

Text Editor Patches

version 1.2.3

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Two of the nicest free text editors, BBEdit and ASLEdit+, lack automatic word wrapping, as does the text editor built into THINK C. So I designed a hack that adds a simple form of word wrapping to these editors. It can also add a few optional features:

- “THINK Link”: control-double-click on a trap name, and THINK Reference 1.0 will launch or come to the front and will display the page documenting that trap. This feature requires System 7, and does not work with ASLEdit+.
- Generate parentheses, brackets, and braces in pairs. For instance, if you type a left parenthesis, then a right parenthesis and left arrow will also be inserted for you, so that the insertion point will be poised between the matched pair.
- Generate dollar signs in pairs as above, for those typing TeX source code.
- Change the default font used in ASLEdit+ from ASLFont+ to Monaco.

Installation

Set the checkboxes the way you want them, then click the Patch button. You will see a standard directory dialog box, which you should use to select the editor you want to modify. If all goes well, then in a few seconds you will see an alert saying that the patches have been applied successfully.

If you should change your mind about the optional settings, just change the checkboxes and patch again. It is not necessary to remove the patches first.

The Unpatch button removes all of my patches from a selected file, regardless of the checkbox settings.

How Word Wrapping Works

When the patches are installed, each title bar of an editing window will contain a small icon indicating whether the word wrapping feature is on or off. Click on the icon to change its state. When word wrapping is on, then when the insertion point gets close enough to the right edge of the window, the next space character will be changed into a return character. If you happen to type a very long word near the margin, or if you type fast on a slow machine, it is possible that you will type past the margin. This is not a perfect word-wrapping method, but it is the best I can do without access to the application's internal data structures.

You can prevent an individual space character from being turned into a carriage return by holding down the shift or caps-lock key as you type it.

Desk Accessory Editors

These patches can also be used with a DA editor, such as the DA form of ASLEdit+, if the DA has been installed directly into an application or has been “application-ized” under System 7.

Compatibility

The patches have been tested with ASLEdit+, BBEdit, and THINK C 5.0. They may work with many other programs, but proceed at your own risk.

The patches can be used either with System 7 or with System 6/MultiFinder (except for THINK Link, as noted earlier) but should not be used with System 6 without MultiFinder.

These patches are not compatible with PopUpFuncs, because it uses the same mechanism to add features to an application. If such a product is installed, the patcher will warn you, and you should normally decide not to do the

patch.

The patches reportedly are compatible with CMaster, except that the word wrapping icon will fail to appear.

If you use ClickChange, it may prevent the word wrap icon from appearing unless you exclude the patched applications from ClickChange.

If you use the "Simple Term" tool in ASLEdit+, you probably will not want to use the matched pair patches, because "Simple Term" does not support the arrow keys.

The ASLEdit+ Default Font

An ASLFont+ patch is provided for personal use only. You should not change the default font of ASLEdit+ if you have any intention of using KanjiTalk or the ASLFont+. Although you can set the font to ASLFont+ even with the patch in place, that font choice will not be respected the next time you open the document.

If you want ASLEdit+ to use a different default font than Monaco, you will have to use ResEdit either on the patched application or on this installer. Edit the 'JWfn' resource. It contains a length byte followed by a font name.

Distribution

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