
Subject: commenting

Posted by [Christopher W. O'Dell](#) on Tue, 20 Feb 2001 16:01:17 GMT

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This is probably wishful thinking, but is there any way to comment out a large section of code as in C, where you don't have to insert a ';' on every line of code, but you can use a beginning and ending comment delimiter? I have this idea that there might be secret delimiters that i have not yet heard about in IDL. And I'm very lazy and have often longed for this feature.

Chris

Subject: Re: commenting

Posted by [Phillip David](#) on Fri, 02 Mar 2001 19:09:50 GMT

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Any GOOD editor will allow you to do things in a vertical block of text, such as duplicate, fill, or delete. Duplicate column 1, fill the new column 1 with ; to comment code out. Select column 1 and delete it to uncomment the code.

I have a macro in KEdit (my favorite Windows editor) that allows me to do what I call a "Column cursor" -- i.e., I can select a 1 character column across multiple lines, and can perform the same operation on each line. These operations can be insert, delete, overwrite, etc. KEdit also has a REALLY nice feature of allowing you to display just lines matching a certain pattern. So, for example, I can have it search column 73 on, find all lines that contain anything, insert a carriage return, 5 blanks, and a continuation character in FORTRAN codes with just a few keystrokes. Of course, that's not very elegant, and F90 eliminates the need for this most of the time, but...

This combination of features (operating only on selected lines using a column cursor) is so powerful that it's kept me from converting to emacs or any other editor, and often allows me to do jobs in 2-3 minutes that it would take others literally HOURS of editing to accomplish.

Phillip

"Christopher W. O'Dell" wrote:

>

> This is probably wishful thinking, but is there any way to
> comment out a large section of code as in C,
> where you don't have to insert a ';' on every line of code,
> but you can use a beginning and ending comment delimiter?

> I have this idea that there might be secret delimiters that
> i have not yet heard about in IDL. And I'm very lazy and
> have often longed for this feature.
>
> Chris

Subject: Re: commenting

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 01:10:40 GMT

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Phillip David wrote:

> I have a macro in KEdit (my favorite Windows editor) that allows me to
> do what I call a "Column cursor"
<snip>
> So, for example, I can have it search
> column 73 on, find all lines that contain anything, insert a carriage
> return, 5 blanks, and a continuation character in FORTRAN codes with
> just a few keystrokes. <snip> it's kept me from converting to emacs

You mean like:

```
[M-C-%]^\([C-u 73 .])\(.+)[Ret]\1$[C-q C-j] \2[Ret]
```

JD

Subject: Re: commenting

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 02:18:33 GMT

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John-David Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:

> You mean like:
>
> [M-C-%]^\([C-u 73 .])\(.+)[Ret]\1\$[C-q C-j] \2[Ret]

Is there a Berlitz course for this Emacs editor?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Subject: Re: commenting
Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2001 05:59:52 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

```
> John-David Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:
>
>> You mean like:
>>
>> [M-C-%]^\([C-u 73 .])\(.+\)[Ret]\1$[C-q C-j]  \2[Ret]
>
> Is there a Berlitz course for this Emacs editor?
>
> Cheers,
>
```

My favorite apocryphal story about Emacs is that the name is really an acronym for Escape-Meta-Alt-Control-Shift, since its apparent purpose is to make one use those keys as much as possible.

Still, all those nice IDLWAVE mode features make me tempted to try one more time to learn Emacs. At least now I know where the Meta key is located...

--Wayne Landsman landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov
