

Zedit

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Contents

1	Introduction.....	1
2	Features.....	1
3	Cautions	2
4	Cut and paste big chunks in XML files	2
5	Inspect Unicode characters from FieldWorks.....	2
6	Insert Unicode characters into FieldWorks.....	3
7	Right-to-left mode in Find dialog	3

1 Introduction

ZEdit is a handy editor for working with large SFM or XML files. ZEdit.exe is installed by FieldWorks in c:\Program Files\FieldWorks.

2 Features

Feature	Step
Can show ANSI or Unicode code points	Select Tools...Show Character Codes.
Can insert ANSI or Unicode code points	Select Tools...Insert Characters.
Has ANSI, UTF-8, and UTF-16LE modes	Select Options...Reopen as.
Can go to a line number	Use Options...Go to line.
Can start on a given line from a command line	Use zedit fullpathfilename -g1.
Sorts selected lines or entire file	Use Tools...Sort text.
Searches files in directories and subdirectories for target string	Select Tools...Find in files.
Provides syntax coloring	Must be set up manually in ZEditColors.txt.
Provides recently opened file list	Use the triangle icon  to the right of the toolbar File Open button.

Additional features:

- Works fast with large files (hundreds of MB)
- Does not apply undesired encoding conversion in ANSI files
- Converts UTF-8 to UTF-16LE and visa versa (but not ANSI to/from Unicode)
- Can open many files at once, using tabs to switch between files
- Allows drag-and-drop editing
- Allows drag-and-drop file opening
- Can drag-and-drop tabs between ZEdit programs (opening a new window if dropped outside of ZEdit)
- Allows horizontal or vertical window splits
- Provides Search and Replace with new lines or special codes
Tip: Replace All in a selection only works if search is set to Down.
- Wraps lines automatically (but can be turned off)

- Settings for font and size affects all windows

3 Cautions

- It memory-maps large files, which denies access by other programs.
- Users can have occasional crashes.
- **Do NOT** Copy/Paste between ANSI and Unicode ZEdit windows because it only transfers code points without any conversion, resulting in corrupted data.
- **Do NOT** save an ANSI file as UTF-8 or UTF-16! It will trash characters because it does not apply any encoding conversion. This is especially true of LinguaLinks dump files that are really hacked ANSI files, even though the XML header says it is UTF-8. Only edit these in ANSI mode.
- It may occasionally mess up when deleting an end of line in Unicode mode.
- There are some printing problems with page content.
- Sometimes users cannot scroll to see the last line.
Tip: To fix this, use Ctrl+End and press Enter several times, then move up.
- When users save a file in UTF-16 mode, older versions of ZEdit always added a BOM to the beginning of the file, even if one is already there. These can be deleted by opening the file in ANSI mode and deleting the extra BOM(s). ZEdit 1.1.20 and later have this bug fixed.
- ZEdit only handles UTF-16 little endian in UTF-16 mode. This is the default for Windows machines. It will show garbage for UTF-16 big endian files in UTF-16 mode.
- The Find/Replace dialog is really a non-Unicode dialog. It will work if you quote non-ASCII Unicode characters with ^xhhh; where hhh is the hex Unicode value. When ZEdit 1.1.17 and later pastes text in the Find dialog it quote any Unicode characters as they are pasted, thus allowing Unicode searches to work.

4 Cut and paste big chunks in XML files

If users have two XML files they want to copy `<LexDb6001>...</LexDb6001>` from file A to file B.

1. Open both files.
2. Search for `<LexDb6001>` in file A.
3. Select from that line to the end of the file (Shift+Ctrl+End) and Copy (Ctrl+C).
4. Click the New window option to create file C.
5. Paste the clipboard to file C (Ctrl+V).
6. Search for `</LexDb6001>` in file C and move the cursor to the beginning of the next line.
7. Select lines above cursor in file C (Shift+Ctrl+Home) and Copy (Ctrl+C).
8. Find the desired location in file B and Paste the clipboard (Ctrl+V).
9. Close file C without saving.

5 Inspect Unicode characters from FieldWorks

1. Open a blank window in ZEdit.
2. Change to UTF-8 mode (Options...Reopen As Unicode (UTF-8)).

3. Copy text from FieldWorks and paste it into the blank ZEdit window.
4. Use “Tools...Show Character Codes” to open the viewer.
Result: As users move the cursor, it shows several hex code points (including full Unicode range) before and after the cursor. Surrogate pairs are shown as individual values as well as the combined value.

6 Insert Unicode characters into FieldWorks

1. Open a blank window in ZEdit.
2. Change to UTF-8 mode (Options...Reopen As Unicode (UTF-8)).
3. Use “Tools...Insert Characters” to open a character window and type in the Unicode hex code points separated with a space (e.g., 4a, e010, fff32).
4. Close the character window and copy the desired text.
5. Paste the text into FieldWorks.

7 Right-to-left mode in Find dialog

This is not a ZEdit bug, but an inherited ‘feature’ of Windows dialogs that can be very confusing. You might occasionally find that text in the Find dialog is stuck on the right of the dialog. If you ever get in this situation, use the right-click menu in the edit box and select the ‘Right to left reading order’ toggle. Ctrl+Left Shift will also restore the normal mode while Ctrl+Right Shift switches the edit box to right-to-left mode.