This is format_comment v1.6
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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 commetn 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 neato.   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 neato.  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 an existing comment with no worrys 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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