Reconcile Your Differences!

COMPARE FILES MERGE TEXT SYNCHRONIZE FOLDERS

BEYOND COMPARE

USER GUIDE

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Beyond Compare

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Table of Contents

Part 1 Welcome 8

1 What's New ... 9

2 Standard vs. Pro ... 10

Part 2 Using Beyond Compare 12

1 Home View ... 13

- Managing Sessions ... 13
- Sharing Sessions ... 14

2 Folder Compare ... 16

- Understanding the Display ... 16
- How to Compare ... 18
- Filtering the View ... 18
- Reconciling Differences ... 20
- File Action Details ... 21
  - Content Comparison ... 21
  - Copy ... 22
  - Move ... 22
  - Exchange ... 22
  - Copy to Folder ... 23
  - Move to Folder ... 24
  - Delete ... 26
  - Rename ... 26
  - Attributes ... 27
  - Touch ... 28
  - Exclude ... 28
  - New Folder ... 29
  - Synchronize ... 29

3 Folder Merge ... 30

- Understanding the Display ... 30
- File Action Details ... 32
  - Copy to Output ... 32
  - Merge ... 32

4 Folder Sync ... 33

- Understanding the Display ... 33
- How to Sync ... 34

5 Text Compare ... 36

- Editing Text ... 37
- Walking Through Differences ... 38
- Searching for Text ... 38

6 Text Merge ... 40

- Using Text Merge ... 41

7 Table Compare ... 42

8 Hex Compare ... 43

9 Picture Compare ... 44

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How to Compare ... 45
10 Registry Compare ... 47
11 Text Edit ... 48
12 Text Patch ... 49
13 Other View Types ... 50
14 File Formats ... 52
Grammars ... 52
15 Reports ... 52
16 Specs ... 53
Archive Files ... 53
Remote Services ... 54
17 Snapshots ... 55
18 Calling Beyond Compare from Other Applications ... 55
19 Moving Beyond Compare to Another Computer ... 56
20 Scripts ... 56
Sample Scripts ... 58
Scheduling a Script ... 60
Part 3 Settings Reference 62
1 Program Options ... 63
Startup ... 63
Tabs ... 64
Colors, Fonts ... 64
Folder Views ... 65
File Views ... 65
Picture Compare ... 66
Text Editing ... 66
Next Difference ... 66
Backups ... 67
File Operations ... 67
Archive Types ... 67
Toolbars, etc. ... 68
Open With ... 68
Tweaks ... 68
2 Session Settings ... 71
Folder Compare ... 72
Specs ... 73
Comparison ... 73
Handling ... 74
Name Filters ... 75
Other Filters ... 76
Misc ... 76
Folder Merge ... 76
Specs ... 77
Comparison ... 77
Handling ... 78
Name Filters ... 79
Other Filters ... 80
Misc ... 80

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Folder Sync ... **80**
Specs ... 81
Sync ... 81
Comparison ... 81
Handling ... 82
Name Filters ... 83
Other Filters ... 84
Misc ... 84
Text Compare ... **85**
Specs ... 85
Format ... 85
Importance ... 85
Alignment ... 86
Replacements ... 87
Text Merge ... **87**
Specs ... 87
Format ... 87
Importance ... 88
Alignment ... 88
Table Compare ... **89**
Specs ... 89
Format ... 90
Columns ... 90
Hex Compare ... **91**
Specs ... 91
Format ... 91
Comparison ... 91
MP3 Compare ... **91**
Specs ... 92
Importance ... 92
Picture Compare ... **92**
Specs ... 92
Format ... 92
Replacements ... 92
Registry Compare ... **92**
Specs ... 93
Version Compare ... **93**
Specs ... 93
Importance ... 93

3 File Formats ... **93**

Text Formats ... **93**
General ... 94
Conversion ... 94
Grammar ... 95
Misc ... 95
Table Format ... **95**
General ... 95
Conversion ... 96
Type ... 96
Hex Format ... **97**
General ... 97
Conversion ... 97
Picture Format ... **98**
General ... 98

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Conversion ... 98
External Format ... 98
4 Profiles ... 99
FTP Profiles ... 99
Global ... 99
Login ... 100
Server ... 100
Connection ... 101
Proxy ... 102
Listings ... 102
Transfer ... 103
Amazon S3 Profiles ... 104
Dropbox Profiles ... 104
Subversion Profiles ... 104
WebDAV Profiles ... 104
5 Source Control Integration ... 104
6 Where Settings are Stored ... 105

Part 4 Commands Reference 107

1 Common ... 107
2 Home ... 109
3 Folder Compare ... 109
4 Folder Merge ... 115
5 Folder Sync ... 120
6 Text Compare ... 123
7 Text Merge ... 129
8 Table Compare ... 134
9 Hex Compare ... 137
10 MP3 Compare ... 141
11 Picture Compare ... 143
12 Registry Compare ... 146
13 Version Compare ... 149
14 Text Edit ... 152
15 Text Patch ... 154

Part 5 Command Line Reference 157

Part 6 Scripting Reference 161

Part 7 Regular Expression Reference 176

Part 8 Glossary 180

Part 9 Support, Ordering and License 183

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Index **186**

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Welcome

Beyond Compare is a utility for comparing files and folders. It can help you find and reconcile differences in source code, folders, images and data, even if your files are contained in zip archive files or on remote services (e.g. FTP sites). It can synchronize your folders, and validate your copies.

Beyond Compare seamlessly coordinates the entire comparison job, from the folder structure down to individual differences in files. Specialized file views communicate difference info back to the folder session, helping you quickly concentrate on important differences. Beyond Compare remembers your various sessions so that you can come back to the same comparison job time after time.

This document describes both the Standard and Pro editions of Beyond Compare. Features that are only available in the Pro edition are indicated by this green icon: PRO

Beyond Compare is available for computers running Windows, Mac and Linux. Items in this document that refer to a specific platform are indicated by these icons:

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1.1 What's New

Here are some of the significant new features in Beyond Compare 4. Items flagged with PRO are only available in the Pro edition.

Mac version

Beyond Compare now runs natively on Mac.

BC for Mac has all the power and functionality you've come to expect from Beyond Compare, now with native look and feel, speed, and enhancements to make it feel at home.

Overhauled Home view

The new Home View adds session search and web resources. The layout is easier to manage with on-screen controls.

3-way Folder Merge PRO

Three-way merging now extends to folders. Compare independent changes against a common ancestor to quickly merge your changes with someone else's. It makes merging your customizations into a new release a snap.

Ad hoc unimportant text

It is now easier to define unimportant text in your Text Compares. Define unimportant terms directly from the Session Settings dialog, rather than having to edit your file formats.

WebDAV, Subversion, Dropbox and Amazon S3 support PRO

In addition to FTP, you can access WebDAV resources, subversion repositories, Dropbox's cloud storage, and Amazon S3 cloud storage directly from within Beyond Compare. Organize your remote service profiles with friendly names and folder hierarchies.

Overhauled Picture Compare

Picture Compare has a new look, with automatic zoom, pixel-level details, and simplified controls. Tolerance comparison mode uses grayscale to reveal the image along with the differences.

Overhauled Options dialog with search

The reorganized Options dialog includes a search feature for finding specific settings quickly. Commands for all comparison types can be customized without first having to open a view.

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Other significant features

- Data Compare is now called Table Compare.
- Hex Compare wraps lines to fit the window, and adds in-line editing.
- New View Patch command shows diff/patch files as a text comparison.
- Added new text comparison algorithm choice based on Bram Cohen's Patience Diff.
- HTML folder comparison reports can now embed links to file comparisons.
- Improved appearance on high DPI (retina) displays.
- Version Compare now compares the fixed PE header in addition to the version resource.
- Zipx archives can be compared, complete with PPMd, LZMA, WavPack, and WinZip's JPEG compression.
- Added support for portable media devices (aka "MTP") including Android 4.0+ phones and cameras.

1.2 Standard vs. Pro

The Standard edition of Beyond Compare is a powerful full-featured comparison tool, not a stripped-down "lite" version. The Standard edition has full-screen editing, full Unicode support, syntax highlighting and much more.

However, the Pro edition adds these advanced functions:

3-way merging PRO

Compares independent changes against a common ancestor to create new merged content, for folders or individual files.

Text replacements PRO

Specifies text as unimportant if it is changed to a specific value on the other side. For example, you can make *apple* found on the left when compared to *orange* on the right an unimportant difference.

Folder Compare alignment overrides PRO

Overrides how files are aligned in a Folder Compare session. For example, you could compare your .gif files on one side with .png files of the same name on the other side.

Source control integration PRO

Adds commands for checking files in or out of SCC-compliant version control systems.

SFTP support PRO

Rather than relying on third-party solutions, Beyond Compare Pro has integrated support

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for secure FTP protocols (SFTP and FTP over SSL).

Registry Compare PRO

Compares live registries, both local and remote, as well as registry files.

Note The trial download of Beyond Compare actually contains both Standard and Pro editions. You can disable Pro mode in the **Help > About** dialog in order to limit your trial to Standard functionality.

Your license key will unlock the appropriate edition for permanent use. If you choose the Standard Edition license, you can upgrade later to Pro for the difference in price.

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Using Beyond Compare

Beyond Compare handles a wide variety of comparison tasks. It has specialized views for different kinds of files and different approaches to reconciling differences.

Each comparison task is called a *Session*. Sessions can be individualized, named and reused. Many of Beyond Compare's settings are managed and stored by session rather than as program-wide options, to give you greater flexibility. You can save different sessions with quite different settings, to accommodate differing tasks.

A *Child Session* is a file session that originated from a folder session.

Sessions can be opened in separate windows, or as multiple tabs on a single window. We refer to open sessions as *Views*. You can have multiple windows open, each with multiple tabs. You can drag a tab from one window to another, or right-click on a tab and pick **Move Tab to New Window** to move that tab onto its own window. (See Tab Options.)

You can save currently open sessions as a *Workspace*, and load them again later with the same configuration of windows and tabs. (See Managing Workspaces.)

The session settings that control how comparisons are performed are called *Rules*. Rules help you concentrate on important differences. Beyond Compare also maintains a list of *File Formats* to specify how various types of files are to be handled. You can modify the built-in file formats or create your own.

Credentials and other settings for remote services (FTP, WebDAV, Dropbox and others) are stored as named *Profiles*. (See Profile Management.)

This part of the documentation provides an overview of the various types of sessions and program concepts mentioned above.

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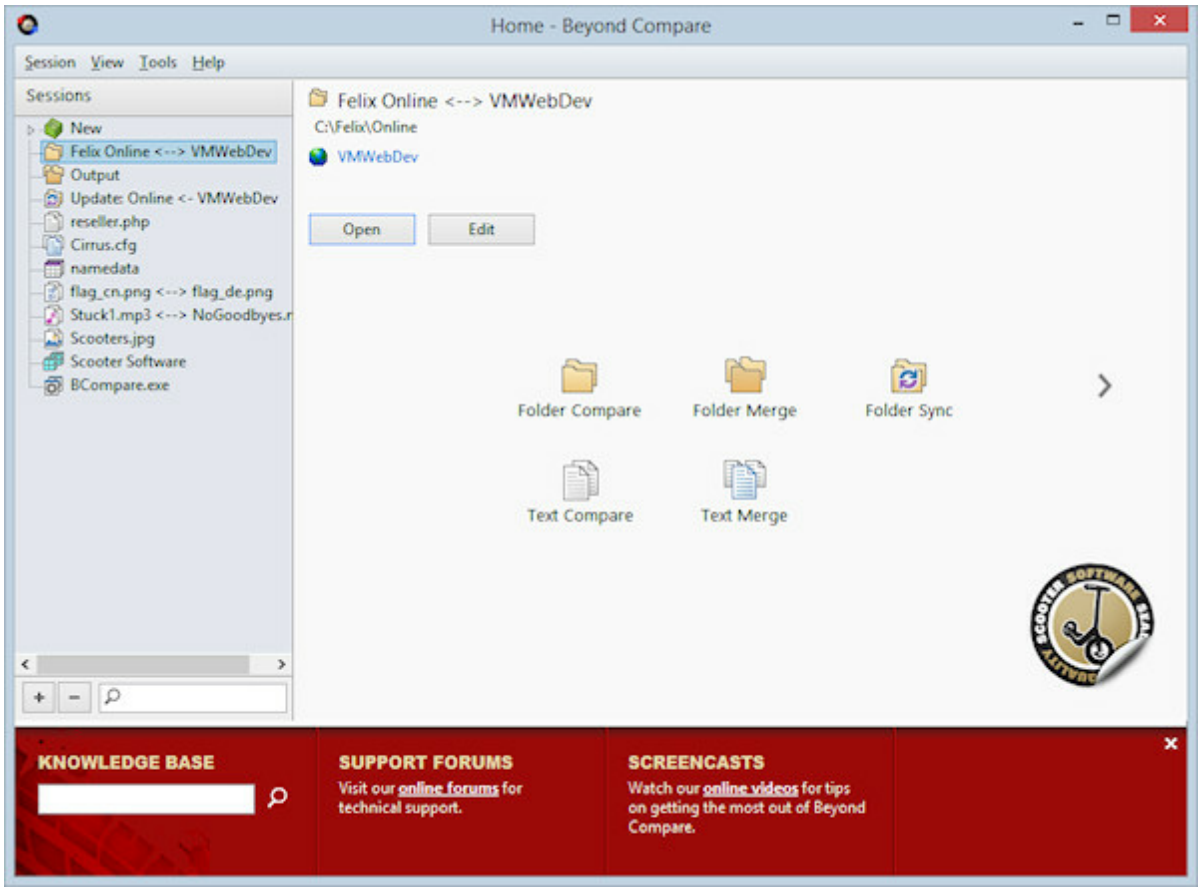
2.1 Home View

When you open a new window or tab, Beyond Compare displays the Home view:



From the Home view, you can:

- Start a new comparison session of any type
- Open one of your previously saved sessions
- Open an auto-saved session
- Search for a session
- Manage the settings for your saved sessions
- Edit the default settings to use for new sessions

You can also drag and drop files or folders from a file manager such as Windows Explorer onto this view to compare them. Drag and drop onto one of the large buttons to start a session of that specific type.

2.1.1 Managing Sessions

Beyond Compare automatically saves your most recent sessions so you can come back to

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them easily. If you want to retain a session indefinitely, you can save it with a descriptive name. You can also organize your named sessions within session folders.

Use the Home view to manage all your sessions in one place. In the **Sessions** tree, you can right-click on a saved session and pick **Edit** to show the management panel. Click on the **Pin Session Management Panel** button or mark **View > Show Session Management** to force it to always be shown in the Home view. **Delete** and **Rename** are also available in the right-click menu for saved sessions.

A named session can be locked to guard against accidental modifications. Right-click on it in the **Sessions** tree and pick **Lock**.

Once a session is opened in a view, the **Session** menu contains common commands for manipulating it. If you make a change to the primary parameters of a named session, you will be prompted to save it on exit.

To change default session settings

In the Home view's **Sessions** tree, under the **New** branch, select a session type. Right-click on it and pick **Edit** to show the management panel. Changes to these default settings will now be used for any newly created sessions of that type.

2.1.2 Sharing Sessions

Multiple users can share sessions by using a shared sessions file.

To create a shared sessions file

1. Pick **Tools > Export Settings** to create a .bcpkg settings package with any subset of your sessions.

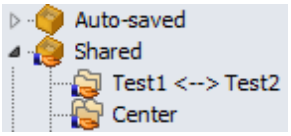
2. Place the package file in an appropriate shared folder.

To access a shared sessions file

1. Pick **Tools > Options** .

2. On the **Tweaks** page, in the **Shared Sessions File** section, enter the location of the package file.

Shared sessions will then appear as a new branch in the **Sessions** tree:



Note that shared sessions are read-only, and cannot be edited within Beyond Compare.

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To make changes to shared sessions, you need to recreate the package file as described above.

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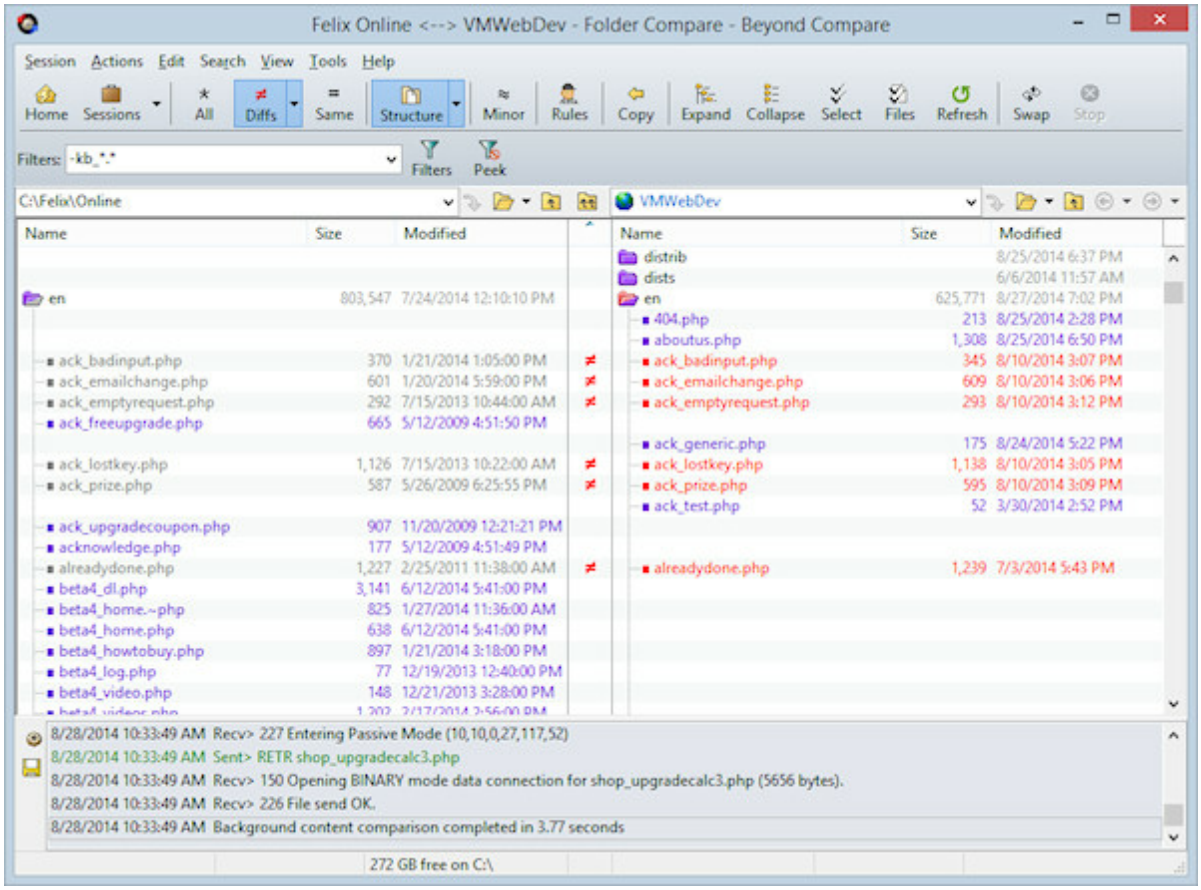
2.2 Folder Compare

A Folder Compare session compares two folder structures side-by-side, in a variation of the familiar Windows Explorer style. The comparison may be of folders on your hard drive or network, but either side also may be a remote service (e.g. FTP site), an archive file, or a snapshot taken earlier. All of these have a structure – folders and subfolders containing files – and Beyond Compare treats them equivalently.



2.2.1 Understanding the Display

The Folder Compare display uses color cues to highlight the differences between the two base folders. By default, the color meanings are:

Gray	Unknown or older
Black	Same
Purple	Orphan (does not exist on other side)
Red	Newer or different

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Pick **View > Legend** to display a guide to the various folder icon color combinations.

To change the default colors, pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **Colors, Fonts > Folder Views** page, and find the **Compare colors** settings.

You can click on a column header to sort by that column, or right-click the header to pick different columns to display.

Files in the display

In the following example, the file on the right side is colored red to show that it is newer. The icon in the center column shows that a content comparison has found differences.

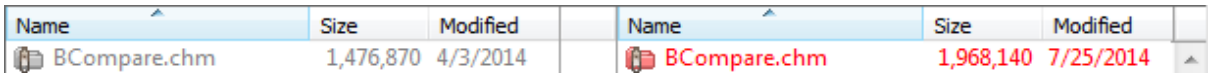
The color spot to the left of a filename show the difference color cue, even when a selection obscures the coloring of the other elements on the line.

The center column shows the results of a content comparison, if one has been performed.

The content comparison results can override the file colors. For example, the above line would change to all black if the content comparison determines the files match. To disable this behavior, pick **Session > Session Settings**, switch to the **Comparison** tab, and unmark the **Override quick test results** checkbox.

On Windows file systems, the filename may be followed by letters in parenthesis that represent the DOS attributes of read-only (r), hidden (h), archive (a), and system (s).

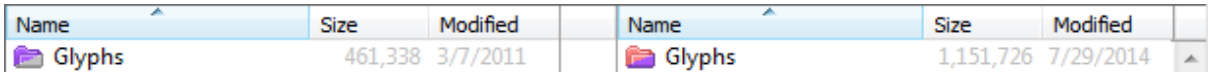
Some file types, such as zip archive files, can be a container for other files. Beyond Compare can handle these like regular folders. The following example shows our compiled help file with a newer version on the right side. Notice the special "zipper" icon.



You can double-click the file to expand it and compare each of the contained files.

Folders in the display

Folders are colored to give you hints about their contents. For instance, the comparison below lets you know that the folders contain at least one file that is newer on the right (red), and that both sides have at least one orphaned file (purple).



Folders may appear hollow when you first start the comparison. This happens when the background scanning process has not yet completed those folders. They will change

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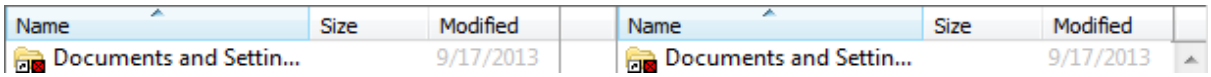
color when the process is finished.

A folder will be yellow if auto-scan is turned off and you haven't opened the folder yet. Once you manually open the folder (and possibly its subfolders) it will be colored appropriately.

Folder icons will include a small arrow glyph if the folder is a junction point or symbolic link. Folder icons will include a small red "X" glyph if there was an error trying to open the folder. The following example shows a folder with both conditions.



2.2.2 How to Compare

There are several ways to compare folders and files.

If you want a quick look at what has changed between two folders, it might be sufficient to just look at the dates and sizes of the files. If you are validating a CD copy, then a byte-by-byte comparison of every file is important. If you are comparing versions of source code, perhaps you want to consider only significant changes and ignore differences in whitespace or comments.

Session settings define how, overall, a Folder Compare session should compare folders when the session is loaded. Comparison criteria include file timestamps, sizes, attributes and contents. Once the session is loaded, you can selectively recompare files by picking **Actions > Compare Contents** =? or by opening the files in a file session.

Generally, these criteria are used to compare files, and not folders directly. For instance, a folder's timestamp does not affect the comparison. A folder is classified as "newer" if it contains newer files. Folders are compared by aggregating the comparisons of files within them.

Certain facts about a file can be determined quickly while others take some time. In the Session Settings dialog, the **Comparison** tab is organized into **Quick tests** and **Requires opening files**. File systems typically provide fast access to file names, sizes, and timestamps (the date and time last modified). But to get the CRC of a file, the entire file will need to be read. Keep this in mind when selecting folder comparison criteria.

The display aligns files and subfolders of the same name, left and right. Pick **View > Ignore Folder Structure** to align files regardless of what subfolder they are in.

PRO You can modify the alignment by defining alignment overrides.

2.2.3 Filtering the View

There are three overall type of filters you can use to control a Folder Compare's scope: *File Filters* that include or exclude files based on their name or attributes, *Display Filters* that show or hide lines of the comparison based on comparison status, and *Folder Display*

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Filters that control when folders appear.

For instance, you can set the display filter to **View > Show Left Newer** to display only those files that are newer on the left side of the comparison. Or you can set a file filter to exclude *.bak files if you don't want to see or manipulate them.

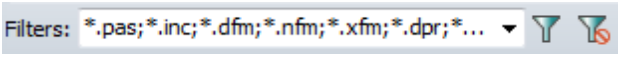
By default, commands that act on a selected folder's contents (such as Copy, Move, Delete, etc.) will respect the current filters. That is, if the selection includes a folder, the folder's filtered-out contents are skipped. To change this default behavior, pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **File Operations** page, and mark the **Include hidden items by default** checkbox. In either case, action dialogs allow you to override the default behavior on a case-by-case basis.

Pick **View > Suppress Filters** to temporarily suppress file filters and display filters. Files and folders that were hidden will appear colored teal (blue-green) and can be processed.

File Filters

You can specify the type of files you want to include in (or exclude from) the session. For instance, if you are comparing Delphi projects you could include file types such as *.pas, *.dfm, and *.dpr. Or, you could include all files except *.dcu and *.~* by excluding these file types.

To specify a simple "include these types" filter, use the **Filters** toolbar edit. Enter the file types separated by semicolons, or use the dropdown list to select from presets. Include a minus sign (-) in front of files to be excluded.



In addition to these simple wildcard filters, you can specify more complex filters that include or exclude files or folders by name. Pick **Session > Session Settings**, and switch to the **Name Filters** tab. Or, simply click the **Filters** toolbar button.

Files can also be filtered based on their modified date, size, file attributes or text content. In the Session Settings dialog, switch to the **Other Filters** tab. (Folders are not directly filtered based on their attributes, but are affected by the filtering of their contents.)

Display Filters

Display filters limit the view to certain comparison results. The comparison results are determined by the session's comparison rules. For instance, you can pick **View > Show Differences** to remove all the matching files so that you can concentrate on the mismatches.

Folder Display Filters

By default, folders only appear if at least one file they contain is visible. However, you can switch to one of the other folder display filters.

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View > Always Show Folders causes all folders to appear (unless they have been explicitly excluded by file filters), regardless of the other display filter selection.

View > Compare Files and Folder Structure causes folders to respect the display filters. For example, if the main display filter is **Show All** * then all folders appear. If it is **Show Orphans**, only orphan folders and folders that contain orphan files are shown.

View > Only Compare Files suppresses all empty folders, both truly empty folders and folders whose entire contents are hidden by other display or file filters.

View > Ignore Folder Structure hides the folder tree and aligns files regardless of what subfolder they are in.

2.2.4 Reconciling Differences

A Folder Compare session provides commands, such as **Copy**, **Move**, **Delete** and **Synchronize**, to help you reconcile differences on the folder level. It also is a platform for spawning file views to understand and reconcile differences within files.

Actions generally require a selection. You can select specific files or folders from either or both sides and then perform some action on them. (If you want to synchronize the entire contents of the base folders, consider using a Folder Sync session instead.)

To select items in the Folder Compare view

Click on an item on either side of the display to select it. You can click in the center column to select both sides at once. Hold down the Ctrl key and click to add items to your selection. To select a range of items, press the mouse button over the first, swipe to the last, and release the button. If your swipe crosses the middle column, entries on both sides will be selected.

To select all items on one side

Pick **Edit > Select All** (or **Edit > Select All Files**). Hold down the Shift key and press the left arrow key to limit the selection to the left side. Press the right arrow key instead to limit the selection to the right side.

To compare files with different names

Click the first file, hold down the Ctrl key and click the second one, and then pick **Actions > Open**. To use the keyboard instead, position on the first file and press the space bar, then position on the second one and press the space bar.

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2.2.5 File Action Details

2.2.5.1 Content Comparison

In the **Actions** menu, the **Compare Contents** =? command performs content comparisons on the selected pairs of files to determine if they match.

Content comparison methods

CRC comparison compares files using their CRC values.

Binary comparison compares files byte-by-byte.

Rules-based comparison compares files based on their file format associations. It allows you to define unimportant differences, such as changes in whitespace or source code comments. A rules-based comparison can also ignore differences in file encoding or line endings.

Results of content comparisons

CRC and Binary comparisons return one of these results:

01 10 =	Binary same	The files are exactly the same.
01 10 ≠	Binary differences	At least one byte is different between the files.

Rules-based comparisons have a built-in binary comparison and return one of these results:

01 10 =	Binary same	The files are exactly the same.
=	Rules-based same	The files have binary differences, such as character encoding, that can be ignored.
≈	Unimportant differences	A rules-based comparison found only unimportant differences.
≠	Important differences	A rules-based comparison found important differences.

When content comparisons are performed

Content comparisons are performed:

- when a folder session is loaded, and its session settings call for automatic content comparisons

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- explicitly, when the **Compare Contents** =? command is used
- when a pair of files is opened in a file session

2.2.5.2 Copy

In the **Actions** menu, the **Copy to Right**, **Copy to Left** and **Copy to Side** commands copy the selected files and folders from one side of the view to the other, overwriting any existing files on the target side.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be copied (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be copied.

By default, a confirmation dialog appears before the copy. To skip the confirmation when the direction of the copy is unambiguous (**Copy to Left**, **Copy to Right**), pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **File Operations** page, and unmark the **Confirm file copy** checkbox.

2.2.5.3 Move

In the **Actions** menu, the **Move to Right**, **Move to Left** and **Move to Side** commands move the selected files and folders from one side of the view to the other, overwriting any existing files on the target side.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be moved (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be moved.

By default, a confirmation dialog appears before the move. To skip the confirmation when the direction of the move is unambiguous (**Move to Left**, **Move to Right**), pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **File Operations** page, and unmark the **Confirm file move** checkbox.

2.2.5.4 Exchange

In the **Actions** menu, the **Exchange** command moves the selected files and folders from one side of the view to the other.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be exchanged (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be exchanged.

By default, a confirmation dialog appears before the exchange. To skip the confirmation, pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **File Operations** page, and unmark the **Confirm file move** checkbox.

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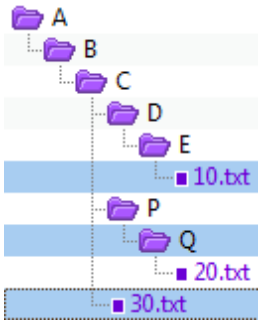
2.2.5.5 Copy to Folder

In the **Actions** menu, the **Copy to Folder** command copies the selected files and folders to a given folder, optionally with the path intact. You can select items on one side of the Folder Compare view or the other, but not both.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be copied (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be copied.

