The Case of the Failed Search
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It was a dark and stormy night. The ruggedly handsome Agent F7 (Exit) was at his secret office working late, reviewing his 50-page report about how Amalgamated Steel was stealing technological secrets from customer companies and selling the secrets to foreign businesses.

Then, all of a sudden, BANG! A dreaded thought shot through agent F7's head. He wondered to himself, "I think I typed 'steel' when I meant 'iron' somewhere in my document. Then again, maybe I didn't. But how can I search for 'steel' without having WordPerfect stop at 'Steel' that occurs dozens of times in the report? Am I losing my grip? Is the pressure of this case playing tricks on my mind? Am I becoming case sensitive?"

He frantically grabbed the WordPerfect reference manual, flipped to "Search," checked under "Capitalization," and read to himself, "In a search string, lowercase characters match both lowercase and uppercase. Uppercase characters match only uppercase."

"Holy Macro!" he yelled out loud, "WordPerfect won't let me search specifically for words that don't have a capital letter! If I press Search (F2), type "steel," and press Search (F2), the cursor will stop at 'Steel,' not just at 'steel.' "

Is this case too difficult for Agent F7? Will our hero be stymied by a simple problem of a case-sensitive search and seizure?

No! Agent F7 grabbed the phone, quickly dialed the number, and impatiently waited for the luscious voice of Agent Ctrl-F10 (Macro Def). "She has never let me down before, no matter how strange or difficult the case," Agent F7 thought to himself, "but will she be willing to accept this lower case?"

Searching for clues

The clue to solving the case? The included macro FINDCASE.WPM does just that.

Finding the evidence

To use the macro for case sensitive searches, follow these steps:

1. With the cursor on the document screen and at the beginning of the text, press (Alt-F10), type "findcase" and press (Enter). The macro displays the prompt "Find (def:___)," where the word or phrase in the blank is the default search string. The "default" search string is the string used in the previous case-sensitive search.

2. Type the case-sensitive search string. If you want to accept the default string that appears in the prompt, press (Enter).

3. After typing the string, press (Enter).

The macro then performs a case sensitive search. If the search string is not found, the macro displays the message, "*No Match!*."

Solving the case

Here's how the macro works:

The {TEXT} command in line 3 displays a prompt on the status line, using the information currently in VAR 7 (variable 7), and then assigns your input string to VAR 8 (variable 8) . If you type a string instead of pressing (Enter), the {IF EXISTS} command in line 4 detects that VAR 8 exists and assigns the new input to VAR 7 in line 5. If, on the other hand, you press (Enter), VAR 8 doesn't "exist" and the default value in VAR 7 is assigned to the search string VAR 8 (line 7).

The string in VAR 8 is then used in a normal WordPerfect search operation (line 11).This search is case insensitive if the search string is all lowercase characters. If a match is found, the {LEN} command in line 12 determines the length (number of characters) in the search string, and the {ASSIGN} command subtracts one from the length and assigns the results to VAR 9.

The {FOR} loop in line 13 moves the cursor left to the beginning of the search string, and then the {FOR} loop in lines 14 through 20 compares the document string with the search string one character at a time. If the {IF} statement in lines 15 to 18 detects any differences (that is, the capitalization doesn't match), then the macro jumps back to the label "StartSearch" on line 10 to search for the next occurrence of the string. If, on the other hand, all the characters in the document string match those in the search string, the macro simply quits (line 21) and the cursor stops to the right of the desired string.

Getting off on a technicality

The macro has three disadvantages:

1. It can only search for text – characters that you can type from the keyboard – and not for codes, such as [HRt] and [Tab].

2. It only performs forward searches.

3. It's a little slower than the normal WordPerfect search, but it's still much faster than a case-insensitive search, particularly if the search word occurs often in both uppercase and lowercase.

If you want to perform a case-sensitive search that includes WordPerfect codes, or if you want the search to go backwards, you're out of luck. That's still an unsolved mystery.