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BBEdit and XTND

BBEdit 2.2 supports the Claris XTND translator mechanism for importing and exporting files from and to other word-processor formats. Included with your BBEdit distribution is an "XTND Folder", which includes the Claris XTND system. See the "Installing BBEdit" chapter for details on installing the XTND package.

Importing

To import the text from another word-processing format, choose "Import..." from the File menu. A file-selection dialog box will be presented.



The popup menu next to the "Show:" text allows you to select which file formats will be visible in the file list. Normally, the setting is "All Available", so that all importable files will be shown.

Choose the file you wish to import, and click the "Import" button.

When you have chosen your file, BBEdit will read the text from it, and display the text in a new untitled window. Because paragraphs in word processor files do not have carriage returns at the end of lines, they will appear as very long lines in the editing window. You can avoid this by checking the "Wrap After Importing" check box before importing a file. If you don't, you can use the "Wrap..." command from the **Text** menu to wrap the long lines of text into a more readable format.

Note: There is information in word-processor files that BBEdit cannot display, such as pictures, multiple styles, footnotes, headers, and footers. Text imported into BBEdit will be in the default font, size, and style set in the preferences for new documents, and all other information not related to the main text of the document is ignored.

Exporting

To export the text of an editing window to a word-processor format, choose the "Export..." command from the File menu. A file-save dialog will be presented.



Enter the name you wish to save your document under, and choose the wordprocessor format from the popup menu.

Since carriage returns are interpreted as paragraph breaks by word processors, individual lines in a text editing window will appear as separate paragraphs to the word processor. To avoid this, check the "Unwrap before Exporting" check box in the export dialog. When this check box is checked, BBEdit will turn single carriage returns (used to separate lines) into spaces, so that the word processor will do the line-breaking on its own, rather than being confused by the carriage returns (which it will interpret as paragraph endings). Double carriage returns (used to separate paragraphs in an editing window) will be left alone.