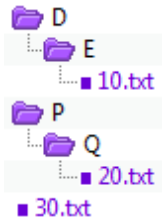
When you pick **Copy to Folder**, you can make the target an archive file (such as .zip). If the archive file does not exist, Beyond Compare will create it for you.

Path options example



In this example, three items are selected: The file 10.txt, the folder Q and the file 30.txt.

The pictures below show how the items look in the target folder, using each of the three available path options.



Keep relative folder structure

Determines the minimum difference between all of the selected files' paths, and creates that in the target folder. In this example, folders D and P were not selected, but they were created in the target folder in order to keep the same relative structure.

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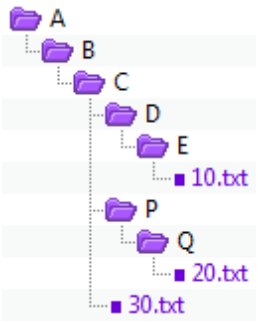
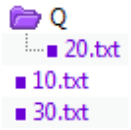


Keep base folder structure

Creates the entire path (back to the base folder) in the target folder.



Don't keep folder structure

Ignores all path information and copies all selected files and folders into the target folder together. In this example, only the Q folder was created in the target folder, because it was specifically selected.

2.2.5.6 Move to Folder

In the **Actions** menu, the **Move to Folder** command moves the selected files and folders to a given folder, optionally with the path intact. You can select items on one side of the Folder Compare view or the other, but not both.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be moved (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be moved.

When you pick **Move to Folder**, you can make the target an archive file (such as .zip). If the archive file does not exist, Beyond Compare will create it for you.

Path options example

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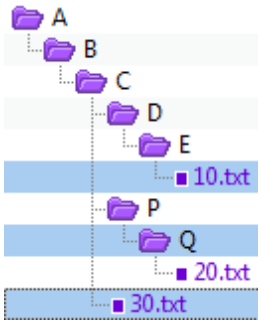
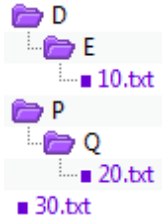


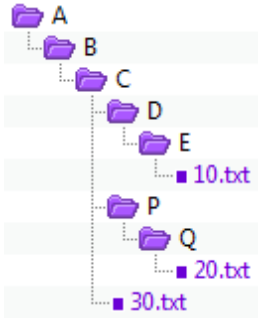
In this example, three items are selected: The file 10.txt, the folder Q and the file 30.txt.

The pictures below show how the items look in the target folder, using each of the three available path options.



Keep relative folder structure

Determines the minimum difference between all of the selected files' paths, and creates that in the target folder. In this example, folders D and P were not selected, but they were created in the target folder in order to keep the same relative structure.



Keep base folder structure

Creates the entire path (back to the base folder) in the target folder.

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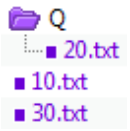

Don't keep folder structure

Ignores all path information and moves all selected files and folders into the target folder together. In this example, only the Q folder was created in the target folder, because it was specifically selected.

2.2.5.7 Delete

In the **Actions** menu, the **Delete** command deletes the selected files and folders from one or both sides of the comparison.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be deleted (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be deleted.

Mark the **Use recycle bin if possible** checkbox to move files and folders stored on a local drive to the recycle bin instead of being completely removed. This option is ignored for deletions from network drives, remote services and within archive files.

2.2.5.8 Rename

In the **Actions** menu, the **Rename** command renames the selected files and folders.

In the **Action** subsection, you can pick either **DOS compatible** or **Regular expressions** rename.

DOS rename

To rename files using DOS wildcards, pick **DOS compatible** in the Rename dialog. In the **New mask** edit, enter the new name.

If multiple files or folders are selected, a base mask is computed which represents the overlap of all the names. An asterisk (*) is used to represent one or more characters, while a question mark (?) is used to represent a single character. Leave these characters alone, but change others to produce unique names for each of the selected files or folders.

Examples:

Assume that you've selected the following files to rename:

```
abc1.txt
abc2.txt
abc3.txt
```

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If you enter "abc?.bak" as the new mask, the files will be renamed to:

```
abc1.bak
abc2.bak
abc3.bak
```

If you enter "xyz?.txt" as the new mask, the files will be renamed to:

```
xyz1.txt
xyz2.txt
xyz3.txt
```

Regular expression rename

To rename files using Perl compatible regular expressions, pick **Regular expressions** in the Rename dialog. In the **Old mask** edit, enter a regular expression that is matched against the original filename. In the **New mask** edit, enter a template used to generate a new filename.

Examples:

Assume that you've selected the following files to rename:

```
abc1.txt
abc2.txt
abc3.txt
```

If you enter "txt" as the old mask and "bak" as the new mask, the files will be renamed to:

```
abc1.bak
abc2.bak
abc3.bak
```

If you enter ".*(\d\.txt)" as the old mask and "xyz$1" as the new mask, the files will be renamed to:

```
xyz1.txt
xyz2.txt
xyz3.txt
```

2.2.5.9 Attributes

In the **Actions** menu, the **Attributes** command modifies various operating system attributes of the selected files and folders.

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For Windows file systems, the DOS attributes (Read-only, Hidden or Archive) are modified. You cannot modify the System attribute.

For Mac and Linux file systems, the owner and group access permissions are modified.

If a folder is selected, its attributes are modified but not those of its contents. To modify the attributes of folder contents, you need to expand the folder and select the contents.

The checkboxes initially show the current state of the selected items. If a checkbox is unmarked, that attribute is disabled on all the selected files. If a checkbox is marked, that attribute is enabled on all the selected files. If a checkbox is marked and gray, that attribute is only enabled on some of the selected files.

Unmark a checkbox to clear that attribute from all selected files, or mark it to set the attribute.

2.2.5.10 Touch

In the **Actions** menu, the **Touch** command modifies the timestamp (date/time last modified) of the selected files.

If **Copy timestamps from other side** is marked, then the timestamps of the selected files will be set to match those on the other side. If **Set timestamps to -->** is marked, then any date/time can be selected from the calendar.

The **Default** selection controls how the calendar is initialized. Mark **Current system time** to use the current time. Mark **Last touch** to use the timestamp from the last touch operation. The **Default** selection only initializes the calendar -- you can still change it to any date or time.

If a folder is selected, the Touch command will attempt to change the folder's timestamp but not that of its contents. This command will fail if the operating system does not allow changing folder timestamps.

2.2.5.11 Exclude

In the **Actions** menu, the **Exclude** command filters out the selected files and folders from the current session. It is a handy alternative to opening the Session Settings dialog and entering file/folder exclusions on the Name Filters tab.

If you select one or more files of the same type, the **Exclude** command will offer to exclude all files of that type.

To remove an exclude, click the **Filters** toolbar button and remove the entry from the **Exclude files** (or **Exclude folders**) list.

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2.2.5.12 New Folder

In the **Actions** menu, the **New Folder** command lets you create a folder at the current position. If you have a file or closed folder selected, the new folder will be created with the same parent folder as the selected item. If you have an opened folder selected, the new folder will be created as a subfolder of the selected one.

If both sides are selected, a new folder will be created on both sides.

You can create an archive file by including an appropriate extension (such as .zip) in the name.

To create a new folder to use as a base folder, type the path for the new folder into the left or right edit controls, and press the Enter key. In the warning dialog that appears, click the **Create** button.

2.2.5.13 Synchronize

In the **Actions** menu, the **Synchronize** submenu has commands that synchronize the current selection.

Update Right	Copies newer and orphan items from left to right.
Update Left	Copies newer and orphan items from right to left.
Update Both	Copies newer and orphan items from left to right and from right to left.
Mirror to Right	Replaces all different items on right, deletes any right-side orphans, and copies any left-side orphans to the right.
Mirror to Left	Replaces all different items on left, deletes any left-side orphans, and copies any right-side orphans to the left.

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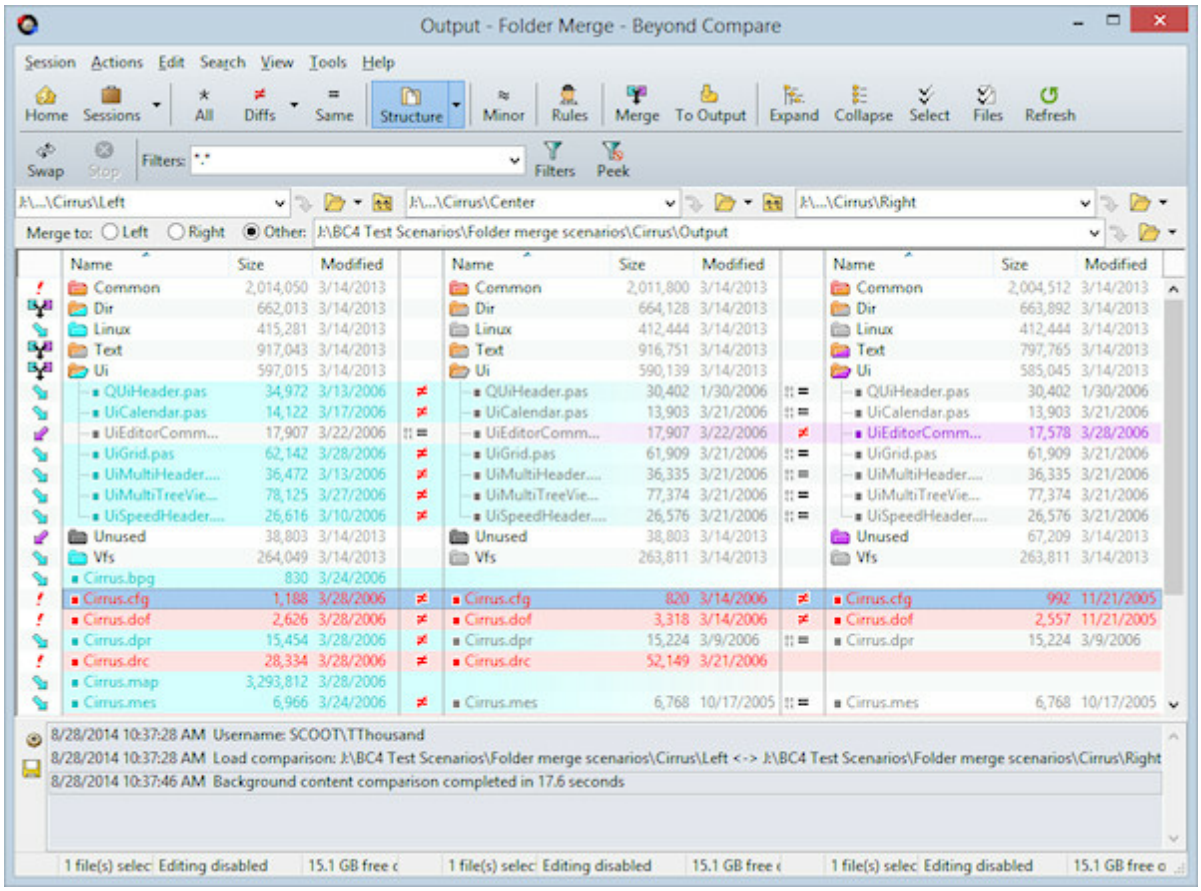
2.3 Folder Merge

PRO

A Folder Merge session displays two or three folder structures side-by-side. The left and right panes hold two versions of a folder structure. Beyond Compare helps you combine changes from both versions into a specified output folder. The optional center pane holds an older version of the folder structure, a common ancestor of the left and right versions.



2.3.1 Understanding the Display

The Folder Merge display uses color cues to highlight the differences between the base folders. By default, the color meanings are:

Gray	Unknown or older
Black	Same
Teal	Left change
Magenta	Right change

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Orange	Mergeable
Red	Conflict

Pick **View > Legend** to display a guide to the various folder icon color combinations.

To change the default colors, pick **Tools > Options** , switch to the **Colors, Fonts > Folder Views** page, and find the **Merge colors** settings.

You can temporarily hide the **Center Pane** to give the left and right panes more room.

Merge actions

Regardless of merge target:

- No action required
- Automatic merge
- Manual merge required

When merging to left:

- Copy to left
- Delete left

When merging to right:

- Copy to right
- Delete right

When merging to other:

- Take left
- Take center
- Take right
- Delete

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2.3.2 File Action Details

2.3.2.1 Copy to Output

PRO

In the **Actions** menu, the **Copy to Output** command copies the selected files and folders to the output side.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be copied (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be copied.

By default, a confirmation dialog appears before the copy. To skip the confirmation, pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **File Operations** page, and unmark the **Confirm file copy** checkbox.

2.3.2.2 Merge

PRO

In the **Actions** menu, the **Merge** command performs a merge of the selected files and folders.

If a folder is selected, only its filtered contents will be merged (same as if the folder was expanded and all visible contents selected). However, if an open folder is selected and any of its children are selected as well, then the folder's selection is ignored and only the selected children will be merged.

By default, a confirmation dialog appears before the merge. To skip the confirmation, pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **File Operations** page, and unmark the **Confirm file merge** checkbox.

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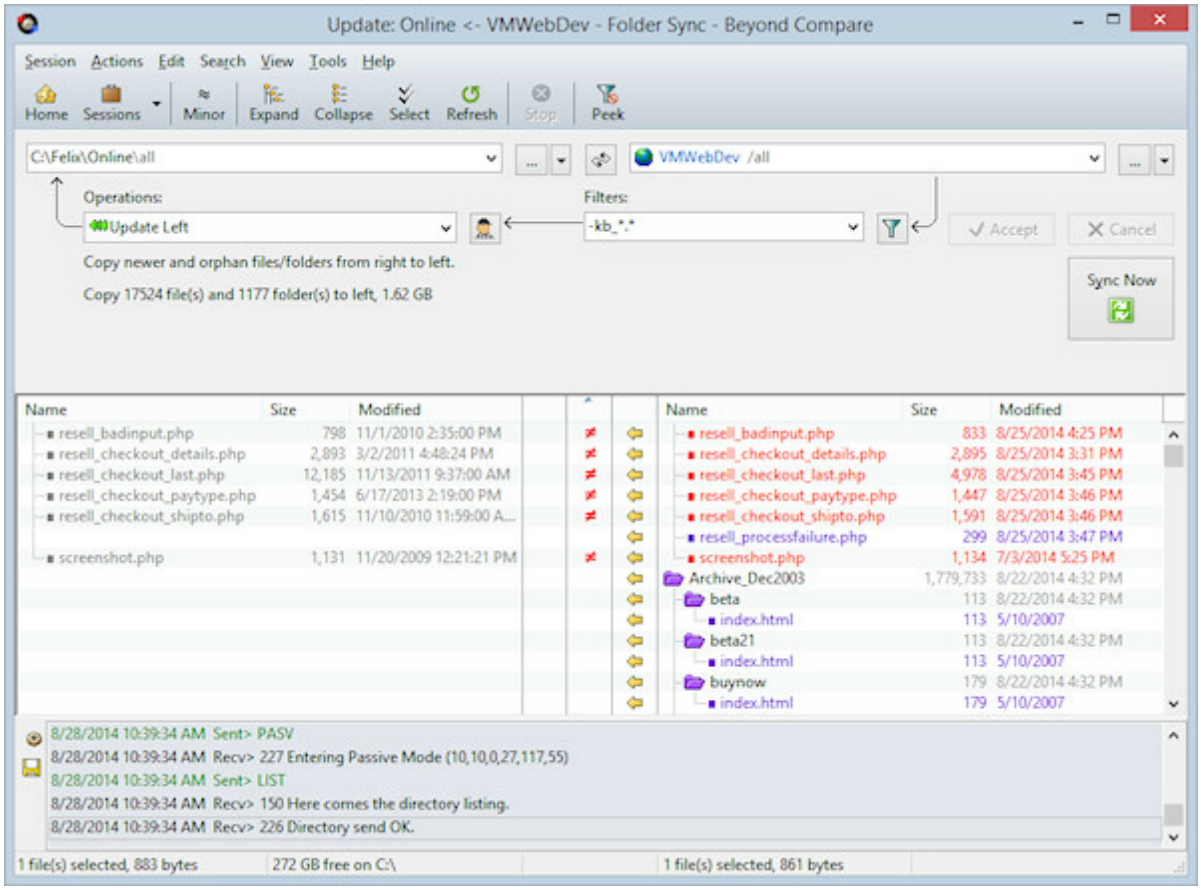
2.4 Folder Sync

A Folder Sync session is a specialized folder session that synchronizes folders by copying or deleting files. Once you set up a Folder Sync session you can save it for future use.



2.4.1 Understanding the Display

Sync actions

- Right file will be copied to the left
- Left file will be copied to the right
- Left file will be deleted
- Right file will be deleted
- ? ? Files will be left alone unless you pick an override from the **Actions** menu
- Right folder contains files that will be copied to the left

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Left folder contains files that will be copied to the right

Left folder contains files that will be deleted

Right folder contains files that will be deleted

Left folder contains files that will be copied to the right and files that will be deleted

Right folder contains files that will be copied to the left and files that will be deleted

2.4.2 How to Sync

Setting sync parameters

In the upper part of the view, specify the **Left folder** and **Right folder** involved. Either or both base folders may be on remote services. (You can use the Browse buttons to specify a remote service.)

Pick one of these standard sync methods from the dropdown list in the middle of the view:

Update Left
Copies newer and orphan files from right to left.

Update Right
Copies newer and orphan files from left to right.

Update Both
Copies newer and orphan files to the other side.

Mirror to Left
Replaces all different items on left, deletes any orphans on left, and copies any right side orphans to the left.

Mirror to Right
Replaces all different items on right, deletes any orphans on right, and copies any left side orphans to the right.

Click the **Rules** button to define what constitutes a difference.

You can also specify **Filters** to limit the scope of the sync.

Previewing the sync

Click the **Accept** button if necessary to accept changes, and a preview of all copy and

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delete operations will appear in the lower part of the view.

You can double-click any file pair to examine the differences in detail. To skip selected operations, pick **Actions > Exclude**.

Starting the sync

Click the **Sync Now** button to begin processing.

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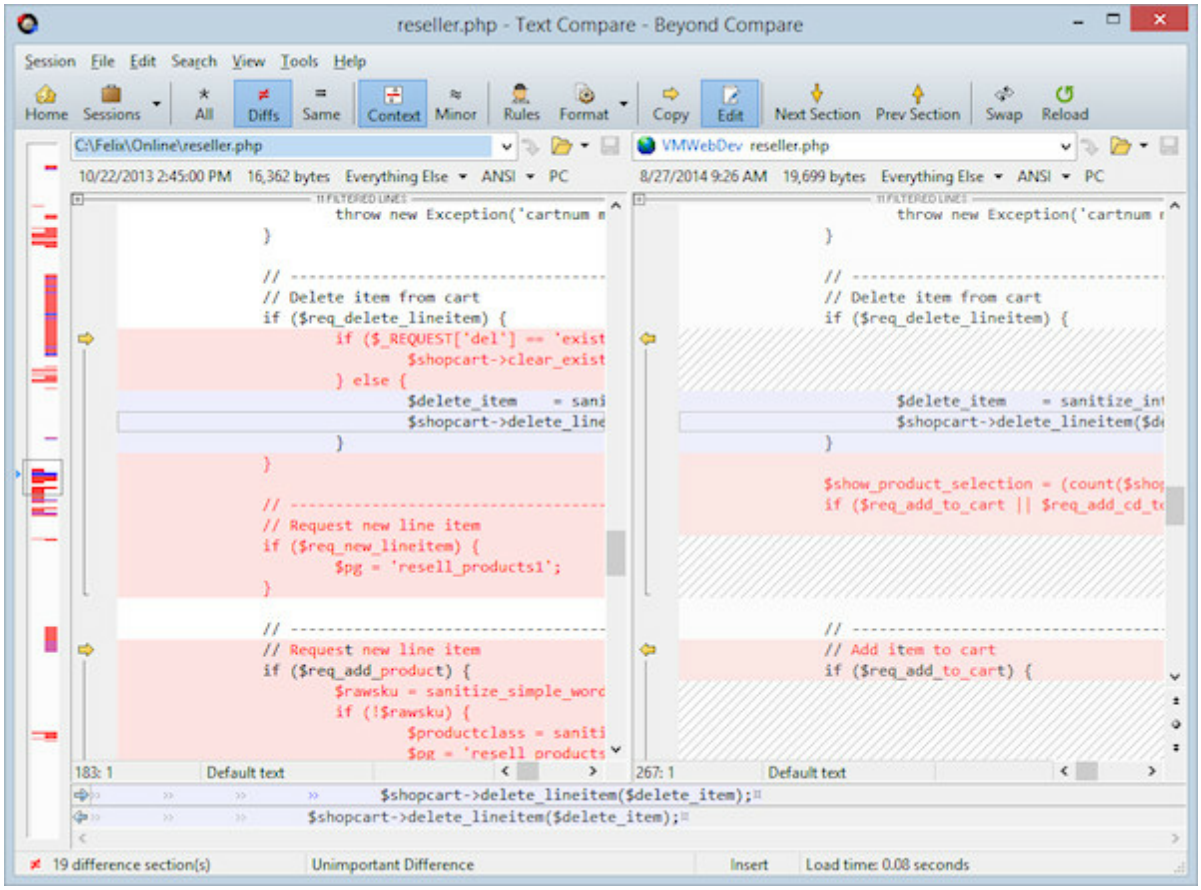
2.5 Text Compare

A Text Compare session visually compares two text files, in a side-by-side or over-under layout. It helps you analyze and reconcile differences, with a variety of display, search, and editing functions available.



In addition to files on your hard drive or network, you can specify files from a remote service, from within an archive file, or the content of a webpage. Example file specs:

```
C:\MyArchive.zip\MyFile.txt
/home/username/Desktop/MyFile
ftp://username@ftp.hostname.com/file.txt
http://www.scootersoftware.com/index.html
```

You can also compare against text on the clipboard by picking **File > Open Clipboard**.

The Text Compare view displays files in two editor panes that scroll together. Text is colored to highlight differences between the files. By default, the color scheme uses red to flag important differences (insertions, deletions, and changes) and blue for unimportant differences. The session's rules and file formats control how text is classified.

The display background is also colored to help you spot the differences. A light red

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background indicates an important difference somewhere on the line, while light blue indicates an unimportant difference. The light red background takes precedence over the light blue. This makes it easy to find differences, even if they are horizontally scrolled out of view. You can adjust these colors to suit your preferences. (See File View Color, Font Options.)

On the left edge of the display is the optional thumbnail. It represents each line of the comparison as a colored line, one pixel high. At a glance you can see the pattern of differences throughout the comparison. The white rectangle represents the main display's current view, and the small triangle represents the display's current line. Click on a line in the thumbnail to position the display at that location.

Below the main panes, the current line from each file is displayed using the entire width of the window. In the **View** menu, pick **Text Details** for an editable text view, **Hex Details** for a read-only hexadecimal view, or **Alignment Details** for an editable view of the character alignment.

2.5.1 Editing Text

Each pane of the Text Compare view is a full-featured text editor. You can enter and edit text like any other text editor, although as you do the comparison is continually updated to reflect differences between the panes.

Line mode vs. character mode

The **Full Edit** command toggles the editor between *Line Mode* and *Character Mode*. In line mode, editing occurs on a line-by-line basis, so selection, cut, copy, paste, delete, etc. all affect entire lines. While in line mode you can edit individual lines using the Text Details area. Line mode supports disjointed selections. In character mode the main panes support editing text. Selection and editing commands all affect individual characters or spans of characters. Character mode can only have a single, continuous selection.

Visible whitespace

Enabling the **Visible Whitespace** command allows you to see where spaces, tabs, and line endings occur in your files. The following example illustrates each of them.

- Space
- Tab
- Windows line ending
- Mac line ending
- Unix line ending

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Editing disabled

Beyond Compare disables editing of a file for any of the following reasons:

- The comparison encountered an error.
- The comparison was cancelled.
- The location of the file is read-only (e.g. 7zip/CHM/RAR archives, CD-ROMs, DVD-ROMs).
- The file format conversion doesn't support saving.
- Editing in the parent folder session has been disabled.
- Editing in the file session has been disabled.
- Command line switches have disabled editing.

2.5.2 Walking Through Differences

In the **Search** menu, the **Next Difference Section** and **Previous Difference Section** commands help you step through all the differences in your files, and all your files with differences. In the Text Compare, pick **Next Difference Section** to position at the next range of lines with differences or **Previous Difference Section** to go back to the previous range of lines with differences.

The arrow icons will either be disabled or change color from bright yellow to dull yellow to indicate that there are no more differences in that direction. To configure what happens when there are no more differences, see File View Next Difference Options.

In Text Compare sessions, the current file format controls whether Next and Previous are on a line-by-line basis or a section-by-section basis. To access the current file format from a Text Compare session, pick **Session > Session Settings**, switch to the **Importance** tab, and click the **Edit Grammar** button. Then, on the Text Format dialog's **Misc** tab, toggle **Lines are independent**.

In the **Search** menu, pick **Next Difference** or **Previous Difference** to position on individual differences in long lines with multiple differences.

In the **Search** menu, pick **Next Difference Files** or **Previous Difference Files** to jump directly to the next files with differences in the associated folder view.

2.5.3 Searching for Text

To search for text in a Text Compare session, pick **Search > Find**. Type the text or a regular expression pattern in the edit, or pick a previous search from the dropdown list. Click on the **Insert Regular Expression Element** button to pick from a list of common regular expression terms. Pick one from the list to insert it in the edit.

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Click the **Next** button to move the cursor to the next match. If the editor is in line mode, you can click the **Select All** button to select all the lines that contain a match.

The Find panel options are:

Option	Meaning
Regular expression	Interpret search text as a Perl compatible regular expression.
Match character case	Only match text with the same character case (uppercase or lowercase).
Whole words only	Searching for *apple* will not match on *apples*, *applesauce* or *snapple*.
Wrap search	When one end of the file is reached, continue searching at the other end.
Sides	Select which side(s) of the comparison to search.
Close automatically	Panel will hide after search is started.

Pick **Find Next** or **Find Previous** to continue searching for the same text.

To find and replace text, pick **Replace**.

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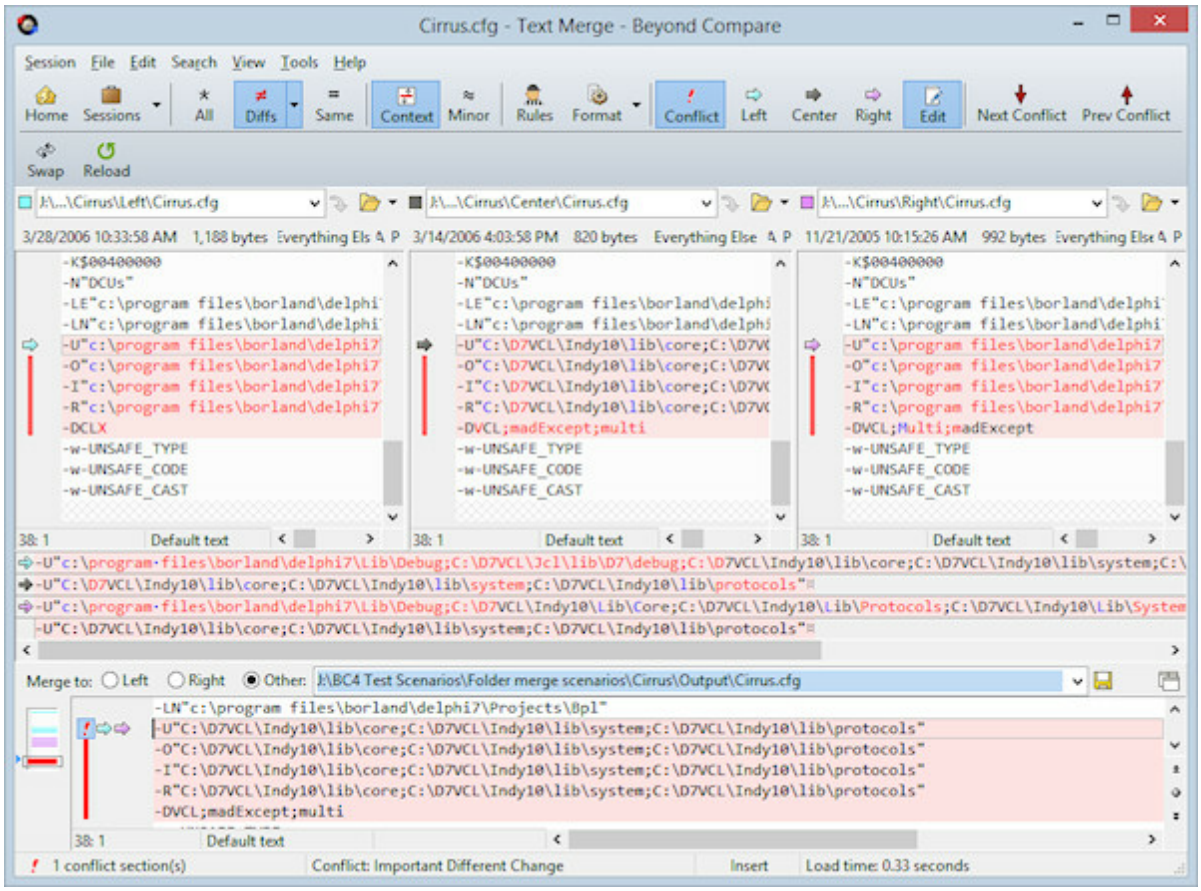
2.6 Text Merge

PRO

A Text Merge session contains two or three non-editable source panes and an editable output pane. The left and right panes hold two versions of a file. Beyond Compare helps you combine changes from both versions into the output pane. The optional center pane holds an older version of the file, a common ancestor of the left and right versions.



You can temporarily hide the **Center Pane** to give the left and right panes more room. You can also use the **Detached Output Pane** to move the output into a separate window. If you have a second monitor, you can then move this window onto it.

The output content is constructed automatically as the comparison loads. You can manually edit the output, or use the **Take** commands to pull text from a specific source file, overriding the default merge.

It is important to note that any prior copy of the output file is ignored. If it existed before the merge session, or was changed during the session, the existing content will be lost if you save the merge session output.

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2.6.1 Using Text Merge

PRO

Once Beyond Compare has completed the comparison it will show up to four panes: The left, center, and right panes at the top, with an output pane below it. If you include a center file Beyond Compare will be able to compare both files to it and mark changes as additions, modifications, or deletions on each specific side. Changes on the left are marked in teal and changes on the right are marked in magenta. Overlapping changes are considered conflicts and are marked in red. (You can change the color scheme if you like.)

