Using Regular Expressions to replace text in your program

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Regular expressions can be used to replace text in your programs without changing your code. You do this by setting iscobol.compiler.regexp and compiling your code. The format is:

```
    iscobol.compiler.regexp=&ltexisting-value&gt &ltnew-value&gt
&ltexisting-value&gt &ltnew-value&gt ...
```

Some common regular expression characters we use are:

```
+------+-----------------------------------------+-----------------------------------
| (?i) | Makes the following text case insensitive | (?i)STOP will catch "Stop",
"STOP", and "stop" |
```

\s+	Space or spaces in the text	Indicates one or more spaces
.	Period	Replaces one character

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```
+------+-----------------------------------------+-----------------------------------
```

Examples: Comment out a line

```
    iscobol.compiler.regexp=" RECORD" " * RECORD"
    iscobol.compiler.regexp="RECORDING MODE" "*&gt RECORDING MODE"
```

Replace all ';STOP RUN';s with ';GOBACK';, ignoring letter case and spacing

```
    iscobol.compiler.regexp="(?i)(STOP)\s+(RUN)" "GOBACK"
```

Change the name of copybooks

```
    iscobol.compiler.regexp="acugui.def" "isgui.def" "acucobol.def"
"iscobol.def"
```

Another way to do this and make it more readable is to use the line extension backslash:

```
    iscobol.compiler.regexp="acugui.def" "isgui.def" \
                            "acucobol.def" "iscobol.def" \
                            "crtvars.def" "iscrt.def"
```

Replace text with spaces

```
A program that uses the special names "call-convention" would need to remove
this line, since isCOBOL uses a configuration variable instead.
So this regular expression replaces "call-convention is dynmaicStdCall" and
"call-convention is WINAPI" with spaces.
    iscobol.compiler.regexp="(?i)(dynamicStdCall)" " " \
                            "(?i)(call-convention)\s+(66)\s+(is)" " " \
                            "(?i)(WINAPI)" " " \
                            "(?i)(call-convention)\s+(74)\s+(is)" " "
```

Notes: - You can only specify this configuration variable one time, passing it a string of all of the regular expressions you need. If you set it twice, the second one will overwrite the first one. This can get a bit long but remember that you can use the line continuation backslash "" at the end of a line. - This is a compiler configuration - it requires you to compile or recompile with it set.

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