TextParser

User Guide

Version 2.0
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Complexity Made Simple

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Version History

Version	Description
2.0	• Added configurable keyword filtering via INI file • Added large data set support • Added processing statistics and runtime reporting • Improved output file naming for unique results
1.0	Initial release

Introduction

TextParser is a lightweight Windows utility designed to process large text-based files and generate a second output file that excludes lines containing predefined text strings. The application scans an input file line-by-line and compares each line against a list of user-defined phrases stored in a configuration file. If a matching phrase is found, that line is skipped and not written to the output file.

TextParser was originally developed to process large router log files during cyber-analysis workflows, allowing analysts to remove irrelevant or trusted entries before importing the data into analysis tools or databases. The result is a clean data set containing only the entries that require further investigation.

The application's key features:

- Remove unwanted lines from large text files based on configurable text strings
- Uses a simple INI configuration file containing keyword filters
- Supports extremely large data sets
- Processes files line-by-line for efficient memory usage
- Generates a uniquely named output file automatically
- Preserves the original input file unchanged
- Provides runtime statistics including lines processed and elapsed time

System Requirements

- Windows 8 (or higher)
- All Windows applications "like" computer memory – a starting point for any Windows machine should really be 16GB of memory. If this application starts running slower, check your Windows Task Manager for applications that are leeching memory (and then start closing them)
- This application runs comfortably within 10MB of disc space
- A decent color monitor capable of displaying 1024x768 (or higher resolution)

U.S. Government Use

U.S. government agencies, to include the Department of Defense, are NOT permitted to use this application without written consent from the author. A per-seat usage fee will be assessed prior to that written authorization being granted to the requester.

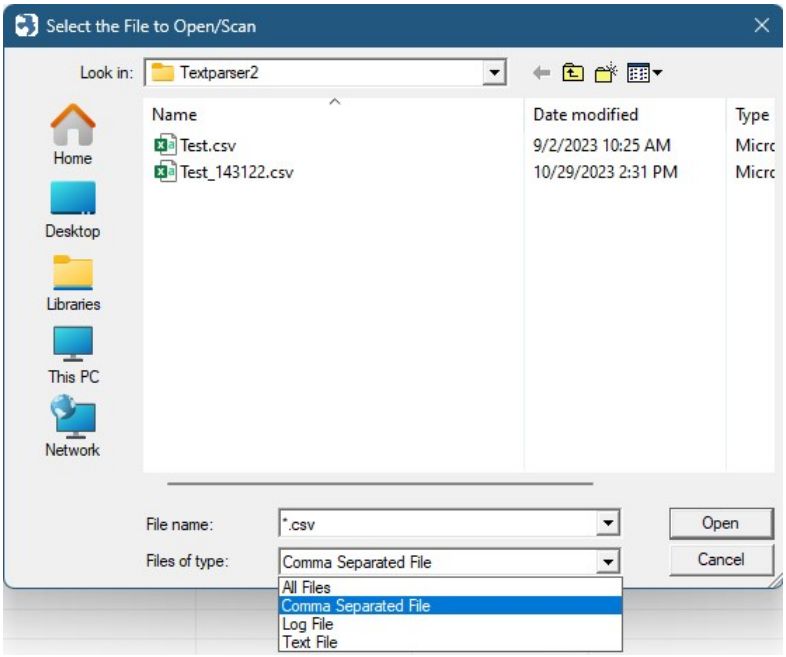
Real-World Example

TextParser was originally developed to assist with the analysis of large router log data sets. In this scenario, router logs recorded the country associated with each TCP/IP address. Because investigations must avoid targeting U.S. persons (unless otherwise approved by leadership), any log entry containing “United States” needed to be removed from the data set before further analysis.

Using TextParser, the keyword “United States” was added to the configuration file. When the log file was processed, every line containing that phrase was automatically excluded from the output file. The resulting data set contained only non-U.S. TCP/IP addresses, allowing the remaining entries to be combined and imported into a custom analysis database. This approach dramatically reduced the data set size and allowed analysts to focus exclusively on potentially hostile foreign activity.

How It Works

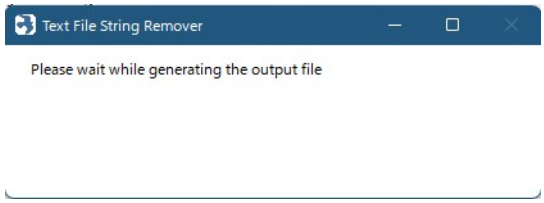
1. User edits the Textparser.Ini file to add text strings that – if existent in the source file – are NOT written to the output file
2. There are no passable parameters – this application relies on a properly configured .INI file which contains a unique list of text strings that – if encountered within the selected text file – are skipped over if found within the currently scanned line of text. Once the application is started, a dialogue box is displayed to select the desired text file:



3. The bottom droplist has four predefined options:
   - All files
   - Comma Separated File (*.Csv)
   - Log File (*.Log)

- Text File (*.Txt)

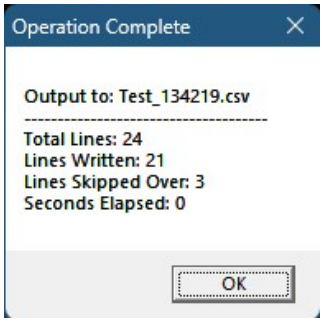
4. Select the desired file by double left clicking the file or single left click the file and then click the Open button. After the file is selected the operation begins. A popup window is displayed as the input file is scanned (line by line); lines NOT containing the character string are written to the output file:



Note: the output filename uses the same rootname as the input file, appended with an underline character and the 6-digit time (HHMMSS) to ensure it is a unique filename. The same file extension is used

Example: Large.Csv -> Large_193754.Csv

5. After the input file has been fully scanned a popup message is displayed that informs you what the output filename is; line tally information, and the elapsed time required to create the output file:



Configuration

TextParser uses a simple .Ini file containing one text string per line.

dstcountry="United States"
dstcountry="Reserved"
dstintf="root"
transip=208.91.112.55

If any of these phrases appear within a line of the input file, that line will be excluded from the output file.

Filtering is case-sensitive, ensuring precise matching when working with structured datasets.

Technical Information

This application requires less than 5MB of disc space for its files:

- TextParser.exe – application file
- TextParser.Ini – configuration file (editable with Notepad or a text editor)
- WBDZB64I.Dll – runtime file

However, whenever processing large volumes of data, three factors come into play:

1. CPU processor speed
2. Hard drive type/speed (5400RPM / 7200RPM / SSD)
3. Available memory (ideally 16GB or more RAM installed)

It is recommended to close all Windows applications (especially web browsers) before processing large amounts of data to free up memory. A faster hard drive can shave minutes (or even hours) of time required to process data.

Output File

TextParser automatically creates a new output file using the same base filename as the input file, appending the current time to ensure uniqueness.

Example:

Input File: **RouterLog.csv** Output File: **RouterLog_193754.csv**

This ensures the original file remains untouched while the filtered file is written separately.

Support and Donation

1. Send us an email (scott@sdaughtry.com) that fully describes the problem(s) you're experiencing and we will get back to you as soon as possible. It is prudent for you to fully back up this application's folder (in full) as a precautionary pre-troubleshooting step.

2. This application is distributed as DONORWARE – no features have been removed or crippled from this application. This application's dedicated web page located on our

company web site (http://www.sdaughtry.com) has a link to donate to continued updates of this application and/or fund the creation of other utility applications.