Conflicts

Any time there are different changes in the left and right side that are on the same lines or within two lines of each other those sections will be considered a conflict and will be colored red in the three input panes. The output will be considered a conflict. If the same change is made in both the left and right side it isn't considered a conflict.

Display Filters

When merging, the display filters switch from Beyond Compare's traditional ones to new ones that check the merging status of each line. Using those filters you can limit the display to just conflicts or just changes on one side or the other.

Merging

You can navigate from difference to difference in both the input and output panes and the windows will stay synced up. When you are positioned on a difference you can use the **Take Left**, **Take Center**, and **Take Right** commands to accept the changes from the left or right or keep the original from the center. The "Take" commands are available on the toolbar, in each edit's popup menu, and as buttons next to each section in the output pane. When it first loads, the output pane will match the center except when it can automatically take non-conflicting changes. Each change will be colored to match the pane it originally came from. While merging you can also edit the output pane directly, which will change the section to yellow. If you want to revert to one of the original inputs just use the "Take" command again.

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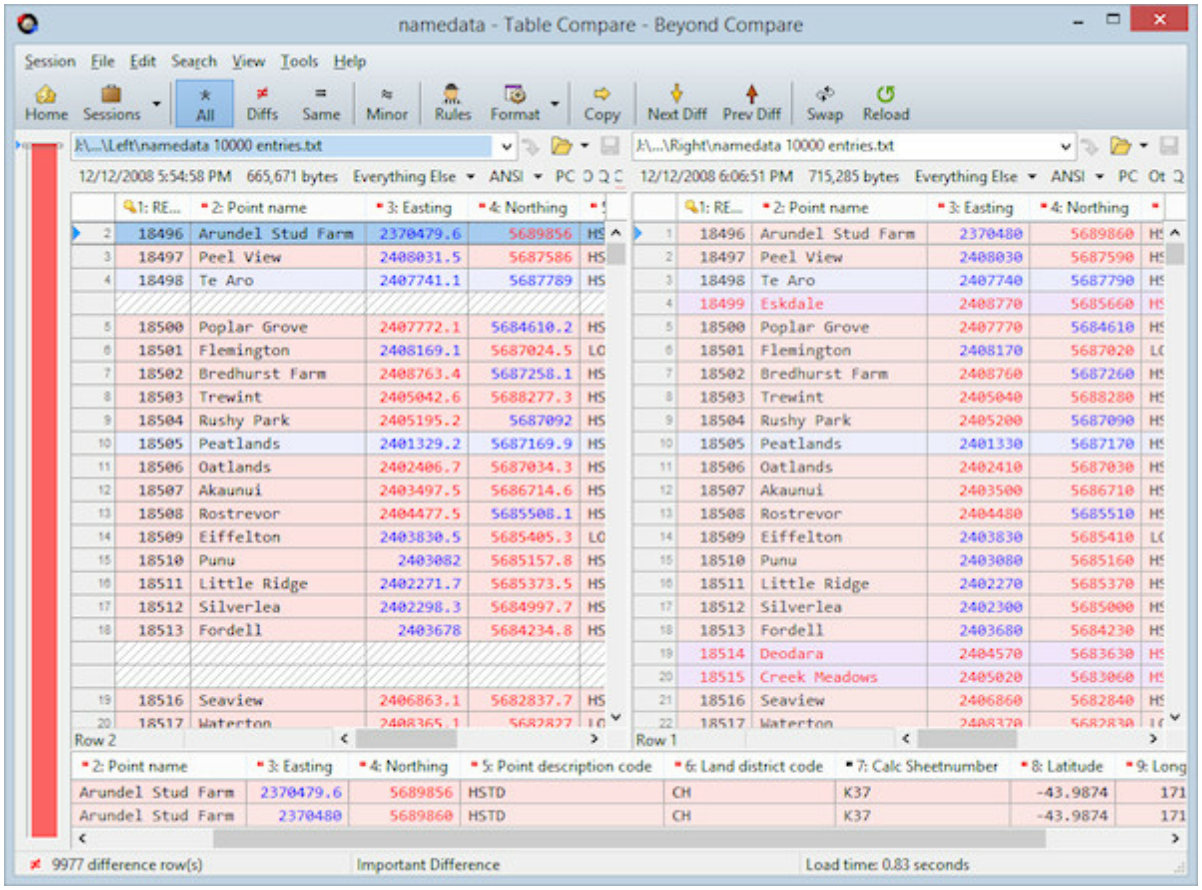
2.7 Table Compare

A Table Compare session compares text files containing tabular data, such as .csv (comma separated values) files, in a side-by-side or over-under layout. The files are displayed in two grids that scroll together and the data is compared cell-by-cell.



The display shows comparison columns, not necessarily the columns as they are organized in the data files. For example, the first comparison column may be comparing the third column of the left data file against the fifth column of the right file. See Table Compare Column Settings.

By default, Table Compare sorts your files before comparing them and aligns rows with matching key columns. You can define any combination of comparison columns as the key. If you specify an unsorted alignment, Beyond Compare will not sort the files, but will still only align rows with matching keys.

The display uses color to highlight differences. A row with a light red background indicates an important difference somewhere on the line, while light blue indicates an unimportant difference. The light red background takes precedence over the light blue. This makes it easy to find differences, even if they are horizontally scrolled out of view. You can adjust these colors to suit your preferences. (See File View Color, Font Options .)

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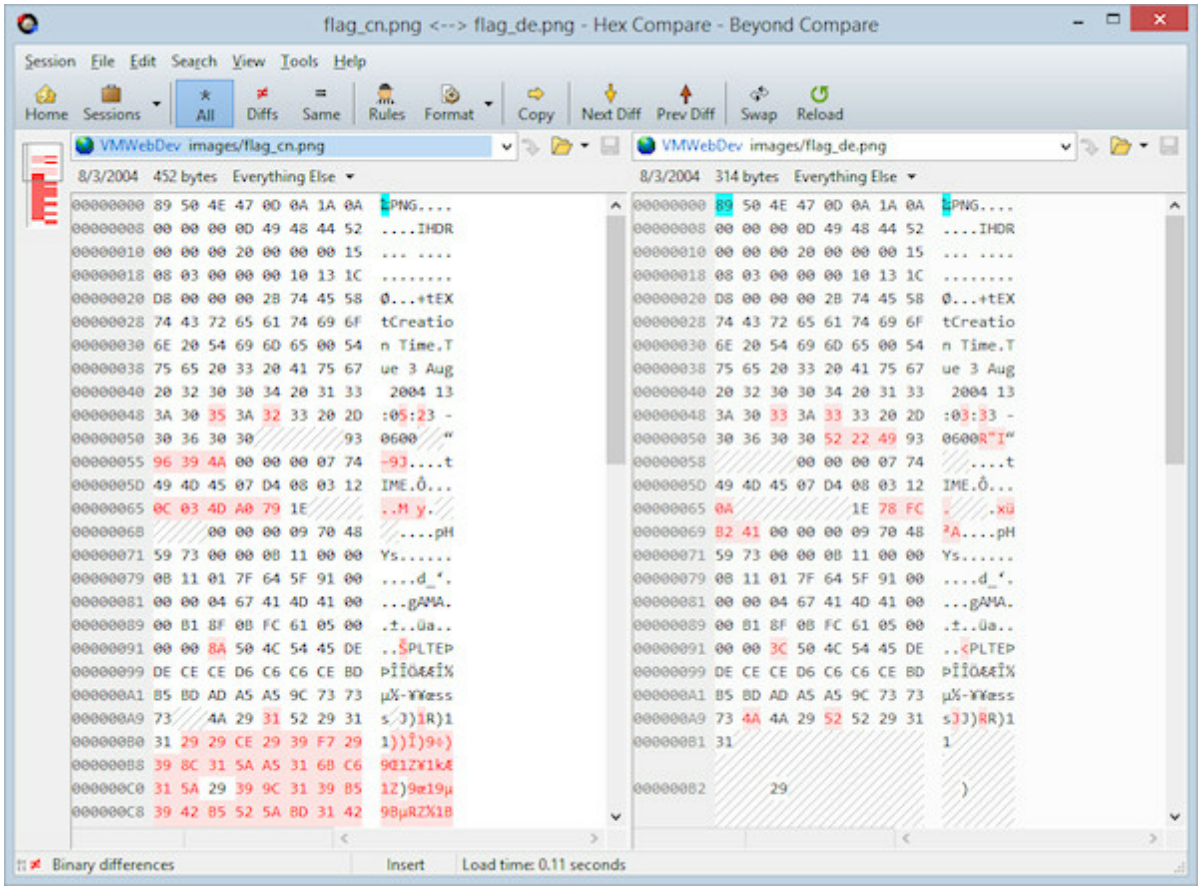
2.8 Hex Compare

A Hex Compare session visually compares the raw content of two files, either in a side-by-side or over-under layout. It displays file content byte-by-byte, using the hexadecimal notation typical of hex editors.



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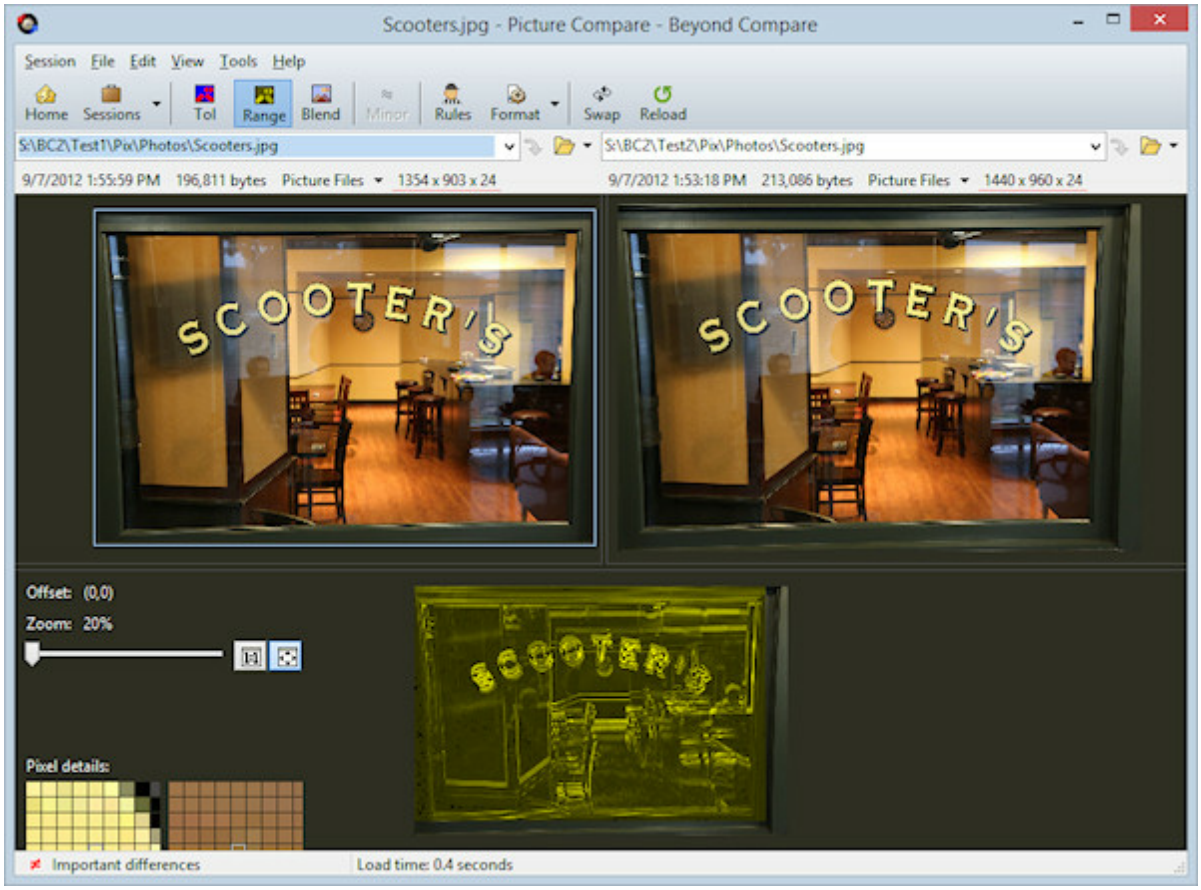
2.9 Picture Compare

A Picture Compare session compares a pair of image files visually, showing the differences between them.



Supported image file types

By default, the file types associated with the Picture Compare are:

```
GIF (*.gif)
Icons (*.ico)
JPEG (*.jpg)
Portable Network Graphics (*.png)
TIFF (*.tif)
Windows bitmap (*.bmp)
```

Depending on which version of the operating system and third-party codecs have been installed, the Picture Compare could also handle:

```
Adobe PDF (*.pdf)
Alias/Wavefront (*.rla;*.rpf)
Apple Icons (*.icns)
Autodesk (*.cel;*.pic)
```

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```
  Camera RAW images (*.3fr;*.arw;*.cr2;*.crw;*.dcr;*.dng;*.erf;*.fff;*.
fpix;*.fpx;*.mos;*.mpo;*.mrw;*.nef;*.nrf;*.orf;*.pef;*.raf;*.raw;*.rw2;*.
rwl;*.sr2;*.srf;*.srw)
  Dr. Halo (*.cut)
  Encapsulated Postscript (*.eps)
  FAX images (*.efx;*.fax;*.g3;*.jfax;*.jfx)
  JPEG (*.jpeg;*.jpe;*.jfif;*.exif)
  JPEG 2000 (*.jp2;*.jpf)
  JPEG XR/HD Photo (*.jxr;*.wdp)
  Kodak Photo-CD (*.pcd)
  Macintosh PICT (*.pct;*.pic;*.pict)
  MacPaint (*.mac;*.pnt;*.pntg)
  Misc (*.cur;*.epi;*.exr;*.hdr;*.jps)
  Netpbm (*.pbm;*.pgm;*.ppm)
  Photoshop (*.psd;*.pdd)
  Postscript (*.ps)
  QuickTime image (*.qti;*.qtif)
  SGI (*.bw;*.rgb;*.rgba;*.sgi)
  TIFF (*.tiff)
  Truvision (*.tga;*.icb;*.vda;*.vst;*.win)
  Windows bitmap (*.dib;*.msk;*.rle)
  Windows metafile (*.emf;*.wmf)
  X PixMap (*.xpm)
  ZSoft Paintbrush (*.pcc;*.pcx;*.scr)
```

2.9.1 How to Compare

Aligning image content

You can compare images that have been resized, rotated, reflected or cropped.

Pick **Auto Scale** to automatically enlarge the smaller image to match the scale of the larger one.

Pick **Rotate Clockwise** or **Rotate Counterclockwise** to rotate the current image ninety degrees to the right or to the left.

Pick **Flip Horizontally** or **Flip Vertically** to reflect the current image across its y-axis or x-axis.

If one image is a cropped version of the other, you can drag the mouse over the difference pane to adjust the position of the right image's top left corner. To reset the offset back to (0,0) pick **Reset Difference Offset** or simply click on the offset label. For finer control, use the arrow keys to nudge the offset one pixel at a time, or Ctrl+arrow keys to move by a larger amount. Note that the difference pane must be selected for the keyboard nudge function to work.

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Tolerance Mode

Pick **Tolerance Mode** to have difference pixels indicate matches, unimportant differences, and important differences. It uses a configurable **Tolerance** to define the greatest degree of difference that is considered unimportant. You can also define **Replacements** to ignore specific color changes between images. By default, shades of gray are used for matches, shades of blue are used for unimportant differences, and shades of red are used for important differences. You can adjust these colors to suit your preferences. (See Picture Compare Colors.)

Mark **Ignore Unimportant Differences** ≈ to ignore any differences less than or equal to the tolerance. They will be handled the same as matching pixels.

Mismatch Range Mode

Pick **Mismatch Range Mode** to have difference pixels represent the degree of difference between the images. Black pixels are used for matches and yellow ones are used for differences. Brightness represents the degree of difference.

Blend Mode

Pick **Blend Mode** to use a configurable **Blend** percentage to combine the images. Decrease the percentage to make the right image more dominant.

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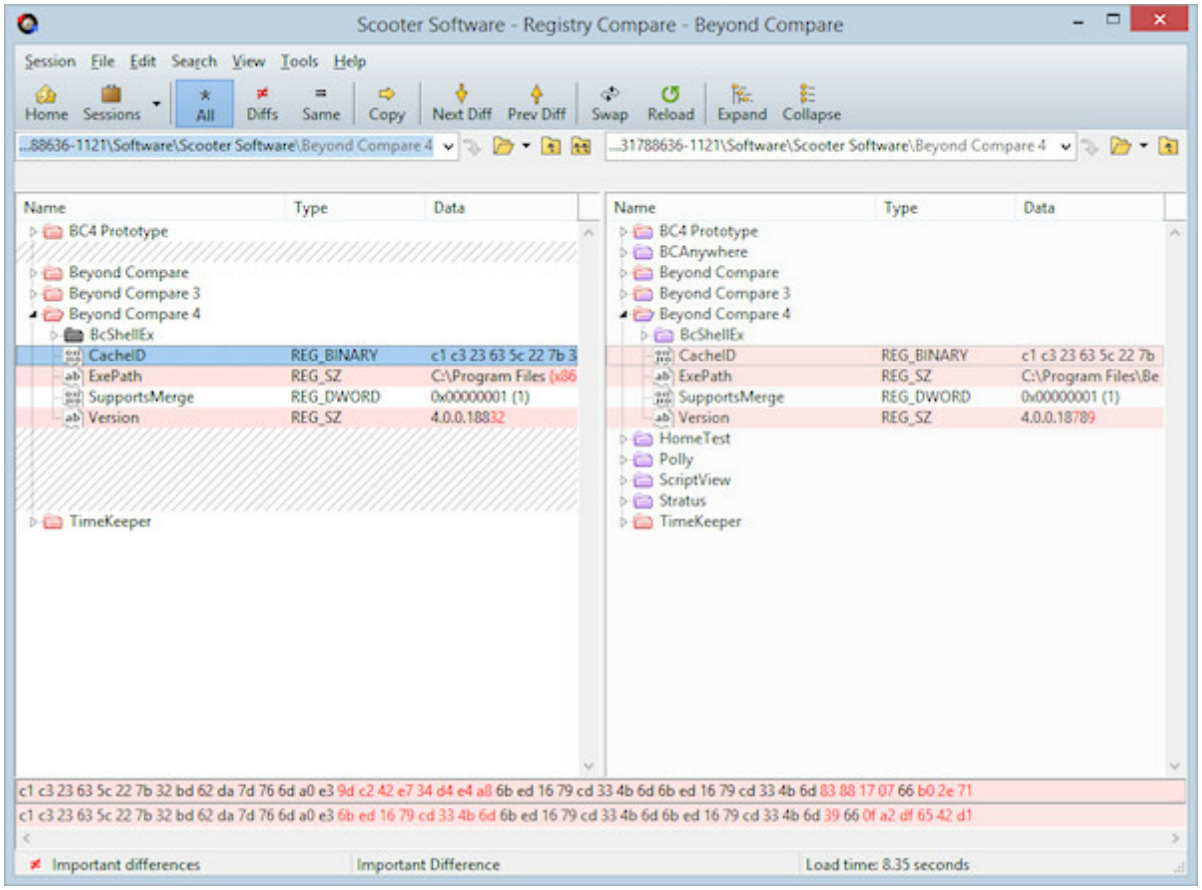
2.10 Registry Compare

PRO

A Registry Compare session compares live registries on your computer or other computers on your network, and .reg export files, either in a side-by-side or over-under layout.



Keys and values are sorted and aligned based on their names. Keys will be colored based on whether they contain differences or orphans. Values will be colored to highlight character differences. Red indicates a difference and purple indicates an orphan.

Once the comparison is loaded, you can directly edit live registries. You can copy items between registries, delete or rename existing items, and add new items. Double-clicking on a value also allows you to change its type and data.

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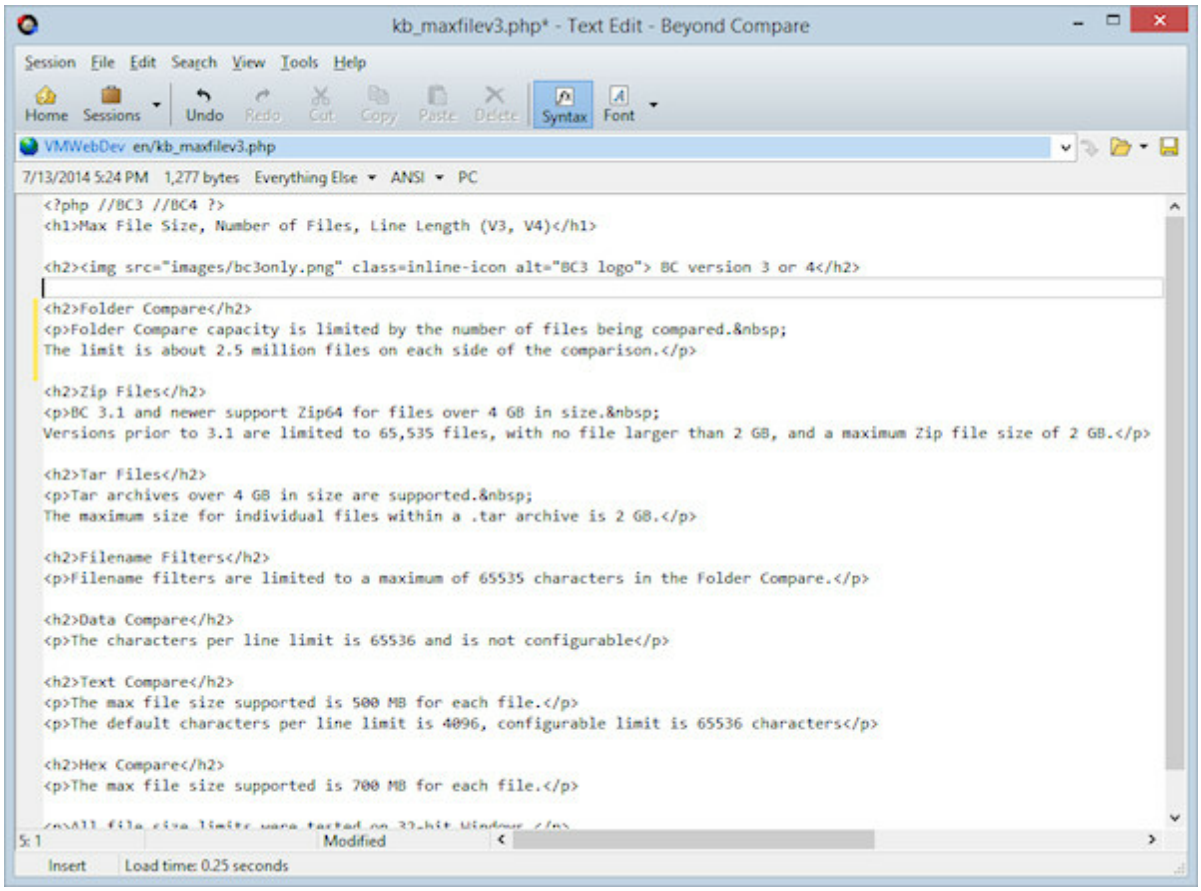
2.11 Text Edit

A Text Edit view is a single-pane text editor.



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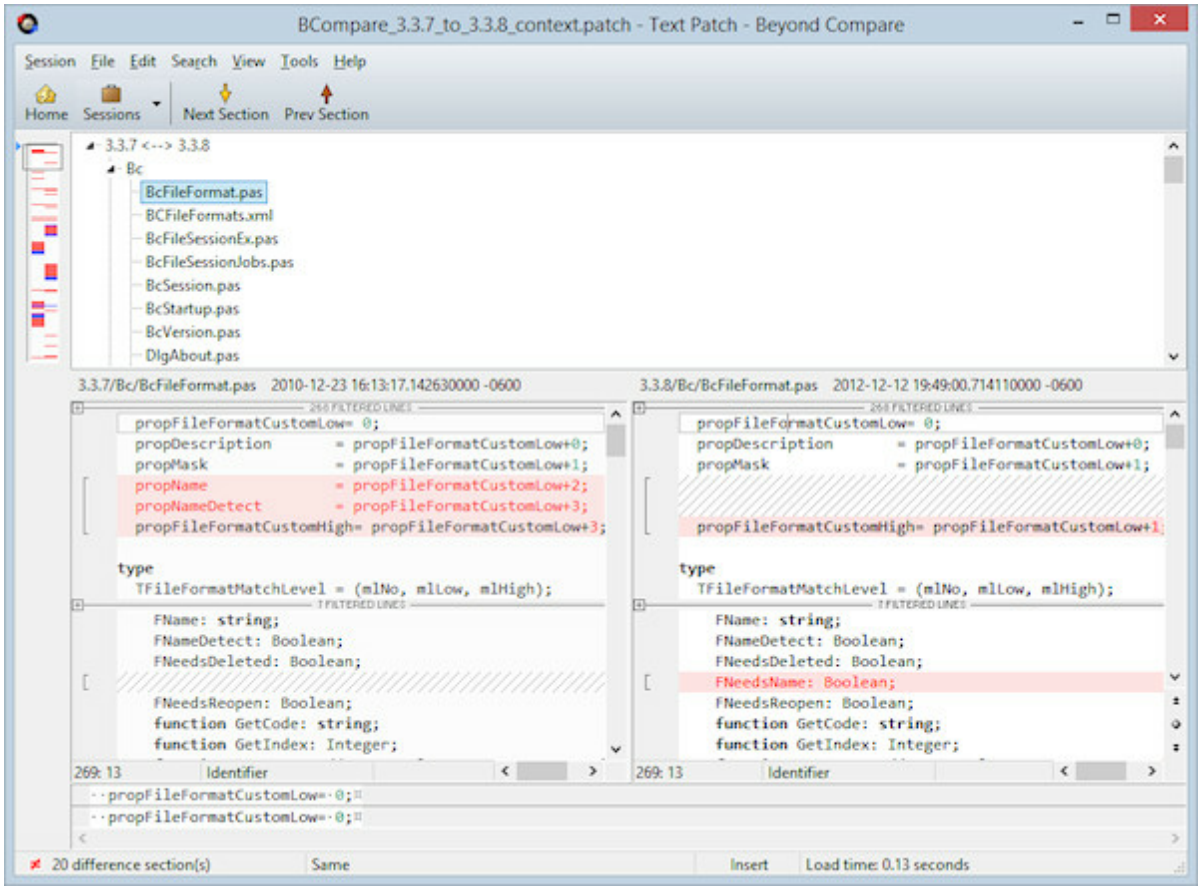
2.12 Text Patch

A Text Patch view recreates a comparison represented in a patch file. Patch files can be generated using a Text Compare report or a another diff program.



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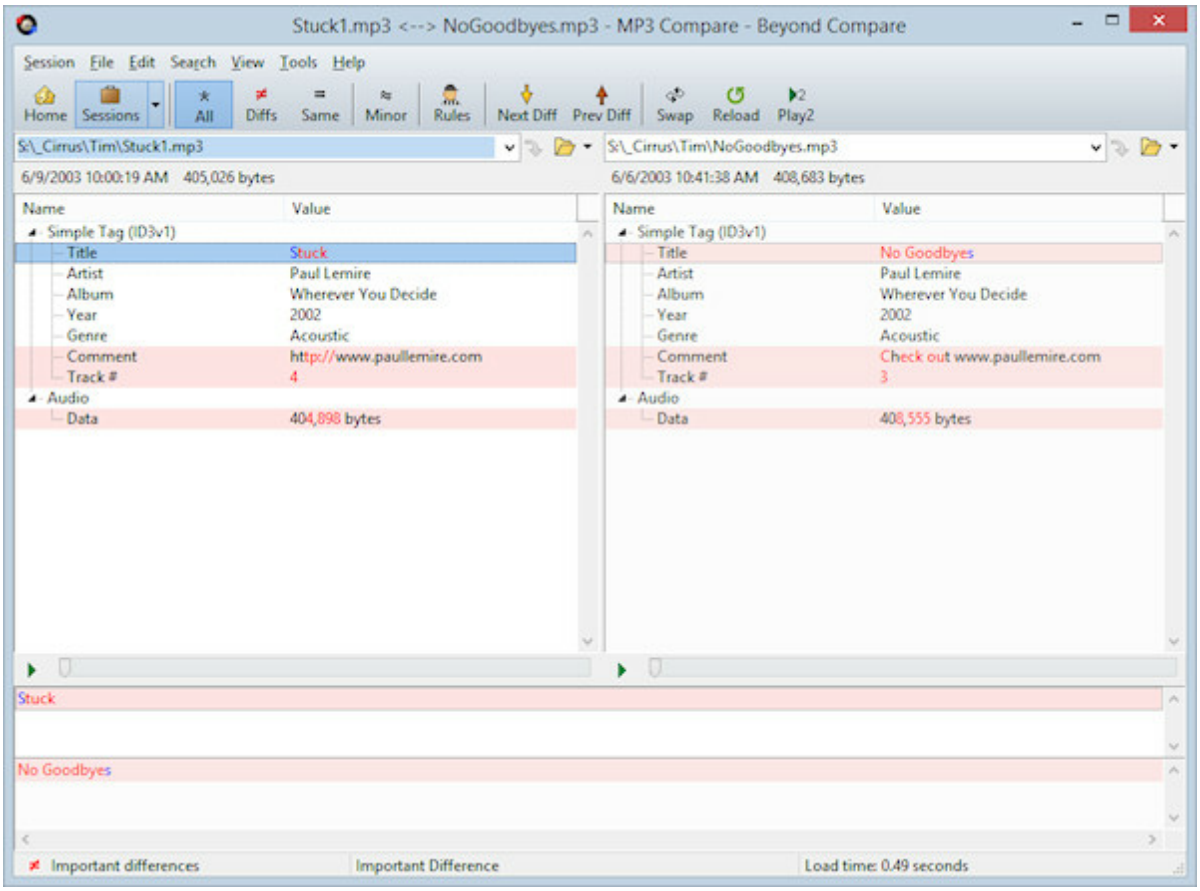
2.13 Other View Types

MP3 Compare

An MP3 Compare session compares two MP3 files with differences in tag fields highlighted.



Version Compare

A Version Compare session compares version info in a pair of executable files.

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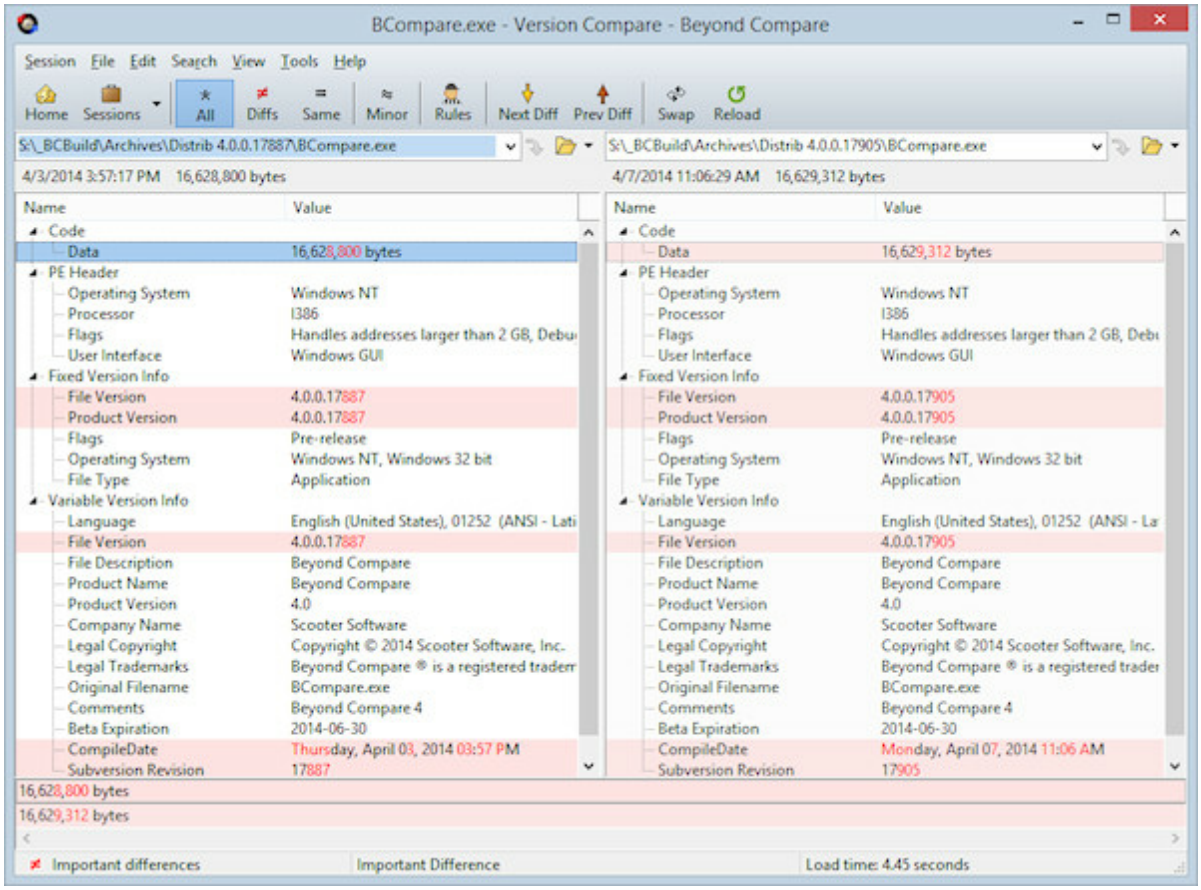

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2.14 File Formats

Beyond Compare uses file formats to specify how certain types of files are to be handled. For example, files with a .jpg or .png extension are associated with Picture Compare, while .c and .cpp files are recognized as having C/C++ syntax and are handled by Text Compare. You can modify the built-in file formats or create your own.

File formats determine:

- The type of view used for visual comparison
- What conversion, if any, should be performed before comparing or saving
- The syntax, or grammar, of the file's content
- Case sensitivity of grammar elements
- Tab stops
- Line weights to help the alignment process

File formats primarily control how the file views handle your files, but they can also affect how a folder session compares file contents. If you use rules-based content comparison, then the folder session can limit the display to only files with important differences.

2.14.1 Grammars

A file format specification can include a grammar definition, used for syntax highlighting, and to help define which differences are important.

For example, our standard file format for C/C++ source code includes a grammar that recognizes keywords, comments, and literal strings. By flagging differences in comments as unimportant, you can better concentrate on important differences.

A grammar definition in Beyond Compare is fairly simplistic. It does not support nested or context-specific definitions, so it doesn't handle tagged languages like HTML and PHP very well. On the other hand, it is a big step up from Beyond Compare 2's functionality.

To edit a grammar, pick **Tools > File Formats** and find the appropriate file format. Switch to the **Grammar** tab and edit the grammar items.

2.15 Reports

Comparison reports allow you to save the information from a comparison to view later without re-running the comparison. These reports can be printed directly from Beyond Compare, or saved in HTML or plain text format.

The report feature is available on the **Session** menu in various types of sessions. For instance, in a Folder Compare session you would pick **Session > Folder Compare Report**.

The style of reports available differs for the various session types, but the options are

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much the same. You can output a report to any of these locations:

- **Printer**
- **HTML report** (file or clipboard)
- **Plain text** (file or clipboard)

The Printer and HTML choices support difference highlighting with color.

You can preview a Printer report with the **Print Preview** button, or an HTML report with the **View in Browser** button.

2.16 Specs

A *Spec* is the name of a folder or file. Beyond Compare supports several different types of specs.

Local and network drives are represented using the syntax native to each platform:

`C:\MyFile.ext`
`\\MyServer`
`\\MyServer\MyFolder`
`/MyFolder`
`~/MyFolder`
`smb://MyServer/MyFolder`

Portable media devices (Android phones, MP3 players, cameras) are represented using the MTP syntax:

