

Compare Files with “Diff Doc”

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ABSTRACT

This paper gives a very brief, visual introduction to ‘Diff Doc’, a Commercial-of-the-shelf [COTS] solution developed by SoftInterface Inc.

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this poster is to introduce the reader to ‘Diff Doc’, a Commercial-of-the-Shelf [COTS] solution for comparing folders/files of all types [including: MS Word/Excel/PowerPoint; PDF; Rich Text [RTF]; Text; XML and HTML].

COMPARING FILES

The primary feature of ‘Diff Doc’ is comparing files. The first illustration shows the ‘All in One’ view, which has three editor boxes. The top two editors are referred to as the ‘Original editor’ and the ‘Modified editor’ and show the contents of the two files being compared. While the text editor below or ‘Diff Viewer’ displays the changes between the Original and Modified editors. [An alternative view displays the differences side by side].

CREATE REPORTS FOR COMPARING FILES

Reports can be easily created based on the criteria specified in the ‘Report Options’ tab. The content of the editor and viewer windows can also be printed or saved to file.

COMPARING FOLDERS

In addition to comparing files, ‘Diff Doc’ also has the capability to compare folders. This enables users to see what files are in each folder and whether or not those files have changed. You can compare folders by Date, Size and Content.

CONCLUSION

While ‘Diff Doc’ isn’t perfect. For example: there is no way to turn off comparisons on specific sections of text, [e.g. date time stamps in source footnotes]; it cannot generate a single report that highlights all differences in all files in a given folder; and it can get confused when comparing files with complex formatting. It’s cheap [<\$400 USD per user license], easy to use and even without these features is an extremely useful utility to have. And anyway, what alternatives are there? How do you compare files/folders?

RECOMMENDED READING

For a detailed description of all Diff Doc’s features and to obtain a free trial copy go to www.softinterface.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your comments and questions are valued and encouraged. Contact the author at:

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