The South Bay Mug

MACINTOSH

MAChinations

A personal view from Bob

Text Editors

Text editors are not for writing letters. They are for manipulating text. This can be text you get in an email message, grab from a web site or a PC document and which needs to be cleaned up.

- Wrap it. Eliminates carriage returns at the end of lines so the text flows. Converts PC-DOS to Mac.

- Line up tabular text with spaces.

- Strip control characters, eliminate multiple lines between paragraphs or multiple spaces between words. Convert space runs to tabs and vice versa.

- Smarten or stupefy quotes, ligatures and dashes,

- Capitalize The First Letter Of Each Word.

- CONVERT TO SMAll CAPS

- Strip leading or trailing spaces

- Sort and number lines.

- Do a smart Find and Replace across many documents.

There are dozens, maybe hundreds, of text editors for the Macintosh. I like Tex-Edit, a $15 shareware program I've used for many years and Text-Wrangler (free), the little brother of BBEdit. Each has it own set of tools. Both make extensive use of scripts (Tex-Edit right) and plug-ins to extend their capabilities.
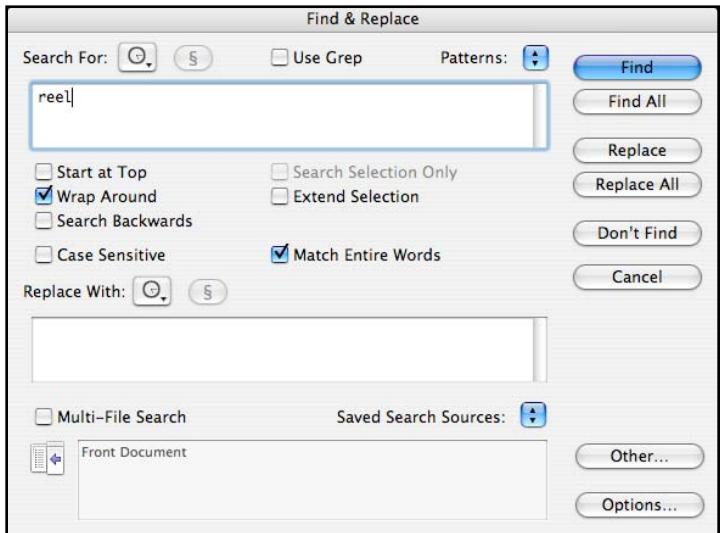
TextWrangler has very powerful find and replace capabilities, letting you search all occur-rences across multiple files. It supports Grep (general regular expression parser) for techies.

TextWrangler lets you make vertical selection of text to add or eliminate text in the middle.

Tex-Edit Scripts

```
Block Format Quote       ⇧⌘K
Bulletize
Color Scheme              ▶
Convert                   ▶
De–Bulletize
Diary...
Execute Selected Script
Get Info...
Hide It!
Internet                  ▶
Markup                    ▶
Number Lines
Print Envelope
Programming               ▶
Quit Now
Shareware Registration...
Shutdown
Small Caps
Speak File...
Startup
Strip Leading >'s
Styles                    ▶
Superscript               ▶
Zoom All                  ⇧⌘\
Zoom                      ⌘\
```

The Services Menu.

A frequently overlooked feature of OS-X is the Services Menu under the Application menu (next to the Apple). Many application add items to this menu, a few of which are shown, but you can also add your own to the Services folder in the User Library. Go to devon-technologies and download the free WordService.service which adds many useful text manipulation items to the Services menu.

Services Menu (partial)

```
BBEdit                          ▶
Caboodle                        ▶
CalcService                     ▶
Calq                            ▶
ChineseTextConverter            ▶
ClipEdit                        ▶
Convert                         ▶
Copy to Tex–Edit Plus
Disk Utility                    ▶
EasyFind                        ▶
Finder                          ▶
Font Book                       ▶
Format                          ▶
Grab                            ▶
Graphviz                        ▶
Import Image
Insert                          ▶
Journler                        ▶
Look Up in Dictionary
Mail                            ▶
Mailsmith                       ▶
Make New Sticky Note        ⇧⌘Y
ManOpen                         ▶
Nisus Thesaurus                 ▶
Notepad                         ▶
```