```
mtp://MyDevice/MyFolder
```

Webpages are represented using the HTTP syntax. This support only works for individual files, and cannot be used for base folders:

```
http://www.example.com
```

Live registries are represented using the standard syntax:

```
reg:\\HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\MyKey
reg:\\MyComputer\HKEY_USERS\MyKey
```

The clipboard is represented using this syntax:

```
clipboard://
```

2.16.1 Archive Files

Archives are files that contain other files, such as .zip. Beyond Compare displays them as

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folders, with a zipper icon, but by default treats them as files when copying or comparing them. Once you have expanded the archive by double-clicking on it, the files within will be compared. Many of the formats support both reading and writing, so you can use all of the usual file operations on the files within the archives, including comparing the content, copying, renaming, etc.

Common archive formats

```
7z archive (*.7z;*.7z.001)
BZip (*.bz;*.bz2)
BZipped Tar (*.tbz;*.tbz2;*.tar.bz2)
Beyond Compare Snapshot (*.bcss;*.bcs)
Compiled HTML Help (*.chm)
Deb archive (*.deb)
GZip (*.gz)
GZipped Tar (*.tgz;*.tar.gz)
Microsoft Cabinet (*.cab)
RAR (*.rar)
Rpm archive (*.rpm)
Tar (*.tar)
Zip (*.zip;*.zipx;*.jar;*.ear;*.war;*.bcpkg)
```

To view the full list of archive formats or change the file extensions associated with them, pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the **Archive Types** page.

Beyond Compare snapshots

These files are similar to other archives, but only include the file names, dates, and sizes, without including the file content itself. Since they are so small, you can save a snapshot of an entire hard drive and compare against it later.

Total Commander "packer" plug-ins

Beyond Compare can also use Total Commander "packer" plug-ins to support additional archive formats. For example, there are plug-ins to support ISO disc images (.iso) and Microsoft Installer Packages (.msi).

To add one of these third-party plug-ins, on the **Archive Types** page, click the **Add Plug-in** button, and follow the instructions.

2.16.2 Remote Services

Remote services include FTP and Subversion.

FTP sites are represented using the standard syntax:

```
ftp://username@ftp.hostname.com
ftp://username:password@ftp.hostname.com
ftp://ftp.hostname.com
ftp://username@ftp.hostname.com/subfolder
```

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```
ftp://username@ftp.hostname.com//subfolder
```
PRO `sftp://username@hostname.com`
PRO `ftps://username@hostname.com`

Subversion servers are represented using the standard syntax:

```
svn://hostname/subfolder
svn://hostname/subfolder@1234
svn+http://hostname/subfolder
svn+https://hostname/subfolder
svn+ssh://hostname/subfolder
```

Named profiles are necessary for Amazon S3, Dropbox, and WebDAV. The are represented using this syntax:

```
profile:MyProfile
profile:MyProfile?MyFolder/MyFile.ext
```

2.17 Snapshots

In the **Tools** menu, the **Save Snapshot** command saves a compressed read-only listing of the specified folder and all of its subfolders, including each file's timestamp, size, and file attributes. Snapshots have a .bcss file extension.

Snapshots are useful for detecting changes over time. Snapshot files can be loaded at a later date and compared to a live folder. You can load a snapshot just like any other base folder. Binary and rules-based content comparisons do not work on snapshots, since the files in the snapshot do not really exist.

If CRCs of the files are included in the snapshot, then CRC comparisons can be used to determine whether the contents of files have changed. This can be useful for detecting data corruption and other subtle changes to your data.

A snapshot remembers the name of the base folder it was produced from. If you load a snapshot on the command line (or drag a snapshot file onto the Beyond Compare icon), the program will automatically compare the snapshot with the original folder.

2.18 Calling Beyond Compare from Other Applications

As you would expect, Beyond Compare's setup program creates shortcuts to the main executable file, such as:

```
C:\Program Files\Beyond Compare 3\BCompare.exe
```

However, if you call Beyond Compare from a batch file or a version control system, we recommend using "BComp" instead of "BCompare.exe". BComp is a helper program which launches Beyond Compare and waits until it is closed. For more technical details, see

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Command Line Reference.

2.19 Moving Beyond Compare to Another Computer

To copy or move Beyond Compare to a different computer

1. On the new computer, download and install the latest version of Beyond Compare.
2. Enter your registration key in the new installation.
3. Run Beyond Compare on the old computer and pick **Tools > Export Settings** to save all desired settings in a file.
4. Copy this settings file to the new computer.
5. Run Beyond Compare on the new computer and pick **Tools > Import Settings** to load the settings file.

Note If you have Beyond Compare version 2.0 or older on the old computer, you will not have an Export Settings command. You can contact Scooter Software for assistance in transferring your settings.

2.20 Scripts

Beyond Compare provides a script processing feature which allows you to automate routine tasks. A script is a simple text file containing a list of commands which can control the program and automatically perform file operations or produce reports. See Scripting Reference for a list of all scripting commands.

Scripts run without displaying the usual Beyond Compare user interface, but might require input for certain confirmations. Scripts essentially manipulate an invisible folder session: file operations require selections, the "display" can be limited with filters, and folders can be "expanded" to recurse into them. Any folder name argument can be a folder on your system, on the network or a remote service, or the name of an archive file such as .zip, .cab, or Beyond Compare Snapshot file.

Running a script

Specify the filename of the script on the command line with a leading '@' symbol, as in:

```
BCompare.exe @"C:\My Folder\My Script.txt"
bcompare @"My Folder/My Script"
```

Creating a script

Scripts are processed line by line, with a single command per line. Scripts are not case sensitive, and blank lines and comments (anything after a '#') are ignored. Arguments are

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separated by spaces. To include a space in an argument, surround the argument with quotes ("). To continue a long command on a second (or third) line, add an ampersand (&) at the end of every line but the last.

A parameter specified on the command line can be referenced by inserting a percent sign (%) followed by a single number from 1-9. The script name and command line switches starting with / are not included in the 1-9 list. Given the command line:

```
BCompare.exe @"My Script.txt" /silent "My Session"
```

the session named "My Session" can be loaded by adding the following to the script:

```
load "%1"
```

An environmental variable can be inserted by enclosing its name in percent signs. The character case of the environmental variable must be correct. The system's temporary folder can be loaded by adding the following to the script:

```
load "%TMP%"
```

There are several dynamic variables that Beyond Compare can fill in at each line of the script. The %date% variable fills in the current date in the format yyyy-mm-dd. The %time% variable's format depends on your computer's regional settings. The %fn_time% variable outputs the time as hh-mm-ss, which can be used for filenames.

Scripting command line switches

Note Mac and Linux users should prefix the switches with "-" instead of "/".

The command line switches that affect scripting are `/closescript`, `/leftreadonly`, `/readonly`, `/rightreadonly`, and `/silent`. Normally, script processing adds an entry on the Task Bar and displays a Scripting Status Window detailing its progress and any errors. The `/silent` switch bypasses the Task Bar entry and Scripting Status Window, allowing Beyond Compare to process the script invisibly.

Scripting options

To change the script processing options, pick **Tools > Options**, switch to the **Tweaks** page, and then scroll to find **Scripts**. Mark the **Beep when finished** checkbox to have Beyond Compare sound an audible beep when it completes script processing. This beep can alert you to check and close the Scripting Status window. **Close when finished** causes Beyond Compare to automatically close its Scripting Status window when it completes script processing. When used in conjunction with **Beep when finished**, the beep simply tells you the process has completed.

There is also a place to designate a **Shared scripts folder**. When you provide a script name argument on the command line with no path designation, and there is no file of that name in the current folder, Beyond Compare will look in the **Shared scripts folder** for that script.

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2.20.1 Sample Scripts

The following are some sample scripts to show how Beyond Compare can use scripts. You can either use these scripts as is or model your own scripts after them.

Here is a basic script which copies all of the newer and orphaned files from one folder to another, using a previously created session:

```
load "Sync Laptop"
sync update:left->right
```

Syncing two folders

Here is a more advanced script which syncs two specific folders using advanced filters. This works the same as loading the folders in a Folder Compare session and performing a "Mirror Left to Right" folder synchronization.

```
# Turn logging on.
log normal "C:\My Log.txt"
# Load the default session and exclude all but certain file types.
load <default>
filter "*.html;*.htm;*.png;*.jpg"
# Load the base folders.
load "C:\My Folder" ftp://user@website.com/folder
# Copy different files left to right, delete orphans on right.
sync mirror:left->right
```

Comparing two files by name

This script compares two files by name.

```
file-report layout:side-by-side &
  options:display-mismatches &
  output-to:%3 %1 %2
```

A sample command line, calling the above script:

```
BCompare.exe @"My Script.txt" "My File.txt" "Your File.txt" "My Report.
txt"
```

Note An ampersand (&) at the end of a line means that the command continues on the next line.

Note %1, %2, and %3 refer to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd command line argument, respectively.

Generating a report

This script compares two files by name and generates an html report showing differences with context:

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```
text-report layout:side-by-side &
  options:ignore-unimportant,display-context &
  output-to:%3 output-options:html-color %1 %2
```

Keeping a web site in sync

This script keeps a web site in sync with development files.

```
# Turn verbose logging on.
log verbose append:"C:\My Log.txt"
# Set the comparison criteria.
criteria timestamp size
# Load source and target folders.
load "C:\My Folder" ftp://user@website.com/folder
# Filter to only include source files, ignore CVS subfolders.
filter "*.htm;*.html;*.php;*.jpg;*.gif;-CVS\"
# Sync the local files to the web site, creating empty folders.
sync create-empty mirror:left->right
```

Performing a rules-based comparison and logging results to a file

This script logs the script results to a file that uses the current date as part of the name. The variable %date% is expanded by the script in the format 2012-12-31 on U.S. English systems, on other systems it will match the system locale. It performs a rules-based comparison of Pascal source files and generates a report of mismatches.

```
# Log to a file of the form "C:\My Log 2012-12-31.txt".
# The exact format depends on your regional and language settings.
log verbose append:"C:\My Log %date%.txt"
# Compare the text contents of the files.
criteria rules-based
# Only compare Delphi source files, ignore the archive folder.
filter "*.pas;*.dfm;*.dpr;*.inc;-archive\"
load "C:\My Folder" "C:\Your Folder"
folder-report layout:summary &
  options:display-mismatches,column-attributes,column-timestamp,column-
size &
  output-to:"My Report.txt"
```

Comparing current folder state to a snapshot

This script compares the current state of a folder to a snapshot from the last time updates were sent out. Then it copies the changed and new files to an archive file and updates the snapshot of the folder.

```
option confirm:yes-to-all
# Compare using crc.
criteria crc
# Load current files against snapshot from the last patch.
load "C:\My Folder" "C:\My Snapshot.bcss"
# Expand to affect subfolders and files.
```

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```
expand all
# Select updated files.
select left.diff.files left.orphan.files
# Copy changes to an archive file.
copyto left path:relative "C:\My Archive.zip"
# Update the snapshot.
snapshot save-crc left output:"C:\My Snapshot.bcss"
```

Generating a report of differences

This script generates a report of only differences.

```
# Set up basic comparison features.
criteria timestamp:2sec
# Filter out log files.
filter "-*.log"
# Load first comparison.
load "C:\My Folder" "C:\Your Folder"
# Compare files with timestamp differences.
select newer.files older.files
# Generate a report of the differences.
folder-report layout:summary options:display-mismatches output-to:"C:\My
Report.txt"
```

2.20.2 Scheduling a Script

You can use Beyond Compare's script processor to perform certain tasks, such as synchronizing folders, without interaction. For example, to automate a backup of "C:\My Folder", enter the following script commands into Notepad:

```
load "C:\My Folder" "C:\My Backups"
expand all
select left.newer.files left.orphan.files
copy left->right
```

Save this text file as `"C:\My Scripts\Sync.txt"`.

To run a Beyond Compare script at any desired time:

1. In Windows Task Scheduler, pick **Action > Create Basic Task** to get a wizard.

2. In **Action**, pick **Start a program**.

3. In **Program/script**, pick the Beyond Compare 4 executable.

4. In **Add arguments**, add a reference to your script file:
   `@Sync.txt`

5. In **Start in**, pick the script folder:

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```
C:\My Scripts
```

We recommend including a log command in your script. If you have trouble with your script, check out the Scheduled Tasks error log: "SchedLgU.txt" in your Windows folder.

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Settings Reference

Beyond Compare is highly configurable, and it sometimes can be hard to know where to go in the program to change a specific setting. Here's where to look:

Program Options

General user preferences are set in the Options dialog. Pick **Tools > Options** to open it. From here you can set startup options, control confirmation messages, and customize display colors and fonts.

Session Settings

Most of the options that define the scope and rules of a comparison can be found in the Session Settings dialog. Each session type has its own session settings dialog. Pick **Session > Session Settings** to open the dialog, or simply click the **Rules** toolbar button.

Session settings are stored with your saved sessions.

File Formats

Specific file types can be configured in the File Formats dialog. Pick **Tools > File Formats** to open it.

Profiles

Specific remote services can be configured in the Profiles dialog. Pick **Tools > Profiles** to open it.

Source Control Integration PRO

Specific source control associations can be configured in the Source Control Integration dialog. Pick **Tools > Source Control Integration** to open it.

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3.1 Program Options

To set program preferences

1. Pick **Tools > Options** to open the Options dialog.
2. In the list at the left, click the item containing the options you want to set:

   Startup
   Tabs
   Colors, Fonts
      Folder Views
      File Views
      Picture Compare
   Text Editing
   Next Difference
   Backups
   File Operations
   Archive Types
   Toolbars, etc.
   Open With
   Tweaks

3. Modify the desired settings, and then click the **Apply** button to accept the changes, or the **OK** button to apply and close.

3.1.1 Startup

Startup options

When Beyond Compare starts up, it normally shows the Home view. To have the program automatically start up with the same sessions that were open the last time you used Beyond Compare, specify the same workspace name in the **Load workspace** and **On Exit, save workspace as** edits. In the **Session** menu, you can also use the **Save Workspace As** and **Load Workspace** commands for further control.

When you start Beyond Compare with a pair of files specified, the program can display a dialog with a comparison summary, rather than taking the time to display the entire side-by-side comparison. To preface a file comparison with the Quick Compare dialog:

1. Mark the **When starting with file comparison, show quick compare dialog** checkbox.
2. Pick **Binary quick compare** to perform a byte-by-byte comparison, or **Rules-based quick compare** to use the file format settings appropriate for the specified files.

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3. Mark the **Open view automatically if files are different** checkbox if you want the dialog to only appear when the files match.

To add Beyond Compare to Explorer's right-click menu

Mark the **Include Beyond Compare in Explorer context menu** checkbox.

Pick any of the optional commands listed in the table and pick **Main menu** or **Submenu** to include it in the context menu. Enable **Compare Using** to add a submenu that lists specific views, such as the Table Compare view and the Hex Compare view. This allows you to override the view that would normally be selected via the file formats list. Enable **Merge** to add 3-way merge support to the context menu. Enable **Sync** to support synchronizing folders from Explorer. Enable **Edit** to support editing a single file from Explorer. Enable **Compare to Registry** to support comparing a registry file to the live registry.

3.1.2 Tabs

When working with multiple sessions simultaneously, Beyond Compare can open them in independent windows, or under tabs in a single window. These options control that behavior.

To control new sessions

Pick either **A new window** or **A new tab** for newly created sessions.

To control child sessions

Pick either **A new window** or **A new tab** for newly created file sessions that are opened directly from a folder session.

To control miscellaneous tab behavior

Set the various options to reflect your preferences.

If you unmark both the **Closing last remaining tab closes the window** and **Hide tab bar if single tab** checkboxes then closing the last tab will return to the Home view.

3.1.3 Colors, Fonts

Click the item containing the options you want to set:

Folder Views

File Views

Picture Compare

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3.1.3.1 Folder Views

These options allow you to customize overall colors and fonts used in folder views.

Font

By default, the font used for folder displays is the same as what the operating system uses. To change it, unmark the **Use system font** checkbox and click the **Font** button.

Selection

The **Selection** element controls the treatment of selected text. By default, Beyond Compare uses a medium blue color for selections so that difference coloring is not obscured. If you prefer the operating system's standard treatment for selections, mark the **Use system** checkbox. Selected files will then lose difference coloring, although the color spot to the left of each filename will still be colored appropriately.

Miscellaneous

Pick the colors to be used for **Filtered out** items (when **Suppress Filters** is used), and for items whose comparison state is **Unknown**. Mark the **Use Stripes** checkbox to tint the background on every other line of the comparison.

3.1.3.2 File Views

These options allow you to customize visual aspects of the various types of file views.

Pick an element from the list to change its visual treatment. You can change the **Text color** and **Background** color of each element on the list. For some elements you can change the font **Style** to bold and/or italic.

Lower elements in the list override higher ones. Pick **Default** to leave unchanged a color set by an element higher on the list.

Mark the **Use stripes** checkbox to tint the background on every other line of the comparison.

The **Selection** element controls the treatment of selected text. By default, Beyond Compare uses a medium blue color for selections so that difference coloring is not obscured. If you prefer the operating system's standard treatment for selections, mark the **Use system** checkbox. Selected text will then lose difference and syntax coloring, although the statusbar will still describe the current position's comparison and grammar type.

The **Important difference** and **Unimportant difference** settings control the treatment of differences. The **Background** color affects the entire line, allowing you to spot lines with differences even when the actual differences are scrolled off-screen. The **Text background** color can be used to further highlight text that is different.

The list also includes syntax highlighting elements.

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Click one of the font buttons to change the overall font used to display text. The **Editor Font** is used in Text Compare, Text Merge and Table Compare views. The **Hex Font** is used in Hex Compare views, as well as the optional hex details display at the bottom of other views. The **Listing Font** is used in all other views.

3.1.3.3 Picture Compare

These options allow you to customize colors used in Picture Compare views.

Set the **Background** colors used in **Tolerance mode** for same, different, and similar pixels.

3.1.4 Text Editing

These options apply to Text Compare and Text Merge sessions.

Auto indent
When marked and a new line is created, it is automatically indented to match the leading whitespace on the previous line.

Backspace unindents
When marked and the edit cursor is positioned immediately after the leading whitespace of the line, pressing the Backspace key deletes enough whitespace to match the previous indentation level, as defined by preceding lines.

Allow positioning beyond end of line
When marked, the edit cursor is not constrained by the end of text on a line.

Initialize "Text to find" to be current word
When marked and there is no selection, the current word is filled in as the search text for the **Find** command.

Show filtered line counts
When marked, a summary of lines hidden by display filters is shown:

Number of context lines
Defines the number of matching lines to display before and after a difference section when **Show Context** is used.

3.1.5 Next Difference

Set these options to reflect your preferences concerning how to peruse differences.

When loading new files, go to first difference
When marked, position at the first difference when a new file comparison starts.

Go to next difference in files after copying to other side

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When marked, position at the next difference item after copying the current item to the other side.

Limit "Next Difference Files" to current folder

When marked, the **Next Difference Files** command will only find files with the same parent folder.

Wrap around to first difference

When marked, position back at the first difference in the comparison after the end is reached.

Show message panel

When unmarked, suppress the message panel (and beep) when a difference is not found.

3.1.6 Backups

Beyond Compare can create a backup of your files before overwriting them during a copy or move operation, or before saving an edited file. Set these options to control how backup files are named and where they are stored.

3.1.7 File Operations

Confirmations

By default, Beyond Compare prompts for confirmation before performing various actions. Unmark any of these checkboxes to suppress the confirmation dialogs.

Synchronize confirmations

Pick **Prompt**, **Yes to All** or **No to All** to control confirmations that might appear during a Folder Compare session's synchronize command.

How filters affect file actions

By default, file filters and display filters are respected during file actions (such as **Copy**, **Move** and **Delete**), unless **Suppress Filters** is on. To change the default behavior, mark the **Include hidden items by default** checkbox.

3.1.8 Archive Types

Specify the file types to be associated with each of the supported archive formats. Pick a format and enter the associated file types separated by semicolons in the **Mask** column. You can leave it blank to drop support for that format. You can add support for additional archive formats by clicking the **Add Plug-in** button and following the instructions. For more information, see Archive Files.

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3.1.9 Toolbars, etc.

These options allow you to control which commands appear in menus and on toolbars, and allow you to set keyboard shortcuts for commands. Since the menus and toolbars change depending on the type of window, you need to pick the appropriate session view.

In the search edit, type the name or description of the command you are looking for in order to limit the list of commands.

Pick a command in the list to edit. The command's description will appear below the list.

Checkboxes in the **Menu** and **Toolbar** columns control where commands are shown.

To change the keyboard shortcut, focus on the **Shortcut** edit and press the desired keystroke. Click the **Remove** button to remove an assigned shortcut or the **Default** button to revert it to the factory default setting. If a keyboard shortcut is already assigned elsewhere, a warning appears and you have the option of reassigning it.

Most session types have display filter commands available. The **Display filter mode** can be changed to **DropDown**, **Favorites** or **Toggles**. It can also be changed by right-clicking on the view's toolbar.

Large buttons with text labels can also be changed by right-clicking on the view's toolbar.

For documentation of specific commands, see Commands Reference.

3.1.10 Open With

You can configure external applications to appear in the **Open With** submenu.

Click the **New** button to add an "Open With" Application.

3.1.11 Tweaks

Tweaks are advanced or obscure program options that we group here to avoid cluttering other areas.

Check for Updates

By default, Beyond Compare checks our website for new versions of the software. You can change the number of **days** between checks or unmark the **Check every** checkbox to never check.

Editor Display

Most of the display settings for text views are found on the File View Colors, Fonts page of the Options dialog. Settings specific to the text editors are here.

Syntax highlighting is normally suppressed on difference lines so that it doesn't interfere

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with difference coloring schemes. Mark the **Show syntax highlighting on difference lines** checkbox to change this behavior.

Use crosshatching for lines beyond the end of file helps identify the end of your text files, particularly when comparing a longer file with a shorter one.

Right side gutter for left editor (compare only) positions the copy buttons close together in the center of the view, and keeps the scrollbars at the outer edges. It has no effect if you are using the **View > Over-under layout** .

Enable font linking in editors allows the text editor to use additional fonts in order to support characters from multiple languages.

Use orphan color causes file views to use a separately configurable color for items that are only on one side of the comparison.

You can add or subtract pixels from **Extra line spacing** to change the density of text in the view.

To show a vertical line at a specific column position, set **Show column line at** to the desired value. Set it to zero (0) to hide the line. If you use a proportionally spaced font, the column position will be determined by the width of the space character.

Dim inactive pane by darkens the non-active side of the comparison in order to help you focus on the active side.

PRO To use an alternate font for the narrower input panes in a Text Merge session, mark the **Use different font for merge input panes** checkbox.

File Operations

Beep after long file operations causes an audible sound when file operations such as copy and move are completed, unless they take less than 3 seconds.

The read-only attribute is normally preserved when copying files. On read-only media such as CDs or DVDs, all files will still be marked read-only when they are copied to another location. To avoid this, mark the **Remove read-only flag when copying from a CD or DVD** checkbox.

Mark the **Check for files changed on disk** checkbox to check for a newer copy of a file when returning focus to a file view. If found, Beyond Compare will prompt "File changed on disk, reload?" Mark the **Automatically reload unless changes will be discarded** checkbox to have Beyond Compare automatically load the newer file as long as you haven't made changes to the displayed file.

Comparison priority can be changed to affect the order in which background work is performed.

Buffer size for binary compare can be changed to affect speed.

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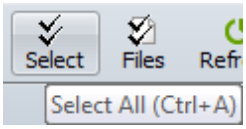
Home View

Sticky session selection can be set to remember the last session picked from a Home view instead of the last session updated in the application.

Interface

Here is what a toolbar looks like when the **Show hints for toolbar buttons, etc.** and **Show keyboard shortcut in hints** checkboxes are marked:



ESC key closes file views applies to all file view types, such as Text Compare, Table Compare and Picture Compare. It does not affect folder views.

Single vertical scrollbar can be marked to save horizontal space by hiding a redundant vertical scrollbar.

Sticky splitter position can be marked to have the size of the panes in file views be user defined instead of automatically determined.

Pick **Compress to fit** to compress the thumbnail to the available vertical space. Pick **Allow scrolling** to show a vertical scrollbar instead.

Log Panel

Operation summaries
Log a summary of each operation.

Operation details
Log details of each operation, including each file affected.

Warnings
Log warnings and errors.

FTP trace
Log messages to and from FTP site.

Debug messages
Log messages useful to Scooter Software's technical support staff.

Display up to defines how many messages the log can handle before it starts deleting the oldest ones.

If a file is entered for **Automatically save messages to file**, it will be created when necessary.

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Metrics

Max auto-saved sessions
Defines how many sessions can automatically be saved before the oldest one will be automatically deleted. Enter zero (0) to disable the auto-save sessions feature.

Max most recently used items
Defines how many items can automatically be remembered before the oldest one will be automatically deleted. For example, it affects how base folder dropdown lists.

Milliseconds before help hint appears
Defines how long to wait before showing a popup hint.

Milliseconds before help hint disappears
Defines how long a popup hint remains visible.

Milliseconds before incremental search resets
Defines how long to wait for the user to type in the next character for an incremental search.

Name Filter Presets

Specify the preset name filter choices, available on the folder view's toolbar. Use simple wildcard definitions separated by semicolons for the mask. Example:

