#)

53 6

1

With the [Continuous Formatting](#) extension (commercial, developed by me), the code is formatted really automatically as you type.

answered Jul 10 '15 at 18:08



[Sergey Vlasov](#)

16.5k 1 40 39

That's great and should be included in VS by default, but the price is too high. For 19 € I would have said "Great!". – [tmighty](#)
Dec 1 '17 at 12:44



Cut/Paste of a section is another quick way (and easy to remember).

0



answered Jan 21 '16 at 17:44

[David Anderson](#)

173 2 2

2 ...? that does not format anything for me. in fact, the reason I looked this up was to format AFTER cutting and pasting.. – [tenwest](#) Mar 25 '16 at 22:09

That does not format your code with the default settings. Maybe you have some setting / plugin that does the job after pasting. Up to November 2018 (v 1.30.2) the way is SHIFT + ALT + F – [Pablo](#) Jan 10 at 14:01



If you can afford it (or if you're eligible for the 30-day free trial) [Jetbrains ReSharper](#) can reformat a whole project directory.

0



Just install -> Right-click a directory -> select Cleanup Code from the context menu.

answered Sep 7 '16 at 18:02

[dcmorse](#)

75 1 9



include "stdafx.h"

0



include

```
int main(){ char filename[15];
```



```
Automat(filename);
freq(filename);

}

int Automat(char filename[]){

    FILE*fp;
    char c;
    int state = 1;
    int duma = 0;
    fp = fopen(filename, "r");
    if (fp == NULL){
        printf("Error");
        system("pause");
    }
    while (!feof(fp)){
        c = fgetc(fp);

        switch (state){
        case 1:
            if (c == '\t' || c == '\n' || c == ' '){
                state = 3;
                break;
            }
        case 2:
            if (c >='A' || c <='Z'){
                break;
            }

        case 3: duma++;
                state = 1;
                break;
        }
    }
    printf("Broq e : %d\n", duma);
    return 1;

} int freq(char filename[]){

    FILE*fp;
    char c;
```

```
printf("Error");
system("pause");
}

while (!feof(fp)){
    c = fgetc(fp);
    switch (state){
        case 1:
            if (c >= 'A' && c <= 'Z'){
                state = 2;
                break;
            }

        case 2:
            if (c == '\t' || c == '\n' || c == ' '){
                sequence++;
                state = 1;
                break;
            }
    }

    printf("Sequence is : %d\n", sequence);
}
```

answered Apr 3 at 6:37



Ivaylo

1

Please correct formatting of your code. – Robson Apr 3 at 8:37



In Visual Studio 2015 and 2017 for c# code. 1) Scroll to the end of the file 2) Remove the last "Curly Bracket" } 3) Wait

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answered Oct 26 '17 at 18:35



podzach

14 6

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