

**This is format\_comment v1.6**  
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**Please send bugs and suggestions to:<bbum@friday.com>**  
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format\_comment is intended to be used as a service. For those of you using Edit as your primary code editor, it can be set up as a User Pipe. For those of you NOT running TickleServices (GET IT-- SEND SCOTT MONEY!!! IT IS WORTH EVERY PENNY!!!), you can set it up as a Terminal Service. For those of you using **TickleServices**, install the following service (or something like it):

**# Expand any tabs in the text.**  
**set text [expand [pasteboard read]]**  
  
**set text [nexec /usr/local/etc/format\_comment << \$text]**

**# Unexpand leading spaces to tabs and put results on the pasteboard.**  
**pasteboard write \$text**

[nexec can be found in the !initialization! of a number of the TickleServices files included with the package]. I set up the service on **cmd-\$...** it is convenient and generally available from anywhere.

**format\_comment** reformats anything it finds on **stdin** into some form of **c** comment and spews the formatted text out **stdout**. The format of the comment is determined by the first characters encountered. For example, if you wanted to format a comment with "\*\*\*\*"s down the left side and a row of "="s above and below that is indented about half-way, you would start with:

**/\*\*\*\*= hello world. this is a comment that is way indented and is blocked by ==== signs. nifty neat. bet you would stop and look at this if you were reading a piece of code, huh?**

and by selecting the text by triple-clicking then piping through **format\_comment**, you would get:

```
/** =====
**** hello world. this is a comment that
**** is way indented and is blocked by
**** === signs. nifty neat. bet you
**** would stop and look at this if you
**** were reading a piece of code, huh?
**** =====
****/
```

format\_comment supports the following comment styles. The stuff in single-quotes were the characters placed at the beginning of the stuff to be commented-- that is, the **format\_comment** seed.

```
/*"
 * '""' autodoc comments! Some text more text red text blue text up text
 * down text you text me text context.
**/
```

```
/*
```

```
* 'nothing' default comment style (with a bunch of indent). Some
* text more text red text blue text up text down text you text me
* text context.
*
*/
```

```
    // '///' obj-c style inline comments (useful for commenting
    // blocks in code without wasted vertical space). Some text
    // more text red text blue text up text down text you text
    // me text context.
```

```
/* ++++++
* you can also use '/*-';.... Some text more text red text blue
* text up text down text you text me text context.
* ++++++
*/
```

```
/******
***** '/******' any size ***** blocks.
***** blocks. blocks. blocks. blocks. blocks.
```

```
***** blocks. blocks. blocks. blocks. blocks.
***** blocks.
*****
*****/
```

And, best of all, you can easily edit an existing comment with no worries about formatting and such-- `format_comment` will automatically re-format the entire block.

As well, `format_comment` preserves paragraphs. For example:-

```
                // This is a comment that has been
                // formatted and subsequently edited.
See we added this line of stuff....
                //
                // This is the second paragraph
```

I then selected the above and spewed it through `format_comment`:

```
                // This is a comment that has been
```

```
// formatted and subsequently edited.  
// See we added this line of  
// stuff....  
//  
// This is the second paragraph
```

Send features, bugs, suggestions to <bbum@friday.com> (the author).

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