```
*.htm;*.html;*.jpg
```

Scripts

Mark the **Beep when finished** checkbox for an audible cue that a script has finished.

Mark the **Close when finished** checkbox to exit the program when the script has finished.

Specify a **Shared scripts folder** to be the location for shared scripts. If a script filename is not found in the current folder, Beyond Compare will look for it there.

Shared Sessions File

If a **Shared sessions file** is specified, shared sessions will appear in your sessions tree. You can use but not modify them. Use **Tools > Export Settings** to create a shared sessions file.

3.2 Session Settings

To edit session settings

1. Pick **Session > Session Settings** .

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2. Modify the desired settings on each tab.

3. The dropdown list at the bottom of the dialog controls the scope of your changes. Pick **Use for this view only** to affect the current session, or **Update session defaults** to apply your changes to all new sessions of this type.

   Additional choices are shown for child sessions, comparisons spawned from a folder session. **Use for these files within parent session** causes the current folder session to remember these settings and use them whenever this particular pair of files is compared. **Use for all files within parent session** causes these settings to be used for any new sessions of this type spawned from the current folder session.

4. Click **OK**.

Specific settings for session types

Folder Compare

Folder Merge PRO

Folder Sync

Text Compare

Text Merge PRO

Table Compare

Hex Compare

MP3 Compare

Picture Compare

Registry Compare PRO

Version Compare

3.2.1 Folder Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Comparison

Handling

Name Filters

Other Filters

Misc PRO

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3.2.1.1 Specs

Specify the base folders to be compared.

Mark **Disable editing** to protect content from being changed on disk. New child sessions will be affected as well.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.1.2 Comparison

These settings control what is considered a difference in a folder session.

Quick tests

These comparison tests can be performed simply by reading folders and are much quicker than tests that require reading individual files.

Compare file size
Marks files as different if file sizes differ.

Compare timestamps
Compares files' date and time last modified. Timestamps must differ by more seconds than the **second tolerance** to be considered mismatches.

Ignore daylight saving difference ignores exact hour differences. This is useful for dealing with the way that different file systems handle Daylight Savings Time.

Ignore timezone differences ignores timestamp differences that are multiples of an exact hour.

Compare filename case
Marks files as different if character capitalizations differ.

Compare file attributes

Archive compares files' archive attribute. Since merely copying a file can change its archive attribute, you should normally disable this option.

System compares files' system attribute.

Hidden compares files' hidden attribute.

Read-only compares files' read-only attribute.

Align filenames with different extensions
Lines up files whose filenames are the same except for the extensions.

Align filenames with different Unicode normalization forms
Lines up files whose filenames are Unicode equivalent.

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Tests that require reading files

Compare contents
Enables size or content-related comparisons.

CRC comparison compares files using their CRC values.

Binary comparison compares files byte-by-byte.

Rules-based comparison compares files based on their file format associations. Allows you to ignore differences in line endings, whitespace, or source code comments.

Skip if quick tests indicate files are the same improves comparison speed by only performing the slower, more thorough tests when timestamps are different.

Compare versions
Compares version information, typically stored in application files (.exe, .dll, .ocx, etc).

Override quick test results
Marks files as matching if a content comparison determines they match even if there are differences in timestamps or other quick tests.

3.2.1.3 Handling

Folder handling

Automatically scan subfolders in background causes folders to be read in the background when a comparison is loaded. This way, folders can be colored appropriately before you open them. Top-level orphan folders can usually be colored and filtered without scanning, since they can only contain other orphans. **Automatically scan top-level orphan subfolders** causes these orphan folders to be scanned anyway, so that the folder's size is accurately reported.

Expand subfolders when loading session opens all folders automatically when a comparison is loaded. **Only expand subfolders with differences** limits auto expansion to folders that are found to have mismatches.

Archive handling (e.g. zip files)

As files always treats archive files like other files. They will sort with files and not show a folder icon.

As folders once opened sorts and compares archive files like other files, but with a zip folder icon. Once you open the zip folder, its comparison status changes to reflect its contents, like other folders do.

As folders always treats archive files like regular folders.

File handling

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Touch local files when copying to an FTP site
Many FTP sites do not allow Beyond Compare to control file timestamps, so when a file is copied to the FTP site, its date will not match the local copy. This option changes the local file timestamp to match the FTP copy.

Bypass disk cache during binary comparisons
Reads files directly from the media, avoiding the operating system's disk cache. This ensures an accurate comparison after copying to questionable media.

Follow symbolic links
Displays symbolic links and NTFS junction points as if they were their target. This includes whether they will be shown as files or folders, their size, their last modified time, and their attributes.

Maintain DOS 8.3 aliases
Tries to keep the same short (DOS 8.3) filenames when copying files.

Copy NTFS file permissions
Copies security descriptors of files on NTFS file systems under Windows 2000 or newer. This feature does not preserve permissions of files edited from Text Compare sessions.

Copy creation dates
Preserves original creation date of a local file when making a copy.

Automatic refresh

Set this option to periodically refresh the folder comparison.

3.2.1.4 Name Filters

You can include or exclude folders and files based on their names by using one or more file masks.

To set a name filter

Add a file mask to the appropriate list. Each file mask must be on its own line.

- **Include Files** Files to include in this session.
- **Exclude Files** Files to exclude from this session.
- **Include Folders** Folders to include in this session.
- **Exclude Folders** Folders to exclude from this session.

For examples, see File Masks.

To clear all name filters

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Click the **Clear** button to clear all the filter settings on this tab.

To make the current name filter a preset

Click the **Add To Presets** button, optionally enter a **Name**, optionally edit the **Mask**, and click **OK**.

3.2.1.5 Other Filters

You can exclude files from a folder session based on criteria other than their names. Click the **New** button to add an Other Filter Item.

Note Whenever a other filter items are defined, a comment bar appears near the bottom of the folder view. You can click the **Other Filters** button on it to edit these filters.

Note If a file filter determines that a file on one side of the comparison should be hidden but the corresponding file on the other side should be visible, both are made visible and the one that should be hidden will be colored teal (blue-green).

The **Exclude protected operating system files** checkbox is marked by default.

3.2.1.6 Misc

PRO

To force a different alignment

By default, a folder session aligns files and subfolders by name, left and right. Click the **New** button to add an Alignment Override.

Note The easiest way to manually align two items in a folder session is to right-click the first item, pick **Align With**, then click the second item.

To override file format associations

The **Enabled file formats** list lets you override which file formats will be used by this folder session. A file format is listed in bold if its enabled state in this session is different from its global enabled state. You can create a custom file format that is enabled for use in this session but disabled in the global list.

3.2.2 Folder Merge

PRO

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

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Comparison

Handling

Name Filters

Other Filters

Misc

3.2.2.1 Specs

Specify the base folders to be merged.

Merge to defines the destination folder of the merge results.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.2.2 Comparison

PRO

These settings control what is considered a difference in a folder session.

Quick tests

These comparison tests can be performed simply by reading folders and are much quicker than tests that require reading individual files.

Compare file size
Marks files as different if file sizes differ.

Compare timestamps
Compares files' date and time last modified. Timestamps must differ by more seconds than the **second tolerance** to be considered mismatches.

> **Ignore daylight saving difference** ignores exact hour differences. This is useful for dealing with the way that different file systems handle Daylight Savings Time.
>
> **Ignore timezone differences** ignores timestamp differences that are multiples of an exact hour.

Compare filename case
Marks files as different if character capitalizations differ.

Compare file attributes
> **Archive** compares files' archive attribute. Since merely copying a file can change its archive attribute, you should normally disable this option.
>
> **System** compares files' system attribute.

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Hidden compares files' hidden attribute.

Read-only compares files' read-only attribute.

Tests that require reading files

Compare contents
Enables size or content-related comparisons.

CRC comparison compares files using their CRC values.

Binary comparison compares files byte-by-byte.

Rules-based comparison compares files based on their file format associations. Allows you to ignore differences in line endings, whitespace, or source code comments.

Skip if quick tests indicate files are the same improves comparison speed by only performing the slower, more thorough tests when timestamps are different.

Compare versions
Compares version information, typically stored in application files (.exe, .dll, .ocx, etc).

Override quick test results
Marks files as matching if a content comparison determines they match even if there are differences in timestamps or other quick tests.

3.2.2.3 Handling

PRO

Folder handling

Automatically scan subfolders in background causes folders to be read in the background when a comparison is loaded. This way, folders can be colored appropriately before you open them. Top-level orphan folders can usually be colored and filtered without scanning, since they can only contain other orphans. **Automatically scan top-level orphan subfolders** causes these orphan folders to be scanned anyway, so that the folder's size is accurately reported.

Expand subfolders when loading session opens all folders automatically when a comparison is loaded. **Only expand subfolders with differences** limits auto expansion to folders that are found to have mismatches.

Archive handling (e.g. zip files)

As files always treats archive files like other files. They will sort with files and not show a folder icon.

As folders once opened sorts and compares archive files like other files, but with a zip

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folder icon. Once you open the zip folder, its comparison status changes to reflect its contents, like other folders do.

As folders always treats archive files like regular folders.

File handling

Touch local files when copying to an FTP site
Many FTP sites do not allow Beyond Compare to control file timestamps, so when a file is copied to the FTP site, its date will not match the local copy. This option changes the local file timestamp to match the FTP copy.

Bypass disk cache during binary comparisons
Reads files directly from the media, avoiding the operating system's disk cache. This ensures an accurate comparison after copying to questionable media.

Follow symbolic links
Displays symbolic links and NTFS junction points as if they were their target. This includes whether they will be shown as files or folders, their size, their last modified time, and their attributes.

Maintain DOS 8.3 aliases
Tries to keep the same short (DOS 8.3) filenames when copying files.

Copy NTFS file permissions
Copies security descriptors of files on NTFS file systems under Windows 2000 or newer. This feature does not preserve permissions of files edited from Text Merge sessions.

Copy creation dates
Preserves original creation date of a local file when making a copy.

Automatic refresh

Set this option to periodically refresh the folder comparison.

3.2.2.4 Name Filters

PRO

You can include or exclude folders and files based on their names by using one or more file masks.

To set a name filter

Add a file mask to the appropriate list. Each file mask must be on its own line.

- **Include Files** Files to include in this session.
- **Exclude Files** Files to exclude from this session.

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- **Include Folders** Folders to include in this session.
- **Exclude Folders** Folders to exclude from this session.

For examples, see File Masks.

To clear all name filters

Click the **Clear** button to clear all the filter settings on this tab.

To make the current name filter a preset

Click the **Add To Presets** button, optionally enter a **Name**, optionally edit the **Mask**, and click **OK**.

3.2.2.5 Other Filters

PRO

You can exclude files from a folder session based on criteria other than their names. Click the **New** button to add an Other Filter Item.

Note Whenever a other filter items are defined, a comment bar appears near the bottom of the folder view. You can click the **Other Filters** button on it to edit these filters.

Note If a file filter determines that a file on one side of the comparison should be hidden but the corresponding file on the other side should be visible, both are made visible and the one that should be hidden will be colored teal (blue-green).

The **Exclude protected operating system files** checkbox is marked by default.

3.2.2.6 Misc

PRO

To override file format associations

The **Enabled file formats** list lets you override which file formats will be used by this folder session. A file format is listed in bold if its enabled state in this session is different from its global enabled state. You can create a custom file format that is enabled for use in this session but disabled in the global list.

3.2.3 Folder Sync

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

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Sync

Comparison

Handling

Name Filters

Other Filters

Misc PRO

3.2.3.1 Specs

Specify the base folders to be synced.

Mark **Disable editing** to protect content from being changed on disk. New child sessions will be affected as well.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.3.2 Sync

Operations

Presets
You can use one of the predefined sync methods described in the overview or create a custom one.

3.2.3.3 Comparison

These settings control what is considered a difference in a folder session.

Quick tests

These comparison tests can be performed simply by reading folders and are much quicker than tests that require reading individual files.

Compare file size
Marks files as different if file sizes differ.

Compare timestamps
Compares files' date and time last modified. Timestamps must differ by more seconds than the **second tolerance** to be considered mismatches.

Ignore daylight saving difference ignores exact hour differences. This is useful for dealing with the way that different file systems handle Daylight Savings Time.

Ignore timezone differences ignores timestamp differences that are multiples of an

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exact hour.

Compare filename case
Marks files as different if character capitalizations differ.

Compare file attributes

Archive compares files' archive attribute. Since merely copying a file can change its archive attribute, you should normally disable this option.

System compares files' system attribute.

Hidden compares files' hidden attribute.

Read-only compares files' read-only attribute.

Align filenames with different extensions
Lines up files whose filenames are the same except for the extensions.

Align filenames with different Unicode normalization forms
Lines up files whose filenames are Unicode equivalent.

Tests that require reading files

Compare contents
Enables size or content-related comparisons.

CRC comparison compares files using their CRC values.

Binary comparison compares files byte-by-byte.

Rules-based comparison compares files based on their file format associations. Allows you to ignore differences in line endings, whitespace, or source code comments.

Skip if quick tests indicate files are the same improves comparison speed by only performing the slower, more thorough tests when timestamps are different.

Compare versions
Compares version information, typically stored in application files (.exe, .dll, .ocx, etc).

Override quick test results
Marks files as matching if a content comparison determines they match even if there are differences in timestamps or other quick tests.

3.2.3.4 Handling

Folder handling

Sync empty folders will affect folders without content or whose entire contents have been filtered out.

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Expand subfolders when loading session opens all folders automatically when a comparison is loaded.

Sync within archives treats archive files like regular folders.

File handling

Delete to recycle bin if possible
Moves files and folders stored on a local drive to the recycle bin instead of permanently deleting them. This option is ignored for deletions from network drives, remote services and within archive files.

Touch local files when copying to an FTP site
Many FTP sites do not allow Beyond Compare to control file timestamps, so when a file is copied to the FTP site, its date will not match the local copy. This option changes the local file timestamp to match the FTP copy.

Bypass disk cache during binary comparisons
Reads files directly from the media, avoiding the operating system's disk cache. This ensures an accurate comparison after copying to questionable media.

Follow symbolic links
Displays symbolic links and NTFS junction points as if they were their target. This includes whether they will be shown as files or folders, their size, their last modified time, and their attributes.

Maintain DOS 8.3 aliases
Tries to keep the same short (DOS 8.3) filenames when copying files.

Copy NTFS file permissions
Copies security descriptors of files on NTFS file systems under Windows 2000 or newer. This feature does not preserve permissions of files edited from Text Compare sessions.

Copy creation dates
Preserves original creation date of a local file when making a copy.

Automatic refresh

Set this option to periodically refresh the folder comparison.

3.2.3.5 Name Filters

You can include or exclude folders and files based on their names by using one or more file masks.

To set a name filter

Add a file mask to the appropriate list. Each file mask must be on its own line.

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- **Include Files** Files to include in this session.
- **Exclude Files** Files to exclude from this session.
- **Include Folders** Folders to include in this session.
- **Exclude Folders** Folders to exclude from this session.

For examples, see File Masks.

To clear all name filters

Click the **Clear** button to clear all the filter settings on this tab.

To make the current name filter a preset

Click the **Add To Presets** button, optionally enter a **Name**, optionally edit the **Mask**, and click **OK**.

3.2.3.6 Other Filters

You can exclude files from a folder session based on criteria other than their names. Click the **New** button to add an Other Filter Item.

Note Whenever a other filter items are defined, a comment bar appears near the bottom of the folder view. You can click the **Other Filters** button on it to edit these filters.

Note If a file filter determines that a file on one side of the comparison should be hidden but the corresponding file on the other side should be visible, both are made visible and the one that should be hidden will be colored teal (blue-green).

The **Exclude protected operating system files** checkbox is marked by default.

3.2.3.7 Misc

PRO

To force a different alignment

By default, a folder session aligns files and subfolders by name, left and right. Click the **New** button to add an Alignment Override.

Note The easiest way to manually align two items in a folder session is to right-click the first item, pick **Align With**, then click the second item.

To override file format associations

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The **Enabled file formats** list lets you override which file formats will be used by this folder session. A file format is listed in bold if its enabled state in this session is different from its global enabled state. You can create a custom file format that is enabled for use in this session but disabled in the global list.

3.2.4 Text Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Format

Importance

Alignment

Replacements PRO

3.2.4.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

Mark **Disable editing** to protect content from being changed on disk.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.4.2 Format

Specify the file format to be used when reading the left and/or right files. The default selection is Detected, which means the file format will be selected based on file masks.

Encoding overrides allow this session to override the character encoding to be used for each file, normally controlled by the selected file format. The default is None, which means the file format's encoding choice will be used.

3.2.4.3 Importance

These settings control which differences you consider important in the current session. Important differences will be colored red in the comparison. Unimportant differences will be blue (or not highlighted at all if **View > Ignore Unimportant Differences** ≈ is marked).

Unimportance

Text that matches items defined in this list are considered unimportant.

Grammar elements

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Mark the boxes in the list of items that are important to the comparison.

Leading whitespace controls whether whitespace at the start of the line is important.

Embedded whitespace controls whether whitespace in the middle of the line is important.

Trailing whitespace controls whether whitespace at the end of the line is important.

Everything else refers to non-whitespace text not already defined as a grammar element.

Mark the **Character case** checkbox if the "everything else" text is case-sensitive. (The case sensitivity of grammar elements is controlled by the file format's grammar.)

Click the **Edit Grammar** button to examine or change the grammar definitions in the selected file format.

Miscellaneous

To consider an extra blank line (or an inserted line with only unimportant text) an important difference, mark the **Orphan lines are always important** checkbox.

Beyond Compare normally ignores differences in line ending style, such as CR+LF in Windows text files vs. LF only in Unix files. To find differences in line endings on a line-by-line basis, mark the **Compare line endings (PC/Mac/Unix)** checkbox. (To examine the line endings, mark **View > Visible Whitespace** .)

3.2.4.4 Alignment

The Alignment tab settings control the algorithm for aligning lines in the comparison.

Mark the **Never align differences** checkbox to show lines with important differences as blocks of added and deleted text rather than changed text.

Pick **Unaligned** to compare files without aligning lines based on their content.

Pick **Standard alignment** to align the files by comparing successively smaller sections of each file. Parts of the alignment can be shown before the entire comparison is finished.

Pick **Myers O(ND) aligment** to align the files using a common LCS (Longest Common Subsequence) algorithm. This can give better matches in certain cases, such as large inserts or when the files contain a lot of repeating text. Since files are compared all at once, larger file scans take much longer than the standard method, and the files are not displayed until the comparison is complete. It does not support similarity comparisons, so mismatches will be grouped in blocks.

Pick **Patience Diff alignment** to align the files using Bram Cohen's algorithm.

The **Skew tolerance** specifies the maximum number of lines that the algorithm will check when looking for a match to a particular line. Increasing it can improve the alignment,

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especially if there are large gaps. Of course, the comparison may also require more time.

Mark the **Use closeness matching** checkbox to attempt to align the remaining mismatched lines based on their similarity.

Note Regardless of these settings, the alignment algorithm will sometimes produce undesirable results. To manually align two lines, right-click one line and pick **Align With** and then click the second line.

3.2.4.5 Replacements

PRO

Replacements identify repetitive changes that should be considered unimportant. You can specify the text to match on one side and the text that replaces it on the other side. Click the **New** button to add a Replacement Item.

3.2.5 Text Merge

PRO

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Format

Importance

Alignment

3.2.5.1 Specs

Specify the files to be merged.

Merge to defines the destination file of the merge results.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.5.2 Format

PRO

Specify the file format to be used when reading the input files. The default selection is Detected, which means the file format will be selected based on file masks.

Encoding overrides allow this session to override the character encoding to be used for each file, normally controlled by the selected file format. The default is None, which means the file format's encoding choice will be used.

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3.2.5.3 Importance

PRO

These settings control which differences you consider important in the current session. Important differences will be colored red in the comparison. Unimportant differences will be blue (or not highlighted at all if **View > Ignore Unimportant Differences** ≈ is marked).

Unimportance

Text that matches items defined in this list are considered unimportant.

Grammar elements

Mark the boxes in the list of items that are important to the comparison.

Leading whitespace controls whether whitespace at the start of the line is important.

Embedded whitespace controls whether whitespace in the middle of the line is important.

Trailing whitespace controls whether whitespace at the end of the line is important.

Everything else refers to non-whitespace text not already defined as a grammar element.

Mark the **Character case** checkbox if the "everything else" text is case-sensitive. (The case sensitivity of grammar elements is controlled by the file format's grammar.)

Click the **Edit Grammar** button to examine or change the grammar definitions in the selected file format.

Miscellaneous

To consider an extra blank line (or an inserted line with only unimportant text) an important difference, mark the **Orphan lines are always important** checkbox.

Beyond Compare normally ignores differences in line ending style, such as CR+LF in Windows text files vs. LF only in Unix files. To find differences in line endings on a line-by-line basis, mark the **Compare line endings (PC/Mac/Unix)** checkbox. (To examine the line endings, mark **View > Visible Whitespace** ».)

3.2.5.4 Alignment

PRO

The Alignment tab settings control the algorithm for aligning lines in the comparison.

Mark the **Never align differences** checkbox to show lines with important differences as blocks of added and deleted text rather than changed text.

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Pick **Unaligned** to compare files without aligning lines based on their content.

Pick **Standard alignment** to align the files by comparing successively smaller sections of each file. Parts of the alignment can be shown before the entire comparison is finished.

Pick **Myers O(ND) aligment** to align the files using a common LCS (Longest Common Subsequence) algorithm. This can give better matches in certain cases, such as large inserts or when the files contain a lot of repeating text. Since files are compared all at once, larger file scans take much longer than the standard method, and the files are not displayed until the comparison is complete. It does not support similarity comparisons, so mismatches will be grouped in blocks.

Pick **Patience Diff alignment** to align the files using Bram Cohen's algorithm.

The **Skew tolerance** specifies the maximum number of lines that the algorithm will check when looking for a match to a particular line. Increasing it can improve the alignment, especially if there are large gaps. Of course, the comparison may also require more time.

Mark the **Use closeness matching** checkbox to attempt to align the remaining mismatched lines based on their similarity.

Note Regardless of these settings, the alignment algorithm will sometimes produce undesirable results. To manually align two lines, right-click one line and pick **Align With** and then click the second line.

A merge conflict is

These settings define the scope of conflicts. A conflict occurs when the same section of text has changes on both left and right sides.

Pick **Only different change lines** to limit conflicts to where each line has changes on both sides. Pick **Left change and right change separated by lines** to specify the maximum number of lines between changes that should be considered conflicts. This way, left and right changes that are close to each other can be flagged for review along with direct conflicts.

3.2.6 Table Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Format

Columns

3.2.6.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

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Mark **Disable editing** to protect content from being changed on disk.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.6.2 Format

Specify the file format to be used when reading the left and/or right files. The default selection is Detected, which means the file format will be selected based on file masks.

Encoding overrides allow this session to override the character encoding to be used for each file, normally controlled by the selected file format. The default is None, which means the file format's encoding choice will be used.

3.2.6.3 Columns

Each line in the display represents a comparison column, and shows:

- **Comparison** if key, column number, column name
- **Left file** column number, sample data if available
- **Right file** column number, sample data if available
- **Handling** summary of column comparison

To control the alignment of rows

Define as many columns as keys as necessary to uniquely identify each row. By default, the first column is the only one defined as a key. To define a column as a key, position on the appropriate line, click the **Edit** button, mark the **Key** checkbox, and click **OK**. If multiple keys are defined, precedence follows the order in the comparison. If no keys are defined, the alignment will use all of the columns to uniquely identify each row.

By default, the files are sorted by their keys before the rows are aligned. Mark the **Unsorted alignment** checkbox to force the alignment to preserve the order of rows as they exist in the files. Note that this may cause rows with the same key column data not to be aligned.

To control the alignment of columns

By default, the comparison assumes the columns of the files are in the same order. To change the comparison order of a column in the left file, position on the appropriate line under **Left file**, and click the **Move Up** or **Move Down** button as necessary. If you position under **Comparison** instead, those buttons will change the position of the comparison column itself. To prevent a column in the left file from being compared at all, position on the appropriate line under **Left file**, and click the **Remove** button. If you position under **Comparison** instead, this button will prevent its file columns from being compared and delete this comparison column definition. To restore a removed column from the left file, position under **Left file**, click the **Insert** button, mark items in the Insert Columns dialog and click **OK**. Click the **Tidy** button to remove any blank lines from the list.

To control the names of columns

By default, column names are automatically determined from the left or right file. To give

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a column a specific name, position on the appropriate line, click the **Edit** button, change the **Name**, and click **OK**. To revert all columns to automatic naming, pick **Reset Names** from the list's right-click menu. If left file data is available, you can pick **Fill Names Using Left File** from the list's right-click menu to force the names to be those found in the left file. **Fill Names Using Comparison** will force the names to be those that would be automatically determined.

To control how column data is compared

Position on the appropriate line and click the **Edit** button to open the Column Handling dialog. To change the default **Handling** settings, click the **Edit Default** button.

3.2.7 Hex Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Format

Comparison

3.2.7.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

Mark **Disable editing** to protect content from being changed on disk.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.7.2 Format

Specify the file format to be used when reading the left and/or right files. The default selection is Detected, which means the file format will be selected based on file masks.

3.2.7.3 Comparison

These settings control how the files are compared.

Complete will align the bytes using a complex algorithm. **Fast** will perform a simpler but quicker alignment that is ideal for really large files. **None** will just align the bytes one by one.

Files up to this size are loaded without file locks allows smaller files to be edited in other programs.

3.2.8 MP3 Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

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Specs

Importance

3.2.8.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.8.2 Importance

These settings control which differences you consider important.

3.2.9 Picture Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Format

Replacements

3.2.9.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.9.2 Format

Specify the file format to be used when reading the left and/or right files. The default selection is Detected, which means the file format will be selected based on file masks.

3.2.9.3 Replacements

Replacements identify changes that should be considered unimportant. You can specify the color to match on one side and the color that replaces it on the other side.

3.2.10 Registry Compare

PRO

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

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3.2.10.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.11 Version Compare

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

Specs

Importance

3.2.11.1 Specs

Specify the files to be compared.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.2.11.2 Importance

These settings control which differences you consider important.

3.3 File Formats

Pick **Tools > File Formats** to see and manage the entire list of file formats.

The order of the list is important. When Beyond Compare looks for a file format to use on a file, it scans this list from top to bottom, stopping on the first enabled item whose mask matches the filename. To change the order of the list, highlight an item and click the **Move Up** or **Move Down** button. To enable or disable an item, mark or unmark its checkbox.

An item is colored red if any filename it could match is already matched by an item higher in the list. A disabled item is colored gray. An item with an empty mask cannot match any filename. To use any of these file formats, you must manually pick them in file sessions.

Note A specific session can independently enable or disable file formats. (See Folder Compare Miscellaneous Settings.) This way you can have a special file format that is used only by one session.

3.3.1 Text Formats

Text formats are file formats used by the Text Compare and Text Merge session types.

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Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

General

Conversion

Grammar

Misc

3.3.1.1 General

The **Mask** is a set of file types to be associated with this file format.

The **Description** can include any text you want. The built-in file format descriptions include any limitations or requirements for using them.

3.3.1.2 Conversion

The **Conversion** tab defines how files should be loaded and saved.

Text Compare sessions can compare plain text files, such as programming source files, directly. To compare files with structured or proprietary formats, it may be necessary to first extract the plain text content from the file. For example, Microsoft Word documents are binary files, but Beyond Compare can extract and compare their textual content. Beyond Compare can highlight differences in words and sentences but cannot identify differences in formatting or embedded images.

Pick a **Conversion** method. When using **External program** methods, you will need to specify a conversion program with the appropriate path and command line switches in the **Loading** edit. In order to support filenames with extended characters, make sure to pick the appropriate filename encoding (Unicode or ANSI). The following variables will be replaced with the indicated information:

%s source file

%t target file

%o original file

Conversion programs are only considered successful if they return a zero exit code and generate a non-empty file.

If you have a conversion program you want to use before saving, you can unmark the **Disable editing** checkbox and in the **Saving** edit specify that conversion program's path and command line switches. The above variables apply.

The **Encoding** of most text files can be detected automatically, but you can specify a specific code page to use.

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Mark the **Ctrl+Z indicates end of file** checkbox for if your file type uses the hex value 1A as an EOF marker.

The **characters per line limit** setting will break long lines at the indicated length. Those artificial line breaks are removed when saving an edited file.

Trim trailing whitespace and **Convert leading spaces to tabs** are edits that can be performed before saving files.

3.3.1.3 Grammar

The **Grammar** tab defines the syntax of a file. Grammar elements such as comments and keywords are defined here. Each grammar element can be described by one or more grammar items which appear in the list. The order of the list is significant. Items higher on the list take precedence over lower items. Click the **New** button to add a Grammar Item.

Line weights are used to improve alignment in a comparison. The alignment algorithm will try to line up matching lines with higher line weights.

3.3.1.4 Misc

Insert spaces instead of tabs
When unmarked, pressing the Tab key inserts a tab character into the file. When marked, an appropriate number of spaces is inserted instead.

The **Tab stop** setting determines the interval between tab stops. Pressing the Tab key advances the cursor to the next tab stop.

Mark the **Lines are independent** checkbox when each line is an independent record and it is not useful to manipulate consecutive difference lines as a *Section*.

Mark the **Column-based data** checkbox when the position of each character on a line is important and lines should be compared column-by-column.

3.3.2 Table Format

Table formats are file formats used by the Table Compare session type.

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

General

Conversion

Type

3.3.2.1 General

The **Mask** is a set of file types to be associated with this file format.

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The **Description** can include any text you want. The built-in file format descriptions include any limitations or requirements for using them.

3.3.2.2 Conversion

The **Conversion** tab defines how files should be loaded and saved.

Table Compare sessions can compare plain text files, such as comma separated value files, directly. To compare files with structured or proprietary formats, it may be necessary to first extract the plain text content from the file. For example, Microsoft Excel spreadsheets are binary files, but Beyond Compare can extract and compare their textual content. Beyond Compare can highlight differences in words and sentences but cannot identify differences in formatting or embedded images.

Pick a **Conversion** method. When using **External program** methods, you will need to specify a conversion program with the appropriate path and command line switches in the **Loading** edit. In order to support filenames with extended characters, make sure to pick the appropriate filename encoding (Unicode or ANSI). The following variables will be replaced with the indicated information:

%s source file

%t target file

%o original file

Conversion programs are only considered successful if they return a zero exit code and generate a non-empty file.

If you have a conversion program you want to use before saving, you can unmark the **Disable editing** checkbox and in the **Saving** edit specify that conversion program's path and command line switches. The above variables apply.

The **Encoding** of most text files can be detected automatically, but you can specify a specific code page to use.

Mark the **Ctrl+Z indicates end of file** checkbox for if your file type uses the hex value 1A as an EOF marker.

3.3.2.3 Type

The **Type** tab defines the syntax of the data file.

Delimited text files

Pick **Delimited** if the fields are separated by a delimiter character such as a tab or comma.

Mark the **Detect** checkbox to have the program automatically determine the delimiter. Otherwise, pick the **Delimiters** that separate the fields and pick the **Text qualifier** that optionally surrounds fields (necessary for data that contains the delimiter characters).

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Mark the **Treat consecutive delimiters as one** checkbox if a delimiter can consist of multiple delimiter characters. For example, if the data file contains columns separated by whitespace, you should enable this option and pick **Space** as the delimiter character.

Unmark the **Treat surrounding whitespace as part of delimiter** checkbox if any whitespace next to a delimiter should be considered part of the data field.

Fixed position text files

Pick **Fixed** for files where fields are defined by position on the line.

Enter the **Column widths** in a list separated by semicolons.

All types

Pick the **First line contains** option to control whether the first line in the file is treated as cell data or as column names. Normally, the Table Compare tries to detect this but you can override it here.

3.3.3 Hex Format

Hex formats are file formats used by the Hex Compare session type.

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

General

Conversion

3.3.3.1 General

The **Mask** is a set of file types to be associated with this file format.

The **Description** can include any text you want. The built-in file format descriptions include any limitations or requirements for using them.

3.3.3.2 Conversion

The **Conversion** tab defines how files should be loaded and saved.

Pick a **Conversion** method. When using **External program** methods, you will need to specify a conversion program with the appropriate path and command line switches in the **Loading** edit. In order to support filenames with extended characters, make sure to pick the appropriate filename encoding (Unicode or ANSI). The following variables will be replaced with the indicated information:

%s source file

%t target file

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%o original file

Conversion programs are only considered successful if they return a zero exit code and generate a non-empty file.

If you have a conversion program you want to use before saving, you can unmark the **Disable editing** checkbox and in the **Saving** edit specify that conversion program's path and command line switches. The above variables apply.

3.3.4 Picture Format

Picture formats are file formats used by the Picture Compare session type.

Click the tab containing the settings you want to edit:

General

Conversion

3.3.4.1 General

The **Mask** is a set of file types to be associated with this file format.

The **Description** can include any text you want. The built-in file format descriptions include any limitations or requirements for using them.

3.3.4.2 Conversion

The **Conversion** tab defines how files should be loaded.

Pick a **Conversion** method. When using **External program** methods, you will need to specify a conversion program with the appropriate path and command line switches in the **Loading** edit. In order to support filenames with extended characters, make sure to pick the appropriate filename encoding (Unicode or ANSI). The following variables will be replaced with the indicated information:

%s source file

%t target file

%o original file

Conversion programs are only considered successful if they return a zero exit code and generate a non-empty file.

3.3.5 External Format

To compare files using another application, define an external format.

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The **Mask** should be the set of file types it handles.

The **Quick compare command line** will be used whenever rules-based comparison results are needed. The return code should be 0 for a match and 1 for a mismatch.

The **View command line** will be used whenever a view is needed.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.4 Profiles

Pick **Tools > Profiles** to see and manage the entire list of profiles.

In addition to the named profiles, there is the <default> FTP profile whose settings can be used by named FTP profiles.

3.4.1 FTP Profiles

Click the tab for the settings you wish to edit:

Global

Login

Server

Connection

Proxy

Listing

Transfer

3.4.1.1 Global

Anonymous logins

Email address

When connecting to anonymous FTP sites, it is customary to include your email address as the password. Specify the email address (real or fictitious) to use for anonymous logins.

SSH public key authentication PRO

These settings are used to authenticate against an SSH server using a public/private key pair. Keys stored using OpenSSH's ssh-agent and PuTTY's pageant SSH agents will be used automatically.

SSH private key file

Specify the path to the SSH private key. OpenSSH, SSH.COM, PuTTY, and PGP key

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formats are supported.

Create Keys
Click to create a new SSH key pair.

SSL authentication PRO

These settings are used to authenticate against an SSL FTP server using an SSL client certificate.

SSL client certificate
Specify the path to the SSL client certificate file.

Create Certificate
Click to create a new self-signed SSL client certificate.

ASCII types

To change which files get transferred as ASCII, add and remove extensions from this list.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

3.4.1.2 Login

Protocol
Specify FTP or one of the secure FTP options: SSL or SSH.

Port
Override if you don't want to use the standard value for the specified protocol.

Host, **Username**, **Password**
Specify login parameters for your account.

Save password
Mark to weakly encrypt your password and store it along with other FTP profile settings.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

3.4.1.3 Server

Filenames are case sensitive
Mark to require filename character case to be the same in order to line up in the comparison.

Encoding

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Specify the character encoding the server uses for directory listings and commands.

Time zone
Specify the time zone of the server. Timestamps will be converted to local time automatically.

Custom login commands
Specify any additional commands to send to the server upon connection. Not supported by SFTP (SSH) connections.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

3.4.1.4 Connection

These settings control how the connection is made to the remote server.

Simultaneous connections
Specify the maximum number of concurrent connections (from 1 to 10) that Beyond Compare can create to this server.

Read timeout (seconds)
Specify the timeout for downloading files. The operation will fail if no bytes are received within this time.

Passive transfers (PASV)
Some firewall configurations require this setting, which modifies the methods used to transfer data back and forth between your computer and the FTP server. Not all FTP servers support PASV mode. If the connection hangs, try turning this on.

Limit ports used for active transfers (PORT)
Specify a range of ports that the FTP server will connect to when uploading/downloading files using active transfers (The **Passive transfers** checkbox is unmarked). Use this if you need to configure your firewall to allow incoming connections.

Use HOST before login
Controls whether the HOST command should be sent before sending the username and password to log in. This is required to connect to some virtual FTP hosts. Disable it if the connection is being dropped before the username is sent.

Clear control channel (SSL only)
After sending encrypted login details, control channel communication is unencrypted. Try turning this on if the initial SSL connection succeeds but file transfers or directory listings hang.

Clear data channel (SSL only)
Send file content and directory listings unencrypted. This can provide a speedup when transferring lots of files after sending encrypted login details.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

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3.4.1.5 Proxy

Use proxy
Mark if connections should use FTP Proxy protocol. If you are not on a Local Area Network (LAN) or Wide Area Network (WAN), leave this option unmarked.

Proxy type
Specify the type of firewall.

Host, **Port**, **Username**, **Password**
Specify login parameters for your firewall / proxy.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

3.4.1.6 Listings

Beyond Compare parses the plain text directory listings sent from the FTP server in order to determine the remote folder structure. Unfortunately, there is no one standard for these listings.

These settings help Beyond Compare understand the conventions and capabilities of the FTP server.

Link resolution

FTP sites can connect files together using symbolic "links" which point from one area of the site to another. These links do not specify whether they point to files or folders, so the following methods of resolving are available:

Fast
Mark to treat any link which has an extension (e.g. '.txt') as a file and all others as folders. This requires no extra transfers.

Simple
Mark to attempt to change folders into every link as it encounters it. If it succeeds the link is considered a folder, otherwise it is considered a file.

LIST options

Use MLSD command
Mark to request high-resolution timestamps from the server. If successful, the following settings are ignored. Soft links will be listed as plain files and folders, and listings won't be recursive.

Show hidden [-a]
Mark to make the FTP server include files that it wouldn't normally include, such as Unix filenames that begin with a period.

Force long format [-l]

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Mark to attempt to change the output of the FTP server list command. Try this option if Beyond Compare doesn't list any files when it loads.

Complete timestamps [-T]
Mark to expand the timestamps that the FTP server returns to include a full date and time, including seconds.

Resolve links [-L]
Mark to make the FTP server list soft links as plain files and folders with the timestamp and size of the link's target.

Recursive [-R]
Mark to make directory listings recursive, including contents of the subfolders in response to a single FTP list command. Recursive listings may be slower initially, but save time overall if subfolders will need to be examined eventually.

Miscellaneous settings

Hide VMS versions
Mark to only include the most recent version of a file and align it with a local file. Otherwise, all versions of the file are included with their version numbers.

Fetch incomplete timestamps
Mark to try to fetch the file's last modified time in cases where the directory listing only reports the date. This will provide more accurate timestamp comparisons at the cost of some performance. Not supported on all FTP servers.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

3.4.1.7 Transfer

These settings control how files are transferred to and from the FTP server.

Transfer type
FTP sites can transfer data in two ways: ASCII and Binary. ASCII is used to transfer text files which don't have any special characters. The FTP server will automatically make any adjustments to line endings needed in ASCII mode. ASCII mode also handles transfers from mainframes by converting from EBCDIC to ANSI and adding line terminators to the end of records. Binary is used to transfer all other files, including pictures, music, Word documents, etc. In Binary mode, no changes are made to the file during the transfer.

Setting the transfer type to either **ASCII** or **Binary** will force all files to transfer that way. If the transfer type is **Auto**, Beyond Compare will automatically switch back and forth based on the file's extension.

Copy timestamps on upload
Mark to force the remote timestamp to match the source timestamp. Only unmark if it causes problems with the server.

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Copy Unix permissions on upload
Mark to force the remote Unix permissions to match the source Unix permissions. Only unmark if it causes problems with the server.

Compress transfers (MODE Z)
Mark to use compression to speed up transfers when supported by the server. This may actually slow down transfers on fast connections.

Limit download (Kbps), **Limit upload (Kbps)**
Specify how much bandwidth Beyond Compare can consume for each connection.

Force faster uploads to older OpenSSH servers
Mark to use larger transfer buffers and pipelining on OpenSSH servers prior to OpenSSH 3.9. This can substantially increase transfer speed, but is not compatible with all servers, and failures may not be obvious. Use a binary content comparison to verify the first transfers you do after enabling this.

Note If you need help with the settings on this page, consult your system administrator.

3.4.2 Amazon S3 Profiles

Access key ID, **Secret access key**
Specify parameters for your account.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.4.3 Dropbox Profiles

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.4.4 Subversion Profiles

URL of repository, **Revision**
Specify parameters for your account.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.4.5 WebDAV Profiles

URL, **Username**, **Password**, **Recursive listings**
Specify parameters for your account.

The **Description** can include any text you want.

3.5 Source Control Integration

PRO

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You can associate folders with your SCC-compatible source control application so that Beyond Compare can offer check out and check in services.

3.6 Where Settings are Stored

Beyond Compare stores your sessions, customized file formats and other preferences as .xml files in its settings folder. A quick way of finding this location is to pick **Help > Support** and click the **Explore settings folder** link at the bottom of the dialog.

Standard installation

In Windows, the settings folder is inside your Application Data folder. The location depends on your version of Windows. For instance, under Windows Vista the settings folder is:

