Find & Replace

Learn how to use the Find and Replace config.txt directives to locate and replace text in EZproxy as web pages are retrieved.

Find and Replace are position-dependent config.txt directives that always appear as part of a database definition.

These directives always appear paired together, with Find appearing directly before its corresponding Replace.

These directives identify text that EZproxy should locate and replace as web pages are retrieved. Typical use is to alter JavaScript that may otherwise be incompatible with EZproxy.

Find accepts an arbitrary text string that should be located in the web page being retrieved. Replace accepts the text that should be used in place of the Find text.

In addition to simple text, Replace accepts several special sequences to provide more generic rewriting. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEQUENCE</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>^A</td>
<td>See example below</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^D</td>
<td>Substitute the domain of the EZproxy server without a leading period, such as ezproxy.yourlib.org or 68.15.177.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^H</td>
<td>Substitute the name of the EZproxy server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^L</td>
<td>Substitute the domain of the EZproxy server with a leading period unless the EZproxy server is using a numeric name, such as .ezproxy.yourlib.org or 68.15.177.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^P hostname^</td>
<td>Look up the EZproxy hostname for the http version of hostname and substitute it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>^S hostname^</td>
<td>Look up the EZproxy hostname for the https version of hostname and substitute it</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^A Example

^A is the most unusual Replace option. Its only valid placement is right after http:// or https:// and it specifies that the hostname that follows should not be rewritten, but rather should be left as-is. It is designed for use with form fields that contain values that are URLs that should not be rewritten.

For example, Lexis-Nexis uses a form field called _PRIORREFERER that must be the actual URL of the prior page, not the rewritten form. These statements demonstrate how the Find statement provides enough of a search string to
locate this particular form variable, and the Replace statement repeats the exact same text adding ^A after http:// to indicate that this is the point at which the URL starts that must not be rewritten:

```
Find NAME="_PRIORREFERER" VALUE="http://
Replace NAME="_PRIORREFERER" VALUE="http://^A"
```

**Advanced Find/Replace using States**

Find and Replace rules can be associated with states. Through the use of states, the application of rules can be dependent on other rules having already occurred. The need to apply states for Find/Replace rules is infrequent, and in most instances, this capability is not needed.

The syntax for state qualification is:

```
Find -State= state1[state2+state3...]
Replace -State= state1[state2+state3...]
Replace -AddState= state1[state2+state3...]
Replace -RemoveState= state1[state2+state3...]
```

There are two special states: start and all. When EZproxy starts processing a page, the default state is start. For a Find rule, the special state all will match to any state.

For Find, the state(s) specified after -State= must match the current states for the Find rule to match. Once a Find matches, the Replace rule has the option to alter the current state(s) with -State, which specifies exactly which state(s) should be active, with -AddState to add state(s) to be active, with -RemoveState to remove state(s) from being active, or any combination of -State, -AddState, and -RemoveState.

The main application for states is to automate submitting a username/password based form to automate access to a resource. By using states, it is often possible to detect when a first attempt is made to fill in the form, and then trigger the automatic submission of the login form, while also allowing failed attempts to be detected and to have those attempts avoid submission of the login form, avoiding the possibility of an endless loop of browser attempts to access a resource with the wrong username or password.