

Applescript and Autoformat (search and replace), Word 2004

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2004-08/0655.html>

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OK, for my next trick learning AppleScript and Word 2004, since I cannot find a utility or script online, I am trying to create for myself a script that will take care of a recurring editing issue with nested quotation marks. Apologies for the long explanation. There's a bug report and a scripting query here.

One of my jobs is to run a blog. I will frequently quote articles that include dialogue and complicated formatting like dashes next to quoted phrases. Example of a good "quick brown fox" test sentence follows. Original:

Mr. Jones's neighbor said, "he sure likes rock 'n' roll," as we stared at his collection.

After I'm done with it, I want:

"Mr. Jones's neighbor said, 'he sure likes rock 'n' roll,' as we stared at his collection."

I want, therefore, to create a script that will convert all the single quotes to double quotes (and vice versa), while respecting the apostrophes (and checking for dashes and other odd punctuation). Word has issues with this, apparently.

I have the logic down just fine (well, perhaps kludgy, but I can't see any more elegant way than to use placeholder variables), and the original script I wrote for Tex-Edit Plus works great.

(BUG QUERY:) Unfortunately, somewhere in the Word X to Word 2004 transition, pasting into other applications has gotten screwy -- the sample I was working on randomly stupefied the single quotes and apostrophes and converted all em-dashes to hyphens (double quotes stayed "smart"). I have "copy formatted text to clipboard" set on.

(APPLESCRIPT QUERY:) Since the whole point is to save myself manual editing, I turned to Word's AppleScript. The script snippet below is the

result. It works to an extent (haven't extended the logic to paragraph marks etc.) but despite the opening commands to turn off the, um, kind assistance that Word offers on autoformatting, I cannot get it to respect my wishes with the apostrophes and dashes. Even though the script accurately catches the first apostrophe in "'n'" (it's a curly right single quote in Word), it still insists on replacing it with a curly left single quote instead of the curly right quote that I am explicitly specifying in replace. When I look at the "find/replace" dialog in the user interface, I've definitely passed in the right character. (Ditto with quote marks around dashes -- Word's overriding of my script makes it completely hopeless.)

So, how do I get Word to stop "helping" my script? Did I miss a preference I need to disable? Do I need to further kludge a temporary garble of text before or after my quotes (as I do when typing manually) to make the autoformat do what I want?

Any ideas welcome.

Cheers

Peter E.

```
tell application "Microsoft Word"
  set oldauto to auto format replace quotes
  set oldauto2 to auto format as you type replace quotes
  set auto format replace quotes to false
  set auto format as you type replace quotes to false
  set f to (get find object of selection)
  tell f
    clear formatting
    set match all word forms to false
    set format to false
    set r to (get replacement of f)
    tell r
      clear formatting
    end tell
  end tell
  execute find f find text "2 " replace with "#CSQ# " replace replace
all
  execute find f find text " 3" replace with " #OSQ#" replace replace
all
  execute find f find text "<3" replace with "<#OSQ#" replace replace
all
  execute find f find text "2<" replace with "#CSQ#<" replace replace
all
  execute find f find text "2 " replace with "#CSQ# " replace replace
all
  execute find f find text " 1" replace with " #APO#" replace replace
all
  execute find f find text " Œ" replace with " #ODQ#" replace replace
all
  execute find f find text "1 " replace with "#CDQ# " replace replace
```

all

execute find f find text "<Æ" replace with "#ODQ#" replace replace

all

execute find f find text "1<" replace with "#CDQ#" replace replace

all

execute find f find text "#ODQ#" replace with "3" replace replace all

execute find f find text "#CDQ#" replace with "2" replace replace all

execute find f find text "#APO#" replace with "1" replace replace all

execute find f find text "#CSQ#" replace with "1" replace replace all

execute find f find text "#OSQ#" replace with "Æ" replace replace all

set auto format replace quotes to oldauto

set auto format as you type replace quotes to oldauto2

end tell