```
C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Roaming\Scooter Software\Beyond Compare 4
```

Notice that this location differs for different users on the same computer.

In Mac, the settings folder is:

```
~/Library/Application Support/Beyond Compare
```

If you want to install multiple major versions, you can rename this folder to:

```
~/Library/Application Support/Beyond Compare 4
```

In Linux, the settings folder is:

```
~/$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/bcompare
```

If $XDG_CONFIG_HOME is not defined, the settings folder is:

```
~/.config/bcompare
```

If an older version of Beyond Compare has been installed, the settings folder is:

```
~/.beyondcompare
```

If you want to install multiple major versions, you can append the major version to the settings folder name like this:

```
~/$XDG_CONFIG_HOME/bcompare4
```

Portable installation

If you prefer a more portable installation with the program and settings all in one location, you can copy your settings files to the same folder as the program. Portable installs allow you to share one set of settings for all users on a computer, or take your settings with

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you. If you don't have existing settings files to copy, you can create an empty file named `BCState.xml` in the folder.

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Commands Reference

This part of the documentation describes the commands available in menus and on the toolbar for each view type.

Commands that are common to all views

Home Commands

Folder Compare Commands

Folder Merge Commands PRO

Folder Sync Commands

Text Compare Commands

Text Merge Commands PRO

Table Compare Commands

Hex Compare Commands

MP3 Compare Commands

Picture Compare Commands

Registry Compare Commands PRO

Version Compare Commands

Text Edit Commands

Text Patch Commands

4.1 Common

The main menu changes depending on what kind of view is active. However, the commands listed below are common across different view types.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

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New Session	Opens a new view with an empty session of the specified type.
New Tab	Opens a new tab in the current window and displays the Home view.
New Window	Opens a new window and displays the Home view.
Open Session	Opens a new view and displays the Home view.
Load Workspace	Lists saved workspaces. Picking one closes any open views and restores the selected configuration.
Load Workspace > Manage Workspaces	Lets you rename or delete saved workspaces.
Save Workspace As	Saves the current configuration of windows and tabs as a named workspace.
Close Tab	Closes the current tab.
Exit	Quits Beyond Compare, prompting to save any edits. All of the instance's windows will close.

The Tools menu

Options	Opens the Options dialog to set program preferences.
File Formats	Opens the File Formats dialog to manage file format settings.
Profiles	Opens the Profiles dialog to manage profile settings.
Source Control Integration PRO	Opens the Source Control Integration dialog. Available in Windows version only.
Export Settings	Opens the Export Settings dialog to selectively save settings and sessions to a file.
Import Settings	Opens the Import Settings dialog to selectively load settings and sessions from a file.
Restore Factory Defaults	Opens the Restore Factory Defaults dialog to selectively reset settings to defaults.
Save Snapshot	Opens the Save Snapshot dialog to create a snapshot of a folder structure.
Edit Text File	Opens a new Text Edit view.

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View Patch	Opens a new Text Patch view.

The Help menu

Contents	Displays help contents.
Context Sensitive Help	Displays help contents page relevant to what you are focused on.
Scooter Software on the Web	Opens the Scooter Software website in your browser.
Check for Updates	Checks to see if a newer version of Beyond Compare is available.
Support	Opens the Support dialog which lists instructions for reporting problems.
Enter Key	Opens the Register dialog to accept your license key.
About Beyond Compare	Displays the About box with program version and license information.

4.2 Home

Following is a description of the Home commands, in addition to the common commands.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The View menu

Show Session Management	Shows or hides management panel.
Show Web Resources	Shows or hides web panel.

4.3 Folder Compare

Following is a description of the Folder Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

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Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Folder Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Folder Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right base folders.
Back	Goes back to (earlier) compared base folders.
Forward	Goes forward to (later) compared base folders.
Browse for Folder > Left Side / Right Side	Browses for an existing folder on the specified side.
Up One Level > Left Side / Right Side / Both Sides	Changes either or both base folders to their parent folders.
Folder Compare Report	Produces a Folder Compare report.
Folder Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Sync Base Folders	Opens a new Folder Sync session based on the current base folders.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the current base folders.

The Actions menu

Open Folder / Close Folder	Opens or closes the selected folder in the comparison.
Open Subfolders	Opens the selected folders and all their subfolders.
Close Subfolders *	Closes the selected folders and all their subfolders.
Set as Base Folder	Sets the selected folder as the base folder on its side of the comparison.
Set as Base on Other Side	Sets the selected folder as the base folder on the other side of the comparison.
Set as Base Folders	Sets the two selected folders as the left and right base folders in this comparison view. (To open them in a new view use **Open in New View** instead.)

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Open	Opens selected items in a new comparison view. If the items are files, the view type is determined by the file format list. If exactly two items are selected, they will be compared to each other (whether or not they are across from each other) in the new view. If only one item is selected it will be compared to the item across from it, if it exists.
Open With	Opens selected files in a new view using a specified type of file session, or opens the selected items in an external application, as defined in "Open With" Applications. Note that the Folder Compare view is not automatically updated if the items are modified by the external application.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens selected files with the associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens selected files with the built-in text editor.
Open With > Text Patch	Opens selected files with the built-in patch view.
Quick Compare	Displays the Quick Compare dialog for the selected files. If exactly two files are selected, they will be compared to each other (whether or not they are across from each other). If only one file is selected, it will be compared to the file across from it.
Compare To	Allows you to select one item, and then click on a second item to compare them in a new view.
Align PRO	Forces selected items to be side-by-side. Items' parent folders must be side-by-side.
Align With PRO	Allows you to select one item, and then click on a second item to force them to be side-by-side.
Compare Contents	Compares contents of the selected items using one of three methods.
Copy to Other Side	Dynamic command that copies selected files, folders to the opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Copy to Right**, **Copy to Left** or **Copy to Side** depending on which side(s) are selected.
Copy to Right / Copy to Left *	Copies selected files, folders to the explicitly indicated side. Normally associated with Ctrl+R, Ctrl+L keyboard shortcuts.
Copy to Side *	Prompts which side to copy selected files, folders to.
Move to Other Side	Dynamic command that moves selected files, folders to

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	the opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Move to Right**, **Move to Left** or **Move to Side** depending on which side(s) are selected.
Move to Right / Move to Left *	Moves selected files, folders to the explicitly indicated side.
Move to Side *	Prompts which side to move selected files, folders to.
Exchange *	Moves selected files, folders on both sides to the opposite side.
Copy to Folder	Copies selected files, folders to another folder.
Move to Folder	Moves selected files, folders to another folder.
Delete	Deletes selected files, folders.
Rename	Renames selected files, folders.
Attributes	Changes file attributes on selected files, folders.
Touch	Changes timestamps on selected files, folders.
Exclude	Excludes selected file, or type of file, from the current session.
New Folder	Creates a new folder.
Copy Filename	Copies a list of the selected items' paths to the clipboard.
Ignored	Suppresses differences in selected items.
Refresh Selection	Refreshes the selected items.
File Compare Report	Produces a File Compare report for the selected files.
Synchronize > Update Right	Copies newer and orphan items from left to right.
Synchronize > Update Left	Copies newer and orphan items from right to left.
Synchronize > Update Both	Performs a bidirectional update by copying newer and orphan items from left to right and from right to left.
Synchronize > Mirror to Right	Replaces all different items on right, deletes any right-side orphans, and copies any left-side orphans to the right.
Synchronize > Mirror to Left	Replaces all different items on left, deletes any left-side orphans, and copies any right-side orphans to the left.

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Source Control PRO	Displays a submenu of source control actions (see below). Only appears if a source control provider has been configured and all selected items are under source control.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the selected item(s).

Source Control Submenu PRO

Add to Source Control	Adds the file to the project.
Remove from Source Control	Removes the file from the project.
Get Latest Version	Gets the latest version from the source control repository.
Get *	Gets a particular version from the source control repository.
Check In	Takes your changes and applies them to the project.
Check Out	Checks the file out from the source control repository and makes your local copy writable.
Undo Check Out	Removes any changes you have made to the local copy and sets it back to read-only.
Show Differences	Tells the version control system to display the comparison of the file with the one in version control. The version control system will only use Beyond Compare if it is set up to do so.
Show History	Shows the history of the file in the version control system.
Show Properties	Shows version control-specific properties.
Run Source Control Application	Runs the source control application.

The Edit menu

Expand All	Opens all folders in view.
Collapse All	Closes all folders in view.
Select All	Selects all visible items.

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Select All Files	Selects all visible files.
Select Newer > Left Side / Right Side / Both Sides	Selects all visible files that are newer on the specified side.
Select Orphans > Left Side / Right Side / Both Sides	Selects all visible orphan files on the specified side.
Invert Selection	Selects all items not currently selected, and deselects all items currently selected.
Refresh	Refreshes open folders.
Full Refresh	Refreshes entire comparison.

The Search menu

Next Difference	Positions at next difference.
Previous Difference	Positions at previous difference.
Find Filename	Finds filename matching search string.
Find Next Filename	Finds next filename matching search string.
Find Previous Filename	Finds previous filename matching search string.

The View menu

Show All	Uses no display filter on either side.
Show Differences	Filters out matches, based on file status, from both sides.
Show Same	Filters out older, newer or different, and orphans from both sides.
Show No Orphans	Filters out orphans from both sides.
Show Differences but No Orphans	Filters out matches and orphans from both sides.
Show Orphans	Filters out matches, older, and newer or different from both sides.
Show Left Newer	Filters out matches, orphans, older on left (newer or different on right) from both sides.

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Show Right Newer	Filters out matches, orphans, newer or different on left (older on right) from both sides.
Show Left Newer and Left Orphans	Filters out matches and older on left (newer or different on right) from both sides and orphans on the right side.
Show Right Newer and Right Orphans	Filters out matches and newer or different on left (older on right) from both sides and orphans from the left side.
Show Left Orphans	Filters out matches, older, and newer or different from both sides and orphans on the right side.
Show Right Orphans	Filters out matches, older, and newer or different from both sides and orphans on the left side.
Show None *	Hides all files. Useful in conjunction with **Always Show Folders** to copy folder structures.
Always Show Folders	Shows all folders, except those excluded by file filters.
Compare Files and Folder Structure	Shows folders containing files or folders that match the current display filter. Orphan folders will follow the same filtering rules as orphan files.
Compare Files Only	Shows only folders containing files to be shown.
Ignore Folder Structure	Compares filenames regardless of which subfolder they may be in. (Also called *Flatten Folders*.)
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Suppress Filters	Temporarily suppresses file filters and display filters.
Columns	Shows or hides view columns.
Legend	Displays a window that lists what the different folder colors mean.
Log	Shows or hides the log panel.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.4 Folder Merge

PRO

Following is a description of the Folder Merge commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

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Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Folder Merge Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Folder Merge.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right base folders.
Back	Goes back to (earlier) compared base folders.
Forward	Goes forward to (later) compared base folders.
Browse for Folder > Left Side / Center Side / Right Side / Output Side	Browses for an existing folder on the specified side.
Up One Level > Left Side / Center Side / Right Side / Output Side / All Sides	Changes specified base folders to their parent folders.
Compare to Output > Left Side / Center Side / Right Side	Opens the base folder on the indicated side and the output base folder in a new Folder Compare session.
Merge Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Merge session based on the parent folders of the current base folders.

The Actions menu

Open Folder / Close Folder	Opens or closes the selected folder in the comparison.
Open Subfolders	Opens the selected folders and all their subfolders.
Close Subfolders *	Closes the selected folders and all their subfolders.
Set as Base Folder	Sets the selected folder as the base folder on its side of the comparison.
Set as Base Folders	Sets the two or three selected folders as the left and right or left, right and center base folders in this comparison view. (To open them in a new view use **Open in New View** instead.)

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Open	Opens selected items in a new comparison view. If the items are files, the view type is determined by the file format list. If exactly two items are selected, they will be compared to each other (whether or not they are across from each other) in the new view. If only one item is selected it will be compared to the item across from it, if it exists.
Open With	Opens selected files in a new view using a specified type of file session, or opens the selected items in an external application, as defined in "Open With" Applications. Note that the Folder Merge view is not automatically updated if the items are modified by the external application.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens selected files with the associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens selected files with the built-in text editor.
Open With > Text Patch	Opens selected files with the built-in patch view.
Quick Compare	Displays the Quick Compare dialog for the selected files. If exactly two files are selected, they will be compared to each other (whether or not they are across from each other). If only one file is selected, it will be compared to the file across from it.
Compare To	Allows you to select one item, and then click on a second item to compare them in a new view.
Compare Contents	Compares contents of the selected items using one of three methods.
Merge	Performs automated merge of selected items.
Copy to Other Side	Dynamic command that copies selected files, folders to the opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Copy to Right**, **Copy to Left** or **Copy to Side** depending on which side(s) are selected.
Copy to Right / Copy to Left *	Copies selected files, folders to the explicitly indicated side. Normally associated with Ctrl+R, Ctrl+L keyboard shortcuts.
Copy to Side *	Prompts which side to copy selected files, folders to.
Copy to Output	Copies selected files, folders to the output folder.
Delete	Deletes selected files, folders.
Rename	Renames selected files, folders.

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Attributes	Changes file attributes on selected files, folders.
Touch	Changes timestamps on selected files, folders.
Exclude	Excludes selected file, or type of file, from the current session.
New Folder	Creates a new folder.
Copy Filename	Copies a list of the selected items' paths to the clipboard.
Ignored	Suppresses differences in selected items.
Refresh Selection	Refreshes the selected items.
Source Control PRO	Displays a submenu of source control actions (see below). Only appears if a source control provider has been configured and all selected items are under source control.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the selected item(s).

Source Control Submenu PRO

Add to Source Control	Adds the file to the project.
Remove from Source Control	Removes the file from the project.
Get Latest Version	Gets the latest version from the source control repository.
Get *	Gets a particular version from the source control repository.
Check In	Takes your changes and applies them to the project.
Check Out	Checks the file out from the source control repository and makes your local copy writable.
Undo Check Out	Removes any changes you have made to the local copy and sets it back to read-only.
Show Differences	Tells the version control system to display the comparison of the file with the one in version control. The version control system will only use Beyond Compare if it is set up to do so.

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Show History	Shows the history of the file in the version control system.
Show Properties	Shows version control-specific properties.
Run Source Control Application	Runs the source control application.

The Edit menu

Expand All	Opens all folders in view.
Collapse All	Closes all folders in view.
Select All	Selects all visible items.
Select All Files	Selects all visible files.
Select Newer > Left Side / Right Side / Both Sides	Selects all visible files that are newer on the specified side.
Select Orphans > Left Side / Right Side / Both Sides	Selects all visible orphan files on the specified side.
Invert Selection	Selects all items not currently selected, and deselects all items currently selected.
Refresh	Refreshes open folders.
Full Refresh	Refreshes entire comparison.

The Search menu

Next Difference	Positions at next difference.
Previous Difference	Positions at previous difference.
Find Filename	Finds filename matching search string.
Find Next Filename	Finds next filename matching search string.
Find Previous Filename	Finds previous filename matching search string.

The View menu

Show All	Uses no display filter on either side.

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Show Changes	Shows left add, right add, left delete, right delete, left change, right change and conflict items.
Show Conflicts	Shows conflict items.
Show Left Changes	Shows left add, left delete, and left change items.
Show Right Changes	Shows right add, right delete, and right change items.
Show Mergeable	Shows same change and difference change items.
Show Unchanged	Shows unchanged items.
Show None *	Hides all files. Useful in conjunction with **Always Show Folders** to copy folder structures.
Always Show Folders	Shows all folders, except those excluded by file filters.
Compare Files and Folder Structure	Shows folders containing files or folders that match the current display filter. Orphan folders will follow the same filtering rules as orphan files.
Compare Files Only	Shows only folders containing files to be shown.
Ignore Folder Structure	Compares filenames regardless of which subfolder they may be in. (Also called *Flatten Folders*.)
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Suppress Filters	Temporarily suppresses file filters and display filters.
Center Pane	Shows or hides the center pane.
Columns	Shows or hides view columns.
Legend	Displays a window that lists what the different folder colors mean.
Log	Shows or hides the log panel.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.5 Folder Sync

Following is a description of the Folder Sync commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools** > **Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own

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keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Folder Sync Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Folder Sync.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right base folders.
Folder Sync Info	Displays sync statistics.
Run Sync	Performs all sync actions.
Compare Base Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the current base folders.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the current base folders.

The Actions menu

Leave Alone	Changes sync operation to leave alone.
Copy Right to Left	Changes sync operation to copy right to left.
Copy Left to Right	Changes sync operation to copy left to right.
Delete Left	Changes sync operation to delete left.
Delete Right	Changes sync operation to delete right.
Open Folder / Close Folder	Opens or closes the selected folder in the comparison.
Open Subfolders	Opens the selected folders and all their subfolders.
Close Subfolders *	Closes the selected folders and all their subfolders.
Set as Base Folder	Sets the selected folder as the base folder on its side of the comparison.
Set as Base on Other Side	Sets the selected folder as the base folder on the other

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	side of the comparison.
Set as Base Folders	Sets the two selected folders as the left and right base folders in this comparison view. (To open them in a new view use **Open in New View** instead.)
Open	Opens selected items in a new comparison view. If the items are files, the view type is determined by the file format list. If exactly two items are selected, they will be compared to each other (whether or not they are across from each other) in the new view. If only one item is selected it will be compared to the item across from it, if it exists.
Open With	Opens selected files in a new view using a specified type of file session, or opens the selected items in an external application, as defined in "Open With" Applications. Note that the Folder Sync view is not automatically updated if the items are modified by the external application.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens selected files with the associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens selected files with the built-in text editor.
Open With > Text Patch	Opens selected files with the built-in patch view.
Exclude	Excludes selected file, or type of file, from the current session.
Copy Filename	Copies a list of the selected items' paths to the clipboard.
Refresh Selection	Refreshes the selected items.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the selected item(s).

The Edit menu

Expand All	Opens all folders in view.
Collapse All	Closes all folders in view.
Select All	Selects all visible items.
Invert Selection	Selects all items not currently selected, and deselects all items currently selected.

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Refresh	Refreshes open folders.
Full Refresh	Refreshes entire comparison.

The Search menu

Next Conflict	Positions at next conflict.
Previous Conflict	Positions at previous conflict.
Find Filename	Finds filename matching search string.
Find Next Filename	Finds next filename matching search string.
Find Previous Filename	Finds previous filename matching search string.

The View menu

Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Suppress Filters	Temporarily shows items that will not be affected by the sync.
Columns	Shows or hides view columns.
Legend	Displays a window that lists what the different folder colors mean.
Log	Shows or hides the log panel.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

4.6 Text Compare

Following is a description of the Text Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.

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Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Text Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Text Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files, prompting to save first if necessary.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files, preserving edits, but not undoability.
Text Compare Report	Produces the Text Compare report.
Text Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Merge Files PRO	Opens a new Text Merge session based on the currently loaded files.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open Clipboard	Loads the Clipboard contents into the picked pane.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in text editor.

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Open With > Text Patch	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in patch view.
Save File	Saves the modified file from the picked pane.
Save File As	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name.
Save File on File System As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name on the file system.
Save File Using Profile As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name using a profile.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.
Check In PRO	Appears if a source control provider has been configured and the file is under source control.
Check Out PRO	
Undo Check Out PRO	

The Edit menu

Undo	Undoes previous action.
Redo	Redoes previously undone action.
Align With	Allows you to select one or more lines, and then click on a line on the other side to force them to be side-by-side.
Isolate	Realigns comparison so that selected lines are by themselves.
Replacement PRO	Adds item to the replacement list based on the current difference.
Copy to Right / Copy to Left *	Copies selected lines or current section to indicated side.
Copy to Other Side	Copies selected lines or current section to opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Copy to Right** or **Copy to Left** depending on the current side.
Copy Line to Right / Copy Line to Left *	Copies current line to indicated side.
Copy Line to Other Side	Copies current line to other side. The caption and icon

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	appear as **Copy Line to Right** or **Copy Line to Left** depending on the current side.
Increase Indent	Increases indentation of selected lines.
Decrease Indent	Decreases indentation of selected lines.
Cut / Copy / Paste / Delete	Standard editing commands.
Delete Line *	Deletes the current line.
Delete to Start of Line *	Deletes text from the current position to the beginning of the line.
Delete to End of Line *	Deletes text from the current position to the end of the line.
Delete Word *	Deletes the word at the current position.
Delete to Start of Word *	Deletes from the current position to the beginning of the word.
Delete to End of Word *	Deletes from the current position to the end of the word.
Insert Line Before *	Inserts a new blank line before the current line.
Insert Line After *	Inserts a new blank line after the current line.
Select All	Selects all visible lines in the current pane.
Select Section	Selects all lines in the current section.
Compare Selection to Clipboard	Compares the selected text with the contents of the clipboard in a new view.
Convert File > Trim Trailing Whitespace	Strips off spaces and tab characters at end of lines.
Convert File > Leading Spaces to Tabs	Replaces spaces at the beginning of lines with the appropriate number of tab characters (based on current tab stop setting).
Convert File > Tabs To Spaces	Replaces all tab characters with the appropriate number of space characters (based on current tab stop setting).
Convert File > Line Endings	Changes the line ending style on all lines.
Full Edit	Toggles between full character mode editing (marked) and Beyond Compare 2-like line mode (unmarked) in the main file panes.

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The Search menu

Next Difference	Positions at next difference text.
Previous Difference	Positions at previous difference text.
Next Difference Section	Positions at next difference section.
Previous Difference Section	Positions at previous difference section.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Next Replacement PRO	Positions at next replacement text.
Previous Replacement PRO	Positions at previous replacement text.
Next Edit	Positions at the next edited line beyond the cursor.
Previous Edit	Positions at previous edited line before the cursor.
Find	Searches for matching text.
Replace	Replaces matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.
Go To	Positions at specified line and column.
Toggle Bookmark	Places a numbered marker on the current line of the comparison, numbered from 0 to 9.
Go To Bookmark	Repositions at the specified bookmark.
Clear Bookmarks	Removes all bookmarks from the comparison.

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The View menu

Show All	Shows all lines, with or without differences.
Show Differences	Shows only lines with differences.
Show Same	Shows only lines without differences.
Show None *	Hides all lines.
Show Context	Shows lines surrounding differences. The number of context lines can be set in Text View Options.
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Ignored	Suppresses differences in selected lines or current section.
Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Line Numbers	Shows or hides line numbers.
Syntax Highlighting	Shows or hides syntax highlighting.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use in editor panes.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges editor panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges editor panes above and below each other.
Webpages	Shows or hides web browser panels that display the current files as webpages.
Thumbnail	Shows or hides the thumbnail summary of changes at left of view.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
Hex Details	Shows or hides the hexadecimal details panel at bottom of view.
Alignment Details	Shows or hides the alignment details panel at bottom of view.
Ruler	Shows or hides the line details ruler.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of editor panes.

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Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.7 Text Merge

PRO

Following is a description of the Text Merge commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Text Merge Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Text Merge.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files, prompting to save first if necessary.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files, preserving edits, but not undoability.
Text Merge Info	Displays merge statistics.
Compare to Output > Left Side / Center Side / Right Side	Opens the file on the indicated side and the output file in a new Text Compare session.
Merge Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Merge session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.

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Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open Clipboard	Loads the Clipboard contents into the picked pane.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in text editor.
Open With > Text Patch	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in patch view.
Save File	Saves the modified file from the picked pane.
Save File As	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name.
Save File on File System As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name on the file system.
Save File Using Profile As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name using a profile.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Undo	Undoes previous action.
Redo	Redoes previously undone action.
Align With	Allows you to select one line, and then click on a second line to force them to be side-by-side.
Isolate	Realigns comparison so that selected lines are by themselves.
Conflict	Clears or sets conflict for selected lines or current section.
Take Left / Take Center / Take Right	Takes selected lines or current section from indicated side.

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Take Left Then Right / Take Right Then Left	Takes selected lines or current section from left and right in the indicated order.
Take Left Line / Take Center Line / Take Right Line	Takes current line from indicated side.
Increase Indent	Increases indentation of selected lines.
Decrease Indent	Decreases indentation of selected lines.
Cut / Copy / Paste / Delete	Standard editing commands.
Delete Line *	Deletes the current line.
Delete to Start of Line *	Deletes text from the current position to the beginning of the line.
Delete to End of Line *	Deletes text from the current position to the end of the line.
Delete Word *	Deletes the word at the current position.
Delete to Start of Word *	Deletes from the current position to the beginning of the word.
Delete to End of Word *	Deletes from the current position to the end of the word.
