

Scripting How-To: Example of Comparing Two Files

- The specific application was to do a file compare but it didn't matter where in the file a line existed to see if they were the same.
- The code is below.
- This code requires the "Microsoft Scripting Runtime" reference.
- The code attempts to handle the case where there is more than one of the same line in a file. However, the line reported different will not be right if there are multiple lines that are the same
- The code will also ignore blank lines.

```
' Code Module
Sub Main
    Dim fn1 As String
    Dim fn2 As String
    Dim fn3 As String
    'current problem with this approach will be if there are duplicate lines.
    fn1 = Project.Path + "a.txt"
    fn2 = Project.Path + "b.txt"
    fn3 = Project.Path + "output.txt"

    Open fn3 For Output As #2
    Print #2, "Output from file compare utility"
    Print #2, vbTab & "File 1 is :" & fn1
    Print #2, vbTab & "File 2 is :" & fn2
    Print #2

    Dim kw As Dictionary
    Set kw = New Dictionary
    'collect up contents of file 1
    i = 0
    Open fn1 For Input As #1
    While Not EOF(1)
        Line Input #1, L$
        i = i+1
        If Trim(L$) <> "" Then 'dont' look at white space
            If kw.Exists(L$) Then 'if line exists, then update a count on the items, so
items is line number,count
                tmp = kw(L$)
                tks = Split(tmp,",")
                n = Cint(tks(1))
                n = n + 1
                stg = tks(0) &"," & n
                kw(L$) = stg
            Else
                stg = i &"," & 1
                kw.Add(L$,stg)
            End If
        End If
        'Debug.Print L$
    Wend
    Close #1

    Print #2, "Lines found in file 2 that are not in file 1"
    i=0
    Open fn2 For Input As #1
    While Not EOF(1)
        Line Input #1, L$
        i=i+1
        If Trim(L$) <> "" Then
            If kw.Exists(L$)=False Then
                Print #2, vbTab & "Line " & i & ": " & L$
            Else
                tmp = kw(L$)
                tks = Split(tmp,",")
                n = Cint(tks(1))
                n = n - 1
                stg = tks(0) &"," & n
                kw(L$) = stg
            End If
        End If
        '
        Debug.Print L$
    End While
End Sub
```

```
Wend
Close #1
Print #2
    Print #2, "Lines found in file 1 that are not in file 2"
For i = 0 To kw.Count-1
    tmp = kw.Items(i)
    tks = Split(tmp,",")
    n = CInt(tks(1))
    If n <> 0 Then
        Print #2, vbTab & "Line " & tks(0) & ": " & kw.Keys(i)
    End If
Next i
Close #2
End Sub
```