

Using Regular Expressions to replace text in your program

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=&lt;existing-value&gt; &lt;new-value&gt; &lt;existing-value&gt; &lt;new-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
| Indicates one or more spaces in the text |+-----+-----+-----+-----+
-----+| . | Period
| Replaces one character |+-----+-----+-----+-----+
-----+-----+
```

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" "acuco
bol.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.

Online URL: <https://support.veryant.com/phpkb/article.php?id=295>