Insert Line Before *	Inserts a new blank line before the current line.
Insert Line After *	Inserts a new blank line after the current line.
Select All	Selects all visible lines in the current pane.
Select Section	Selects all lines in the current section.
Compare Selection to Clipboard	Compares the selected text with the contents of the clipboard in a new view.
Full Edit	Toggles between full character mode editing (marked) and Beyond Compare 2-like line mode (unmarked) in the main file panes.

The Search menu

Clear Conflict Section, Next	Clears conflict for current section and positions at next conflict section.
Next Conflict Section	Positions at next conflict section.

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Previous Conflict Section	Positions at previous conflict section.
Next Difference	Positions at next difference text.
Previous Difference	Positions at previous difference text.
Next Difference Section	Positions at next difference section.
Previous Difference Section	Positions at previous difference section.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Take Left File and Open Next Difference	Takes the entire left-side file and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Take Right File and Open Next Difference	Takes the entire right-side file and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Next Left Taken / Next Right Taken	Positions at next range of lines where indicated side was taken.
Previous Left Taken / Previous Right Taken	Positions at previous range of lines where indicated side was taken.
Next Edit	Positions at the next edited line beyond the cursor.
Previous Edit	Positions at previous edited line before the cursor.
Find	Searches for matching text.
Replace	Replaces matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.
Go To	Positions at specified line and column.
Toggle Bookmark	Places a numbered marker on the current line of the comparison, numbered from 0 to 9.
Go To Bookmark	Repositions at the specified bookmark.
Clear Bookmarks	Removes all bookmarks from the comparison.

The View menu

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Show All	Shows unchanged, same change, left change, right change, different change and conflict lines.
Show Changes	Shows same change, left change, right change, different change and conflict lines.
Show Conflicts	Shows conflict lines.
Show Left Changes	Shows same change, left change, different change and conflict lines.
Show Right Changes	Shows same change, right change, different change and conflict lines.
Show Mergeable	Shows same change, left change, right change, and different change lines.
Show Unchanged	Shows unchanged lines.
Show None *	Shows no lines.
Show Context	Shows lines surrounding differences. The number of context lines can be set in Text View Options.
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Ignore Same Changes	Treats same changes as same.
Favor Left Changes	Suppresses highlighting of left-only changes in output.
Favor Right Changes	Suppresses highlighting of right-only changes in output.
Ignored	Ignores (or unignores) differences in selected lines or current section.
Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Line Numbers	Shows or hides line numbers.
Syntax Highlighting	Shows or hides syntax highlighting.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use in editor panes.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges editor panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges editor panes above and below each other.
Detached Output Pane	Shows output pane in separate window.
Webpages	Shows or hides web browser panels that display the current files as webpages.

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Thumbnail	Shows or hides the thumbnail summary of changes at left of view.
Center Pane	Shows or hides center pane.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
Hex Details	Shows or hides the hexadecimal details panel at bottom of view.
Ruler	Shows or hides the line details ruler.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of editor panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.8 Table Compare

Following is a description of the Table Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Table Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Table Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files, prompting to save first if necessary.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files, preserving edits, but not undoability.

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Table Compare Report	Produces the Table Compare report.
Table Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open Clipboard	Loads the Clipboard contents into the picked pane.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in text editor.
Save File	Saves the modified file from the picked pane.
Save File As	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name.
Save File on File System As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name on the file system.
Save File Using Profile As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name using a profile.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Undo	Undoes previous action.

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Redo	Redoes previously undone action.
Copy to Right / Copy to Left *	Copies selected rows to indicated side.
Copy to Other Side	Copies selected rows to opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Copy to Right** or **Copy to Left** depending on the current side.
Cut / Copy / Paste / Delete	Standard editing commands.
Insert	Inserts new row.
Edit	Toggles edit mode on current cell.
Select All	Selects all visible rows in the current pane.

The Search menu

Next Difference Row	Positions at next difference row.
Previous Difference Row	Positions at previous difference row.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Next Edit	Positions at the next edited row beyond the cursor.
Previous Edit	Positions at previous edited row before the cursor.
Find	Searches for matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.
Go To	Positions at specified row and column.

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The View menu

Show All	Shows all rows, with or without differences.
Show Differences	Shows only rows with differences.
Show Same	Shows only rows without differences.
Show None *	Hides all rows.
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Resize Columns to Fit	Makes columns wide enough for data to be fully visible.
Columns	Shows or hides columns.
Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Row Numbers	Shows or hides row numbers.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use to display file data.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges panes above and below each other.
Thumbnail	Shows or hides the thumbnail summary of changes at left of view.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.9 Hex Compare

Following is a description of the Hex Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

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Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Hex Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Hex Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files, prompting to save first if necessary.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files, preserving edits, but not undoability.
Hex Compare Report	Produces the Hex Compare report.
Hex Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open Clipboard	Loads the Clipboard contents into the picked pane.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in text editor.
Save File	Saves the modified file from the picked pane.

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Save File As	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name.
Save File on File System As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name on the file system.
Save File Using Profile As *	Saves the file from the picked pane with a new name using a profile.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Undo	Undoes previous action.
Redo	Redoes previously undone action.
Copy to Right / Copy to Left *	Copies selected bytes to indicated side.
Copy to Other Side	Copies selected bytes to opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Copy to Right** or **Copy to Left** depending on the current side.
Cut / Copy / Paste / Delete	Standard editing commands.
Select All	Selects all visible bytes in the current pane.

The Search menu

Next Difference Bytes	Positions at next difference bytes.
Previous Difference Bytes	Positions at previous difference bytes.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)

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Find	Searches for matching text.
Replace	Replaces matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.
Go To	Positions at specified byte.

The View menu

Show All	Shows all bytes, with or without differences.
Show Differences	Shows only bytes with differences.
Show Same	Shows only bytes without differences.
Current Byte Address	Shows current byte address.
Little Endian Values	Lists values treating the first byte as the least significant one.
Big Endian Values	Lists values treating the first byte as the most significant one.
Byte Addresses	Shows or hides byte addresses.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use to display file data.
Layout	Configures layout options.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges panes above and below each other.
Thumbnail	Shows or hides the thumbnail summary of changes at left of view.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

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4.10 MP3 Compare

Following is a description of the MP3 Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the MP3 Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty MP3 Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files without reloading.
MP3 Compare Report	Produces the MP3 Compare report.
MP3 Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Play Both	Plays both audio tracks.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.

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Play	Plays audio track.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Copy	Copies selection to the Clipboard.
Select All	Selects all visible items in the current pane.

The Search menu

Next Difference Item	Positions at next difference item.
Previous Difference Item	Positions at previous difference item.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Find	Searches for matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.

The View menu

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Show All	Shows all items, with or without differences.
Show Differences	Shows only items with differences.
Show Same	Shows only items without differences.
Show None *	Hides all items.
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Item Is Important	Marks selected item as important or unimportant.
Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use to display file data.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges panes above and below each other.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.11 Picture Compare

Following is a description of the Picture Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Picture Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.

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Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Picture Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files without reloading.
Picture Compare Report	Produces the Picture Compare report.
Picture Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open Clipboard	Loads the Clipboard contents into the picked pane.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Copy	Copies selection to the Clipboard.

The Search menu

Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with

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	differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)

The View menu

Tolerance Mode	Detects pixel differences greater than configurable tolerance.
Mismatch Range Mode	Measures degree of pixel difference.
Blend Mode	Blends pictures based on configurable percentage.
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Auto Scale	Forces pictures to have same height or width.
Rotate Clockwise	Spins current picture to right by 90 degrees.
Rotate Counterclockwise	Spins current picture to left by 90 degrees.
Flip Horizontally	Swaps pixels of current picture relative to its horizontal center.
Flip Vertically	Swaps pixels of current picture relative to its vertical center.
Reset Difference Offset	Realigns top left corner of both pictures.
Blend Toggle	Switches between left and right pictures.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of panes.
Full Screen	Displays the picked pane full screen. Press ESC to exit full screen mode.
Zoom > Zoom In	Makes pictures appear to be larger.
Zoom > Zoom Out	Makes pictures appear to be smaller.

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Zoom > Actual Size	Makes pictures appear at actual size.
Zoom > Fit to Window	Makes pictures appear to fill panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.12 Registry Compare

PRO

Following is a description of the Registry Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Registry Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.
Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Registry Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right registries.
Up One Level > Left Side / Right Side / Both Sides	Changes either or both base keys to their parent keys.
Reload	Reloads the displayed registries.
Recompare	Recompares the displayed registries without reloading.
Registry Compare Report	Produces the Registry Compare report.
Registry Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the

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	parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open	Opens a registry into the picked pane.
Open Registry *	Opens a live registry into the picked pane.
Open Registry File on File System *	Opens an existing local registry file into the picked pane.
Open Registry File Using Profile *	Opens an existing registry file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Open With > Text Edit	Opens the picked pane's file with the built-in text editor.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Set as Base Keys	Sets selected keys as base keys.
Set Both as Base Keys	Sets selected key and key on other side as base keys.
Set as Base Key on Other Side	Sets selected key as base key on other side.
Undo	Undoes previous action.
Redo	Redoes previously undone action.
Copy to Right / Copy to Left *	Copies selected items to indicated side.
Copy to Other Side	Copies selected items to opposite side. The caption and icon appear as **Copy to Right** or **Copy to Left** depending on the current side.
Copy	Copies selection to the Clipboard.
Delete	Deletes selected items.

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Rename	Renames current item.
New Key	Adds a new key.
New Value	Adds a new value.
Modify	Modifies current value.
Copy Key Name	Copies current key's name to Clipboard.
Export	Saves current key as registry file.
Export All	Saves all keys as registry file.
Select All	Selects all visible items in the current pane.

The Search menu

Next Difference Item	Positions at next difference item.
Previous Difference Item	Positions at previous difference item.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Find	Searches for matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.

The View menu

Show All	Shows all items, with or without differences.
Show Differences	Shows only items with differences.

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Show Same	Shows only items without differences.
Show None *	Hides all items.
Expand All	Opens all items.
Collapse All	Closes all items.
Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use to display file data.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges panes above and below each other.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
Hex Details	Shows or hides the hexadecimal details panel at bottom of view.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.13 Version Compare

Following is a description of the Version Compare commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The Session menu

Save Session	Saves the current session.
Save Session As	Saves the current session under a new name.
Session Settings	Opens the Version Compare Session Settings dialog.
Locked	Locks or unlocks current session.

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Clear Session	Replaces the current view with an empty Version Compare.
Swap Sides	Exchanges the left and right files.
Reload Files	Reloads the displayed files.
Recompare Files	Recompares the displayed files without reloading.
Version Compare Report	Produces the Version Compare report.
Version Compare Info	Displays comparison statistics.
Compare Files Using	Opens the displayed files in a new session using a different class of file view.
Compare Parent Folders	Opens a new Folder Compare session based on the parent folders of the currently loaded files.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file into the picked pane.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file into the picked pane.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file into the picked pane using a profile.
Open With	Opens the picked pane's file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the picked pane's file with its associated application.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file in the picked pane.

The Edit menu

Copy	Copies selection to the Clipboard.
Select All	Selects all visible items in the current pane.

The Search menu

Next Difference Item	Positions at next difference item.

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Previous Difference Item	Positions at previous difference item.
Next Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's next pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Previous Difference Files	Opens the parent folder session's previous pair of files with differences. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Right and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire left-side file to the right and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Copy File to Left and Open Next Difference	Copies the entire right-side file to the left and opens the folder session's next different files. (Child sessions only.)
Find	Searches for matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.

The View menu

Show All	Shows all items, with or without differences.
Show Differences	Shows only items with differences.
Show Same	Shows only items without differences.
Show None *	Hides all items.
Ignore Unimportant Differences	Treats unimportant differences as same.
Item Is Important	Marks selected item as important or unimportant.
Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use to display file data.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges panes above and below each other.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of panes.

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Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.14 Text Edit

Following is a description of the Text Edit commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

The File menu

Open File	Opens an existing file.
Open File on File System *	Opens an existing local file.
Open File Using Profile *	Opens an existing file using a profile.
Open With	Opens the file in one of the external Open With applications.
Open With > Associated Application	Opens the file with its associated application.
Open With > Text Patch	Opens the file with the built-in patch view.
Save File	Saves the modified file.
Save File As	Saves the file with a new name.
Save File on File System As *	Saves the file with a new name on the file system.
Save File Using Profile As *	Saves the file with a new name using a profile.
Explorer	Displays the file manager's context menu for the file.
Check In PRO	Appears if a source control provider has been configured and the file is under source control.
Check Out PRO	
Undo Check Out PRO	

The Edit menu

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Undo	Undoes previous action.
Redo	Redoes previously undone action.
Increase Indent	Increases indentation of selected lines.
Decrease Indent	Decreases indentation of selected lines.
Cut / Copy / Paste / Delete	Standard editing commands.
Delete Line *	Deletes the current line.
Delete to Start of Line *	Deletes text from the current position to the beginning of the line.
Delete to End of Line *	Deletes text from the current position to the end of the line.
Delete Word *	Deletes the word at the current position.
Delete to Start of Word *	Deletes from the current position to the beginning of the word.
Delete to End of Word *	Deletes from the current position to the end of the word.
Insert Line Before *	Inserts a new blank line before the current line.
Insert Line After *	Inserts a new blank line after the current line.
Select All	Selects all visible lines.
Convert File > Trim Trailing Whitespace	Strips off spaces and tab characters at end of lines.
Convert File > Leading Spaces to Tabs	Replaces spaces at the beginning of lines with the appropriate number of tab characters (based on current tab stop setting).
Convert File > Tabs To Spaces	Replaces all tab characters with the appropriate number of space characters (based on current tab stop setting).
Convert File > Line Endings	Changes the line ending style on all lines.

The Search menu

Next Edit	Positions at the next edited line beyond the cursor.
Previous Edit	Positions at previous edited line before the cursor.

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Find	Searches for matching text.
Replace	Replaces matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.
Find in Files	Finds search string in multiple files.
Go To	Positions at specified line and column.
Toggle Bookmark	Places a numbered marker on the current line of the comparison, numbered from 0 to 9.
Go To Bookmark	Repositions at the specified bookmark.
Clear Bookmarks	Removes all bookmarks from the comparison.

The View menu

Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Line Numbers	Shows or hides line numbers.
Syntax Highlighting	Shows or hides syntax highlighting.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use in editor pane.
Webpages	Shows or hides web browser panel that displays the current file as a webpage.
File Info	Shows or hides file information panels at the top of editor panes.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

4.15 Text Patch

Following is a description of the Text Patch commands, in addition to the common commands. Most of these commands are available as toolbar buttons.

Pick **Tools > Options** and switch to the Toolbars, etc. page to define your own keyboard shortcuts, and hide or expose commands on the menus and toolbars.

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The Edit menu

Copy	Copies selection to the Clipboard.
Select All	Selects all visible lines in the current pane.
Select Section	Selects all lines in the current section.

The Search menu

Next Difference	Positions at next difference text.
Previous Difference	Positions at previous difference text.
Next Difference Section	Positions at next difference section.
Previous Difference Section	Positions at previous difference section.
Find	Searches for matching text.
Find Next	Finds next occurrence of search string.
Find Previous	Finds previous occurrence of search string.
Go To	Positions at specified line and column.
Toggle Bookmark	Places a numbered marker on the current line of the comparison, numbered from 0 to 9.
Go To Bookmark	Repositions at the specified bookmark.
Clear Bookmarks	Removes all bookmarks from the comparison.

The View menu

Visible Whitespace	Shows or hides visible spaces, tabs.
Line Numbers	Shows or hides line numbers.
Syntax Highlighting	Shows or hides syntax highlighting.
Display Font *	Selects the font to use in editor panes.
Side-by-side Layout	Arranges editor panes left and right of each other.
Over-under Layout	Arranges editor panes above and below each other.

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Thumbnail	Shows or hides the thumbnail summary of changes at left of view.
Text Details	Shows or hides the text details panel at bottom of view.
Hex Details	Shows or hides the hexadecimal details panel at bottom of view.
Alignment Details	Shows or hides the alignment details panel at bottom of view.
Ruler	Shows or hides the line details ruler.
Toolbar	Shows or hides the toolbar.

* Hidden by default.

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Command Line Reference

Command line executable files

Executable	Meaning
BCompare.exe bcompare	This is the main application. Only one copy will run at a time, regardless of how many windows you have open. If you launch a second copy it will tell the existing copy to start a comparison and exit immediately.
BComp.exe	This is a Win32 GUI program. If launched from a version control system, it should work just fine. If launched from a console window, the console (or batch file) will not wait for it.
BComp.com	This is a Win32 console program. It has to have a console. If you launch it from one (or a batch file) that console will wait for the comparison to complete before returning. If you launch it from a version control system interactively, it will show a console window while it's waiting.
bcomp	Launch this program from a version control system because it will wait for the comparison to complete before returning.

Command line parameters

Notice that each parameter should be enclosed in quotation marks if it might contain a space.

Note Mac and Linux users should use "bcompare" instead of "BCompare.exe".

Parameter	Meaning
Named Session	Opens the specified session in the appropriate view. For example:

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	`BCompare.exe "My Session"`
Named Workspace	Opens the specified saved workspace. (see also Managing Workspaces) For example: `BCompare.exe "My Special Workspace"`
Pair of folders	Opens a new Folder Compare view with the specified base folders. For example: `BCompare.exe "C:\Left Folder" "C:\Right Folder"`
Pair of files	Opens the specified files in the associated file view. For example: `BCompare.exe "C:\Left File.ext" "C:\Right File.ext"`
3 files PRO	Opens a Text Merge view with the specified files in the left, right, and center panes. For example: `BCompare.exe C:\Left.ext C:\Right.ext C:\Center.ext`
4 files PRO	Opens a Text Merge view with the specified files in the left, right, center, and output panes. For example: `BCompare.exe C:\Left.ext C:\Right.ext C:\Center.ext C:\Output.ext`
Script file	Automatically executes a list of commands without using a view. For example: `BCompare.exe "@C:\My Script.txt"`
-	Opens stdin in the appropriate view. For example: `dir | BCompare.exe -`

Command line switches

Note Mac and Linux users should prefix the switches with "-" instead of "/".

Switch	Meaning
`/?, /h, /help`	Opens the help file to the "Command Line Reference" page. Writes usage information to the console.
`/automerge` PRO	Automatically merges files without user interaction unless conflicts are found.
`/bds <filename>`	Prompts to compare against previous revisions available in the CodeGear RAD Studio/Borland Developer Studio "__history" folders. Add to the IDE Tools menu with "/BDS $SAVE $EDNAME" as the parameters,

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	or use the Beyond Compare IDE Expert from JED Software, available at www.jed-software.com.
/closescript	Closes the script window on completion. Overrides the **Close when finished** setting in **Tools > Options > Tweaks > Scripts**.
/edit	Opens a Text Edit view.
/expandall	Expands all subfolders during the initial folder comparison.
/favorleft /favorright PRO	Draws non-conflicting changes in the output from the "favored" side without coloring or section lines. For ignored unimportant conflicts, changes are automatically taken from the "favored" side instead of the center.
/filters=<file masks>	Uses the specified name filter for the initial folder comparison. Separate multiple file masks with semi-colons. Surround the name filter with quotes if it contains spaces.
/force PRO	Writes conflicts to the output with CVS-style markers if /automerge is present.
/fv=<type>, /fileviewer=<type>	Opens a new view of the specified type which can be any of: "Text Compare" "Text Merge" "Table Compare" "Hex Compare" "MP3 Compare" "Picture Compare" "Registry Compare" "Version Compare"
/iu, /ignoreunimportant	Turns on **Ignore Unimportant Differences** if /automerge is present.
/mergeoutput=<filename> PRO	Explicitly specifies the merge output file.
/nobackups	Prevents the creation of backup files.
/qc=<type>, /quickcompare=<type>	Performs a quick comparison of two files and sets the DOS error level on exit. The specified type can be size, crc, or binary. If a type is not specified, a rules-based comparison will be performed. Error levels are documented below.
/reviewconflicts PRO	Opens a Text Merge view if /automerge is present and conflicts are found.
/ro, /readonly	Disables editing on all sides.
/ro1, /lro, /leftreadonly /ro2, /rro, /rightreadonly	Disables editing on the respective side.

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/savetarget=<filename>	Overwrites the specified file instead of original file when the file view's **Save** command is used.
/silent	Causes a script to be processed invisibly, bypassing the Task Bar entry and Scripting Status window. All interaction will be suppressed, so any unresolved issue that would normally show a dialog will log an error instead.
/solo	Forces a new instance of the program.
/sync	Opens a Folder Sync view.
/title1=<title>, /lefttitle=<title> /title2=<title>, /righttitle=<title> /title3=<title>, /centertitle=<title> /title4=<title>, /outputtitle=<title>	Shows the specified description in the respective path edit.
/vcs1=<path>, /vcsleft=<path> /vcs2=<path>, /vcsright=<path> /vcs3=<path>, /vcscenter=<path> /vcs4=<path>, /vcsoutput=<path>	Shows the specified version control system path in the respective path edit unless a title has been provided. For a file view, the specified path is also used to pick the appropriate file format.

Return codes

Code	Meaning
0	Success
1	Binary same
2	Rules-based same
11	Binary differences
12	Similar
13	Rules-based differences
14	Conflicts detected
100	Unknown error
101	Conflicts detected, merge output not written
102	BComp.exe unable to wait until BCompare.exe finishes
103	BComp.exe cannot find BCompare.exe
104	Trial period expired
105	Error loading script file
106	Script syntax error
107	Script failed to load folders or files

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Scripting Reference

A script is a simple text file containing a list of commands which can control the program and automatically perform file operations or produce reports. See also Scripts and Sample Scripts.

Notation	Meaning
|	delimits the possible choices
()	surrounds a required expression
[]	surrounds an optional expression
<>	surrounds the description of required user text
[...]	follows an expression that can be repeated

You can use **lt** in place of **left** or **rt** in place of **right** in any of the commands.

These are the script commands (in alphabetical order):

ATTRIB BEEP COLLAPSE COMPARE COPY COPYTO CRITERIA DATA-REPORT DELETE EXPAND FILE-REPORT FILTER FOLDER-REPORT HEX-REPORT LOAD LOG MOVE MOVETO MP3-REPORT OPTION PICTURE-REPORT REGISTRY-REPORT RENAME SELECT SNAPSHOT SYNC TEXT-REPORT TOUCH VERSION-REPORT

ATTRIB

Usage:

```
attrib (+|-)<attribute set 1> [(+|-)<attribute set 2> [...]]
```

Where <attribute set> is:

```
[a][s][h][r]
```

The Mac and Linux versions do not support **attrib**.

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Sets (**+**) or clears (**-**) the DOS file attributes in the current selection. Use **a** for archive, **s** for system, **h** for hidden and **r** for read-only.

Examples:

```
attrib +h
attrib +sh -a
```

BEEP

Usage:

```
beep
```

Beeps the PC speaker. The beep occurs regardless of the `/silent` command line switch.

COLLAPSE

Usage:

```
collapse all
collapse <path 1> [<path 2> [...]]
```

Collapses all folders or folders with specified paths. Paths are relative to the base folder and can *not* have wildcards.

Example:

```
collapse "My Folder 1" "My Folder 2"
```

COMPARE

Usage:

```
compare [CRC|binary|rules-based]
```

Compares the contents of the current selection using the compare type. By default, the most recent compare type is used.

This command only compares files once. To change how files are compared after modification, use CRITERIA.

COPY

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Usage:

```
copy (left->right|right->left)
```

Copies the selected files/folders in the direction indicated.

COPYTO

Usage:

```
copyto [left|right|all] [path:(relative|base|none)] <path>
```

Copies the selected files/folders on the specified side to the specified path using the path option.

- **base** keeps the entire folder structure relative to the base folders of all selected items.
- **relative** keeps the minimum relative folder structure of all selected items.
- The defaults are **all** and **path:none**.

CRITERIA

Usage:

```
criteria [attrib:<attribute set>] [version] [timestamp[:[<number of
seconds>sec][;IgnoreDST]]] [size|CRC|binary|rules-based] [timezone:
(ignore|(left|right)(+|-)<0..12>)] [follow-symlinks] [ignore-
unimportant]
```

Where <attribute set> is:

```
[a][s][h][r]
```

The Mac and Linux versions do not support **attrib**.

Sets all comparison criteria settings.

- **attrib** enables comparisons of the specified DOS file attributes. Use **a** for archive, **s** for system, **h** for hidden and **r** for read-only.
- **version** enables comparisons of version information common in exes and dlls.
- **timestamp** enables timestamp comparisons.
  - o <number of seconds>**sec** considers differences within a tolerance of seconds as matches.
  - o **IgnoreDST** considers differences of exactly 1 hour as matches.
- **size**, **CRC**, **binary** and **rules-based** are the possible ways to compare contents.
- **timezone** ignores timezone differences or applies timezone offset to the specified side.
- **follow-symlinks** treats symbolic links and NTFS junctions as the target file or folder, rather than the link itself.

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- **ignore-unimportant** treats unimportant differences as matches.

Example:

```
criteria attrib:sh timestamp:2sec;IgnoreDST rules-based timezone:left+6
```

DATA-REPORT

Usage:

```
data-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title>]
output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>] [<
comparison>]
```

Generates a Table Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side**, **summary** or **interleaved**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches and is available in all layouts.
  - **display-all**, **display-mismatches** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**. By default, **display-all** is used.
  - **line-numbers** includes row numbers in the **side-by-side** layout.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

DELETE

Usage:

```
delete [recyclebin=(yes|no)] (left|right|all)
```

Deletes the currently selected files/folders on the specified side(s). The **recyclebin** argument only has effect where supported by the operating system. Network drives, remote services and archive files do not support it.

EXPAND

Usage:

```
expand all
expand <path 1> [<path 2> [...]]
```

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Expands specified subfolders or all subfolders. Paths are relative to the base folder and can not have wildcards. Subfolders must be expanded in order for their contents to be used by other commands, like SELECT. **expand all** will not expand subfolders that have been excluded from the comparison by File Filter settings.

FILE-REPORT

Usage:

```
file-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title>]
output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>] [<
comparison>]
```

Generates a report of the currently selected files based on the type of files processed. For example, it will produce a DATA-REPORT for file types associated with a Table Compare file format.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side** or **summary**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - o **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches and is available in all layouts.
  - o **display-all**, **display-mismatches** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**. By default, **display-all** is used.
  - o **line-numbers** includes line numbers in the **side-by-side** layout.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

Example:

```
file-report layout:side-by-side options:display-mismatches &
    output-to:printer output-options:print-color,wrap-word
```

FILTER

Usage:

```
filter <file masks>
filter cutoff:([<|>](<timestamp>|<number of days>[days])|none)
filter attrib:((+|-)<attribute set>|none)
filter size:([<|>]<number>[KB|MB|GB|TB]|none)
filter exclude-protected
filter include-protected
```

Where <attribute set> is:

```
[a][s][h][r]
```

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The Mac and Linux versions do not support **attrib**, **exclude-protected** or **include-protected**.

Controls which folders and types of files are compared by using name filtering (file masks), date filtering (**cutoff**) or other filtering (**attrib**, **size**, **exclude-protected** or **include-protected**).

- Name filters include and exclude files and folders based on their names and paths. Multiple masks can be separated by semicolons. To indicate that a mask is an exclude mask use a leading minus (-). To indicate that a mask affects folders use a trailing backslash (\).
- **cutoff** excludes all files older (**<**) or newer (**>**) than a timestamp or a number of days from the current system date (<number of days>**days**). By default, **cutoff:<** is used. **none** can be used to remove date filtering. The date parsing is fairly lenient but if you want to be sure it parses correctly, use the format specified by the operating system's regional settings. (See **Control Panel > Regional and Language Settings**.) The time is optional and should follow the date (cutoff:"12/31/2012 12:00pm"). Remember to use quotation marks (" ") whenever a term contains a space.
- **attrib** limits the comparison to files which have an included DOS file attribute (**+**) and don't have an excluded attribute (**-**). Use **a** for archive, **s** for system, **h** for hidden and **r** for read-only. **none** can be used to remove attribute filtering.
- **size** excludes all files smaller (**<**) or larger (**>**) than the given size. By default the size is given in bytes but you can add **KB**, **MB**, **GB** or **TB** to the end to indicate that the value is in kilobytes, megabytes, gigabytes or terabytes, respectively. **none** can be used to remove size filtering.
- **exclude-protected** excludes files and folders that have both system and hidden attributes set.
- **include-protected** includes files and folders that have both system and hidden attributes set.

Examples:

```
filter "*.pas;*.dpr;*.dfm"
filter cutoff:<7days
filter cutoff:>"Dec 31, 2012"
filter cutoff:"12/31/2012 12:00pm"
filter attrib:-sh
filter "*.txt;-My Folder\" attrib:+r
```

FOLDER-REPORT

Usage:

```
folder-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title>]
output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>]
```

Generates a folder comparison report of the currently loaded base folders. Folders are shown in their current state. To include subfolders add an **expand all** command before this.

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- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side**, **summary** or **xml**.
- **options** is optional.
  - Display filter flags control which files are included in the report. The possible values are **display-all**, **display-mismatches**, **display-no-orphans**, **display-mismatches-no-orphans**, **display-orphans**, **display-left-newer**, **display-right-newer**, **display-left-newer-orphans**, **display-right-newer-orphans** and **display-matches**. By default, **display-all** is used.
  - Optional columns can be included, separated by commas, in the report by using the flags **column-version**, **column-size**, **column-crc**, **column-timestamp**, **column-attributes**, **column-group**, **column-owner** and **column-vcs**. By default, **column-size** and **column-timestamp** are included. **column-none** can be used by itself to clear the default columns.
  - Use the flag **include-file-links** to generate file reports and include links to them in the folder report. Only a folder report that is both side-by-side and HTML can use this flag.
- **title**, **output-to** and **output-options** arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

Examples:

```
folder-report layout:side-by-side &
    options:column-size,column-version,column-timestamp &
    output-to:clipboard output-options:html-color
folder-report layout:xml output-to:"C:\My Report.xml"
```

HEX-REPORT

Usage:

```
hex-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title>]
output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>] [<
comparison>]
```

Generates a Hex Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side**, **summary** or **interleaved**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - **display-all**, **display-mismatches** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**. By default, **display-all** is used.
  - **line-numbers** includes byte addresses in the **side-by-side** layout.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

LOAD

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Usage:

```
load <session>
load [create:(all|left|right)] <left path> [<right path>]
load <default>
```

Loads the specified Folder Compare session, the specified base folders or a new Folder Compare session with default settings (**load <default>**). Failure to load a base folder will cause the script to terminate.

- Loading a session causes all that session's settings, except the display filter (show all, only mismatches, only matches, etc.), to be used.
- Loading base folders uses the currently active settings. By default, the *program defaults* are used.
- The optional **create** parameter creates a base folder if it doesn't already exist.

Examples:

```
load "My Session"
load "C:\My Folder" "X:\Your Folder"
load <default>
```

LOG

Usage:

```
log [none|normal|verbose] [[append:]<filename>]
```

Controls how detailed the log is and where the log is stored.

- **none**, **normal** and **verbose** determine the amount of detail used in the log. Logging is initially disabled and begins when the mode is changed from **none**.
- **append:** causes logging to add to the file instead of replace it. By default, the log is output as Log.txt in the current folder (eg, the Windows "Start In" folder in shortcut properties).

MOVE

Usage:

```
move (left->right|right->left)
```

Moves the selected files/folders in the direction specified.

MOVETO

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Usage:

```
moveto [left|right|all] [path:(relative|base|none)] <path>
```

Moves the selected files/folders on the specified side to the specified path using the path option.

- **base** keeps the entire folder structure relative to the base folders of all selected items.
- **relative** keeps the minimum relative folder structure of all selected items.
- The defaults are **all** and **path:none**.

MP3-REPORT

Usage:

```
mp3-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title>]
output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>] [<
comparison>]
```

Generates a MP3 Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side** or **summary**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches and is available in all layouts.
  - **display-all**, **display-mismatches** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**. By default, **display-all** is used.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

OPTION

Usage:

```
option stop-on-error
option confirm:(prompt|yes-to-all|no-to-all)
```

Adjusts script processing options.

- **stop-on-error** makes the script watch for various error conditions, including file operation errors, and, when one occurs, prompts the user before continuing.
- **confirm** can use **prompt**, **yes-to-all** or **no-to-all** to handle confirmation dialogs that occur due to file operations. By default, **prompt** is used.

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PICTURE-REPORT

Usage:

```
picture-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title
>] output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>]
[<comparison>]
```

Generates a Picture Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side** or **summary**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - o **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches in the **summary** layout.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

REGISTRY-REPORT PRO

Usage:

```
registry-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title
>] output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>]
[<comparison>]
```

Generates a Registry Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side** or **summary**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - o **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches and is available in all layouts.
  - o **display-all**, **display-mismatches** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**. By default, **display-all** is used.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

RENAME

Usage:

```
rename [regexpr <old mask>] <new mask>
```

Performs a multi-file rename on the current selection using the specified new mask. **regexpr** uses an old mask to perform a regular expression rename. By default, a DOS-style rename is performed.

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Examples:

```
rename *.bak
rename regexpr (...)(...)\.txt $2$1.txt
```

SELECT

Usage:

```
select <selection mask 1> [<selection mask 2> [...]]
```

Where <selection mask> is one of the following:

```
all
[(left|right|all).][(exact|diff|newer|older|orphan|all).][(files|
folders|all)]
empty.folders
```

Select controls which files and folders can be operated on. Only files and folders that match at least one of the selection masks are part of the selection.

- **left**, **right** or **all** limits the selection to the specified side. By default, **all** is used.
- **exact**, **diff**, **newer**, **older**, **orphan** or **all** limits the selection based on results of comparison. **diff** refers to differences in criteria other than timestamps. To compare timestamps use **newer** or **older** instead. Folders must contain only the specified result type to be affected. By default, **all** is used.
- **files**, **folders** or **all** limits the selection to files, folders or both. By default, **all** is used.
- **empty.folders** is a special selection mask that will select empty folders.

Examples:

```
select all
select left
select exact
select files
select right.diff
select left.folders
select newer.files right.older.files
```

SNAPSHOT

Usage:

```
snapshot [save-crc] [save-version] [expand-archives] [follow-symlinks]
[no-filters] left|right|path:<path> [output:<target>]
```

Saves a read-only snapshot of the specified folder.

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- **save-crc** calculates CRC's for all files and stores them as part of the snapshot.
- **save-version** stores version information for executable files.
- **expand-archives** stores the contents of archive files in an expanded format.
- **follow-symlinks** stores files and folders pointed to by symbolic links.
- **no-filters** stores all files regardless of the active filename filters.
- **left**, **right** and **path** indicate which folder is stored. **left** or **right** will save a snapshot of one of the loaded base folders and **path** will save a snapshot of a specified path.
- **output** is optional and determines where the snapshot will be saved. By default, it will be saved in the current folder.
  - If target is a fully qualified filename, that will be the name of the snapshot. If target doesn't have an extension, **.bcss** will be used.
  - If the target isn't included or refers to a folder a filename will be generated based on the source folder's name and the current system date, eg `folder_2012-12-31.bcss`. If necessary an additional number will be added to the generated name to keep it from overwriting existing snapshots.

Examples:

```
snapshot save-crc save-version no-filters path:C:\ output:D:\
snapshot left output:"My Snapshot.bcss"
```

SYNC

Usage:

```
sync [visible] [create-empty] (update|mirror):(left->right|right->left|
all)
```

Synchronizes folders by copying and deleting files. This command *does not* use the current selection.

- **visible** enables "Only affect visible files" behavior. Only files in expanded folders will be affected.
- **create-empty** enables the "Create empty folders" behavior.
- **update** copies newer and orphan files in the indicated direction, leaving orphans and newer files on the opposite side unchanged. Using **all** as the direction indicates a bidirectional sync and copies newer and orphan files in both directions.
- **mirror** makes the target folder identical to the source one. Newer, older, different and orphaned files are all copied to the destination. Orphans in the destination are deleted. The **all** direction doesn't apply in this context and is not valid.

Example:

```
sync create-empty mirror:left->right
```

TEXT-REPORT

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Usage:

```
text-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title>]
output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>] [<
comparison>]
```

Generates a Text Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side**, **summary**, **interleaved**, **patch**, **statistics** or **xml**. Deprecated layouts **over-under** and **composite** have been replaced by **interleaved**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches and is available in all layouts.
  - **display-all**, **display-mismatches**, **display-context** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**, **patch** and **statistics**. By default, **display-all** is used.
  - **line-numbers** includes line numbers in the **side-by-side** layout.
  - **strikeout-left-diffs** crosses out left difference lines in the **interleaved** layout.
  - **strikeout-right-diffs** crosses out right difference lines in the **interleaved** layout.
  - **patch-normal**, **patch-context** or **patch-unified** formats are available in the **patch** layout. By default, **patch-normal** is used.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

The deprecated **stats-descriptive** option will generate a summary report instead and post a warning to the log. The deprecated **stats-tabular** option is ignored in the **statistics** layout: the **statistics** layout is always tabular (CSV) now.

Examples:

```
text-report layout:interleaved options:display-context &
    output-to:printer output-options:print-color,wrap-word
text-report layout:patch options:patch-unified &
    output-to:"My Report.txt"
```

TOUCH

Usage:

```
touch (left->right|right->left)
touch (left|right|all):(now|<timestamp>)
```

Copies the timestamps from files on one side to the other or sets the timestamps of all files on a specified side to the current system time (**now**) or a specified timestamp. You must select files before you can touch them.

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VERSION-REPORT

Usage:

```
version-report layout:<layout> [options:<options>] [title:<report title
>] output-to:(printer|clipboard|<filename>) [output-options:<options>]
[<comparison>]
```

Generates a Version Compare report of the currently selected files.

- **layout** controls the report's appearance and can be **side-by-side** or **summary**.
- **options** is optional and is used differently for each layout.
  - **ignore-unimportant** treats differences in unimportant text as matches and is available in all layouts.
  - **display-all**, **display-mismatches** or **display-matches** can be used to control which lines of the comparison are included in all layouts except **summary**. By default, **display-all** is used.
- **title**, **output-to**, **output-options** and <comparison> arguments are documented under Common Report Arguments.

Common report arguments

The report commands (**data-report**, **file-report**, **folder-report**, **hex-report**, **mp3-report**, **pix-report**, **registry-report**, **text-report** and **version-report**) must include information on where the report should be sent and may include additional information on the output format.

- **title** controls the title that appears at the top of the report.
- **output-to** controls the output target. It can be **printer**, **clipboard** or a filename.
- **output-options** is optional and is used differently for each output target.
  - **print-color** or **print-mono** color schemes are available for **printer** output. By default, **print-mono** is used.
  - **print-portrait** or **print-landscape** orientations are available for **printer** output. By default, **print-portrait** is used.
  - **wrap-none**, **wrap-character** or **wrap-word** control whether long lines are wrapped. **printer** output can use all three options. **HTML** output can use **wrap-none** and **wrap-word**. By default, **wrap-none** is used.
  - **html-color**, **html-mono** or **html-custom** are required to output as HTML instead of plain text. These options are available for **clipboard** and **file** outputs. **html-custom** requires the filename or URL of an external style sheet.
- <comparison> can either be a session name or a pair of filenames. The file report will use the specified comparison instead of the files that have been selected within the script. When using a saved session, the comparison type must match the report type (e.g., a Table Compare session must use **data-report** or **file-report**).

Examples:

```
data-report layout:interleaved output-to:printer &
    output-options:print-color,print-landscape
```

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```
file-report layout:summary output-to:clipboard &
    output-options:wrap-word,html-color
text-report layout:patch options:patch-unified &
    output-to:"My Report.txt"
```

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Regular Expression Reference

Regular Expressions are a powerful way to define patterns for searching and matching. Beyond Compare allows you to use regular expressions when searching through text, and when specifying rules for classifying text. The regular expression support in Beyond Compare is a subset of the Perl Compatible Regular Expression (PCRE) syntax.

While Regular Expressions can be a complex topic, there are several excellent resources about them. One such resource is a book called *Mastering Regular Expressions*. Another excellent resource is Steve Mansour's *A Tao of Regular Expressions*, a copy of which can be found at:

www.scootersoftware.com/RegEx.html

A regular expression is composed of two types of characters: normal characters and metacharacters. When performing a match, metacharacters take on special meanings, controlling how the match is made and serving as wildcards. Normal characters always match against only themselves. To match against a metacharacter, *escape* it, by prefixing it with a backslash "\". There are multiple types of metacharacters, each detailed below.

Metacharacters - Escape sequences

Escape sequence	Meaning
\xnn	character with the hex code nn
\x{nnnn}	character with the hex code nnnn
\x{F000}	character with a null value
\t	tab (0x09)
\f	form feed (0x0C)
\a	bell (0x07)
\e	escape (0x1B)

Metacharacters - Predefined classes

Predefined character classes match any of a certain subset of characters. The following classes are already defined for you.

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Class	Meaning
.	match any character
\w	any alphanumeric character or _
\W	any non-alphanumeric character
\d	any numeric character (0-9)
\D	any non-numeric character
\s	any whitespace (space, tab)

You can also construct your own character classes by surrounding a group of characters in brackets "[]". The predefined classes (except ".") can be used in the brackets, and if a dash "-" appears between two characters, it represents a range. Thus [a-z] would represent all lowercase letters, and [a-zA-Z] would represent both lower and uppercase letters. To include a "-" as part of the class, place it at the beginning or end of the string.

If the first character within the brackets is a caret "^", then the class represents everything except the specified characters. [^a-z] matches on any character that isn't a lower-case alphabetic character.

Metacharacters - Alternatives

By placing an "|" between two groups of items, alternative matches can be represented. a|b will match either a or b. ab|cd will match "ab" or "cd", but not "ac". "|" groups characters from pattern delimiter ("(", "[", or the start of the pattern) to itself and then again to the end of the pattern. Alternatives can be placed within parenthesis "()" to make it obvious what is being matched against, as in a(bc|de)f. Alternatives are matched left to right. bey|beyond will match on bey, even if the string is "beyond".

Metacharacters - Position

The following metacharacters control where the match can occur on a line. Note: \A and \Z match the start and end of text respectively, but since Beyond Compare performs the search on a line by line basis, these have the same effect as ^ and $.

Metacharacter	Meaning
^	match only at start of line
$	match only at end of line

Metacharacters - Iterators

Anything in a regular expression can be followed by an iterator metacharacter, which refers to the item before it. There are two kinds of iterators - greedy and non-greedy. Greedy iterators match as many as they can, non-greedy match as few as they can.

Greedy:

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Metacharacter	Meaning
*	match zero or more of the preceding character (equivalent to {0,})
+	match one or more of the preceding character (equivalent to {1,})
?	matches zero or one times (equivalent to {0,1})
{n}	matches exactly n times (equivalent to {n, n})
{n,}	matches n or more times
{n,m}	matches at least n but no more than m times

Non-greedy:

Metacharacter	Meaning
*?	matches zero or more times
+?	matches one or more times
??	matches zero or one time
{n}?	matches exactly n times
{n,}?	matches at least n times
{n,m}?	matches at least n but no more than m times

Metacharacters - Subexpressions

Parenthesis "()" can also be used to group characters for use with iterators and backreferences (discussed below). (bey){4,5} will match between 4 and 5 instances of "bey". (abc|[0-9])* will match any combination of "abc" and the digits 0 to 9 (e.g. "abc5", "679abc" and "abc77abc").

Metacharacters - Back references

Each sequence of characters which is matched within a "()" will be saved as a subexpression, which you can refer to later with \1 to \9, which refer to the subexpressions from left to right. b(.)\1n will match "been" and "boon", but not "bean", "ben" or "beeen".

Modifiers

Modifiers allow changes to the matching behavior from that point on. If the modifier is contained within a subexpression, it affects only that subexpression. Use (?i) and (?-i) to control the case sensitivity of matching.

Examples:

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(?i)Beyond Compare	matches both "Beyond Compare" and "beyond compare"
(?i)Beyond (?-i)Compare	matches "Beyond Compare" and "bEyOnD Compare", but not "beyond compare"

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Glossary

Base folder

The top-most folder on either side of a folder view. Base folder names appear in the toolbar path edits above each pane of the comparison.

Child Session

A file session launched from a folder session.

Conflict

In a 3-way merge, a conflict occurs when the same section of text has changes on both left and right sides.

CRC

CRC (Cyclic Redundancy Check) is a numeric representation of the contents of a file. If the CRCs of two files are different, then the contents of those files must be different. If the CRCs match, then it is quite likely that the contents match.

CSV

CSV (Comma Separated Values) is a common file layout for representing row and column data.

File Format

Our term for the collection of settings that characterize a type of file. For example, the Java Source file format describes the Java grammar for syntax highlighting and rules-based comparisons, and stores your tab stop preference for Java source. File formats can also specify conversion routines to be run before and after comparisons.

Filter

A setting that limits what is displayed or processed, "filtering out" unneeded content.

Important text

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Text that is important to the comparison.

Line ending style

The pattern of control characters that define the end of each line in a text file. Typically, it is CR+LF in Windows/DOS, LF only in Unix, and CR only in Macintosh.

Orphan

Our term for an item that is on one side and not the other in a comparison.

Plug-in

Software accessory that can be 'plugged into' the program for more features.

Profile

A named collection of settings and credentials for remote services such as FTP, WebDAV, Dropbox and subversion.

Regular Expressions

Formulas for matching strings that follow a pattern.

Rules

Our term for the session settings that control how a comparison is performed.

Section

A contiguous range of lines with differences.

Session

Our term for a comparison task, such as comparing folders or files. Each session view is in its own top-level window, or tab on a window.

Skew tolerance

The number of lines Beyond Compare will search forward and backward for a matching section.

Snapshot

A custom Beyond Compare file that contains folder tree information. Like a camera capturing reality at a moment in time, a snapshot file captures the state of a folder so that the user can compare it to the live folder at some later time, and find what has changed.

Thumbnail

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In file comparison windows, the (optional) panel on the left with the color-coded summary of differences.

Timestamp

A timestamp is a file or folder's last modified time.

Tolerance

In Table Compare and Picture Compare, the amount that two cells (or pixels) can differ before being considered an important difference. Differences less than or equal to the tolerance are unimportant differences.

Touch/Touching

The action of setting the timestamp of a file to a specific value.

Unimportant differences

Differences in text that are defined to be unimportant to the comparison. They may include whitespace or character case differences, comments or line numbers.

View

An open session (or the Home view) as it appears as a window or on a tab.

Whitespace

The blank space at the beginning and end of lines and between words. Whitespace is generally made up of any combination of the 'space' and 'tab' characters.

Workspace

The collection of all open sessions, including the size and position of windows and tabs.

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Support, Ordering and License

For the latest version of Beyond Compare and for other news about the program, visit our web site at: www.scootersoftware.com

Technical Support

Please send any comments, suggestions or bug reports to: support@scootersoftware.com

Visit our support forums to share problems and ideas: www.scootersoftware.com/forum

Access our online FAQ and Knowledge Base articles at: www.scootersoftware.com/kb

Customer Support

The single user license fee for Beyond Compare is $30 (US dollars) for the Standard edition and $50 for the Pro edition. The Windows, Mac and Linux versions are licensed separately, unless you purchase a multi-platform license. For current information on multi-user discounts and upgrade policy, please visit our on-line shop at: www.scootersoftware.com/shop

If you need help ordering Beyond Compare, contact us at: sales@scootersoftware.com

For our mailing address and other contact information, visit: www.scootersoftware.com/contact

License Agreement

Our License Agreement allows each licensed user to install and use Beyond Compare on any number of computers. Read the agreement to understand your rights and obligations concerning the use of the software.

Third-Party Software

Beyond Compare has been created with the help of a number of open source libraries. Source code is available on their respective websites, and any customizations by Scooter Software can be requested by emailing us at: support@scootersoftware.com

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7-zip	www.7-zip.org
Abbrevia	tpabbrevia.sourceforge.net
ChsDet	chsdet.sourceforge.net
dspack	code.google.com/p/dspack
FastcodePatch	fastcode.sourceforge.net
FastMM4	www.sourceforge.net/projects/fastmm
Free Pascal	www.freepascal.org
GnuWin32 (patch.exe)	gnuwin32.sourceforge.net
GraphicEx	www.delphi-gems.com/index.php/libs/graphicex-library
HtmlViewer	code.google.com/p/thtmlviewer
HTTPGet	www.utilmind.com
Indy	indyproject.org/index.en.aspx
Inno Setup	jrsoftware.org/isinfo.php
IntLck64	cc.embarcadero.com/Item/22917
Jedi Code Library	jcl.sourceforge.net
Lazarus	lazarus.freepascal.org
LetsMove	github.com/potionfactory/LetsMove
PCRE	www.pcre.org
PerlRegEx	www.regular-expressions.info/delphi.html
RegExpr	regexpstudio.com
TextDiff	www.angusj.com/delphi/textdiff.html
WavPack	wavpack.com
WiX	wixtoolset.org
Xpdf (PdfToText.exe)	www.foolabs.com/xpdf/home.html
ZLib	www.zlib.org www.base2ti.com

Beyond Compare was also created with these commercial libraries and applications:

Software	Website
cMicroThreads	www.eternallines.com/microthreads/index.html
Delphi	www.embarcadero.com
FinalBuilder	www.finalbuilder.com
madExcept	www.madshi.net
Plasmatech Shell Control Pack	www.plasmatech.com
SecureBlackBox	www.eldos.com
SMWord	www.scalabium.com

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Toolbar 2000	jrsoftware.org/tb2k.php
ZipForge	www.componentace.com

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Index

- 3 -

3-way merge
  session 40

- A -

alignment control (in Text Compare) 86
alignment control (in Text Merge) 88
alignment override (in Folder Compare) 76
alignment override (in Folder Merge) 80
alignment override (in Folder Sync) 84
Amazon S3
  profile 104
anonymous login 99, 100
archive files
  associations 67
  handling 74, 78, 82
ASCII mode transfer 103
attributes
  compare 73, 77, 81
  modify 27
authentication 99
automate Beyond Compare 56

- B -

backup
  automatic backup options 67
batch file processing 56
binary mode transfer 103

- C -

classifying text differences 52, 85, 88
clipboard, compare to 36
colors
  folder comparison 65
  folder display 64
  selection in file view 65
  selection in folder view 64
  syntax highlighing 65
command line
  parameters 157
  switches 157
compare
  attributes 73, 77, 81
  clipboard contents 36
  file contents 73, 77, 81
  file size 73, 77, 81
  timestamps 73, 77, 81
  version info 73, 77, 81
  via http 36
compare contents 21
comparison criteria
  planning 18
  setting 73, 77, 81
compress transfers 103
confirmations 67
contacting us 183
content comparison 21
copy
  files, folders 22, 23, 32
  settings to new computer 56
customer support 183
customize
  keyboard shortcuts 68
  menus 68
  toolbars 68
customizing Beyond Compare 62
cutoff date 76, 80, 84

- D -

date modified
  filter by 76, 80, 84
  modify 28
delete
  files, folders 26
desktop
  load 107
  save 107
display filters 18
Dropbox
  profile 104

- E -

editing text 37

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editions (Standard vs Pro) 10
editor 48
editor options 66
error level 157
exchange
  files, folders 22
exclude 28
  files by attribute 76, 80, 84
  files by date modified 76, 80, 84
  files by file size 76, 80, 84
  files by name 75, 79, 83
  folders by name 75, 79, 83
Explorer context menu 63
external applications 68

- F -

factory defaults 63
file filters 18
File Formats 52
  managing 93
file masks 75, 79, 83
filename conversion 103
filter
  by attribute 76, 80, 84
  by date modified 76, 80, 84
  by file size 76, 80, 84
  by name 75, 79, 83
filter presets 67
filters 18
firewall settings 101
Folder Compare
  about 16
  commands 109
  rules 73
  session settings 72
Folder Merge
  about 30
  commands 115
  rules 77
  session settings 76
Folder Sync
  about 33
  commands 120
  presets 81
  rules 81
  session settings 80
FTP
  authentication 99
  connection settings 101
  listing format 102
  login 100
  profile 99
  transfer settings 103

- G -

grammar
  using 52

- H -

Hex Compare
  about 43
  commands 137
  session settings 91
hints, configuring 68
Home
  commands 109
Home view 13
Home view options 68
HTML output 52
http compare 36

- I -

ignore
  folder structure 18
include
  files by name 75, 79, 83
  folders by name 75, 79, 83

- K -

keyboard shortcuts 68

- L -

limit download/upload speed 103
location of program settings 105
lock session 13

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- M -

menu
Folder Compare commands 109
Folder Merge commands 115
Folder Sync commands 120
global commands 107
Hex Compare commands 137
Home commands 109
MP3 Compare commands 141
Picture Compare commands 143
Registry Compare commands 146
Table Compare commands 134
Text Compare commands 123
Text Edit commands 152
Text Merge commands 129
Text Patch commands 154
Version Compare commands 149
menu configuration 68
merge
files, folders 32
session 40
move
files, folders 22, 24
MP3 Compare
about 50
commands 141
session settings 91

- N -

new features 9
next difference 38
next difference options 66

- O -

Open With
configuration 68
options 62, 63
ordering Beyond Compare 183
override
file formats 74, 78, 82
filename alignment 76, 80, 84
folder alignment 76, 80, 84

- P -

PASV 101
Picture Compare
about 44
commands 143
options 66
session settings 92
plug-ins 50
portable install 105
previous difference 38
printouts 52
Pro Edition 10
Profiles
Amazon S3 104
Dropbox 104
FTP 99
managing 99
Subversion 104
WebDAV 104
proxy settings 102

- R -

reconcile differences 20
refresh
automatic 74, 78, 82
Registry Compare
about 47
commands 146
session settings 92
regular expressions 176
rename
files, folders 26
replacements 87
reports 52

- S -

scheduled task 60
scripts
overview 56
reference 161
samples 58
scheduling 60
selecting folders, files 20

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sessions
deleting 13
Folder Compare 16
Folder Merge 30
Folder Sync 33
locking 13
managing 13
Picture Compare 44
renaming 13
sharing 68
Table Compare 42
Text Compare 36
Text Merge 40
settings
how to find 62
location of 105
move to new computer 56
tweaks 62
SFTP
authentication 99
login 100
shared sessions 68
sharing Beyond Compare on a network 105
sharing sessions 14
shell extension 63
simultaneous connections 101
snapshot
creating, using 55
SSH authentication 99
SSL
certificate 99
clear control channel 101
clear data channel 101
startup options 63
stored settings 105
Subversion
profile 104
switches, command line 157
synchronize folders 33
syntax highlighting 52

- T -

tab stops 95
tabbed windows
options 64
using 12
Table Compare
about 42
commands 134
rules 90
session settings 89
tear off tab 12
tech support 183
Text Compare
about 36
commands 123
options 66
rules 85
session settings 85
Text Edit
about 48
commands 152
Text Merge
about 40
commands 129
rules 88
session settings 87
Text Patch
about 49
commands 154
text replacements 87
timeout 101
timestamp
filter by 76, 80, 84
modify 28
timestamps
compare 73, 77, 81
preserve on upload 103
toolbar configuration 68
touch 28
tweaks 62

- V -

version
compare version info 73, 77, 81
Version Compare
about 50
commands 149
session settings 93

- W -

WebDAV 104

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workspace
auto-load, auto-save 63

- Z -

zip files
associations 67
comparing 16
handling 74, 78, 82

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