

How To Make SourceSafe Keyword Expansion Work in Text Docs

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SUMMARY

This article describes how to set up SourceSafe to use keyword expansion. Note that keyword expansion occurs only if a user changes a file and then updates or checks in the file. The following table lists and describes the valid keywords:

Valid Keyword	Description
\$Archive: \$	& & Project path and file name in SourceSafe
\$Author: \$	& & User who last changed the file
\$Date: \$	& & Date and Time of last check in
\$Header: \$	& & Archive Info, Revision, Date, User
\$Logfile: \$	& & Same as \$Archive: \$
\$Modtime: \$	& & Date and time of last modification
\$Revision: \$	& & Revision number
\$Workfile: \$	& & File name
\$Log: \$	& & Same as \$History: \$ except in RCS format
\$History: \$	& & File name, Revision, Date, Time, User
\$NoKeywords: \$	& & Disables all keywords after this keyword

MORE INFORMATION

Step-by-Step Example

- To make keyword expansion work, use either one of the two following methods:
 - In the Visual SourceSafe Administrator, point to Tools and click **Options** and in the "Expand keywords in files of type" option, enter the file types for the keyword expansion. For example, type *.txt.
 - Add the following line to the Srcsafe.ini file on the server:

```
Keyword_Masks = *.TXT
```

NOTE: Use of incorrect keyword syntax, such as leaving off the trailing dollar sign of a keyword, may cause unpredictable results.

NOTE: It must also be placed before the first occurrence of a section header in the Srcsafe.ini file. A section header is a line enclosed in square brackets, that is, [\$/MyProj]. This setting will not work if placed in an individual user's ss.ini file.

Optionally, the following line can be added to the Srcsafe.ini file. This setting updates keywords in a user's working directory with the new keyword information when a user updates or checks in a file.

```
Expand_Keywords_Locally = YES
```

NOTE: You can put the Expand_Keywords_Locally setting into a user's Ss.ini file to individualize settings.

NOTE: The file may not have updated keywords if the user chooses to keep the file checked out on the update (that is, Keep_Checkedout=YES).

NOTE: On SourceSafe for the Macintosh versions 3.04 and 3.1, keyword expansion only works with a specific setup. For more information, please see the following article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[129192](http://support.microsoft.com/kb/129192/EN-US/) (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/129192/EN-US/>) BUG: Keyword Expansion Fails on the Macintosh

NOTE: The "Keyword_Masks =" line can have any extension or combination of extensions. If you use more than one extension, you must separate them with a comma or the keyword expansion won't work. For example:

```
Keyword_Masks = *.C, *.CCP, *.H, *.HPP, *.BAS
```

- For more information about adding keywords to files, please see the following article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[131092](http://support.microsoft.com/kb/131092/EN-US/) (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/131092/EN-US/>) PRB: Keyword Expansion is Case Sensitive

NOTE: In the User's Guide, the keyword is \$NoKeywords: \$ is incorrect. It is listed as \$Nokeywords: \$, with a lower case k. It should be \$NoKeywords: \$, with an upper case K. This keyword will not work with a lower case k.

- Format the keywords correctly. There are two ways to format keywords in files. The most frequently used method is to align the keywords on the left margin:

```
$Archive: $
$Author: $
$Date: $
```

When expanded, it will look like this:

```
$Archive: /KeywordAlignTest/KeyAlign1.txt $
$Author: Guest $
$Date: 11/23/95 9:31a $
```

The other way is to format the keywords so that when they are expanded, the values are aligned in a column. Note the use of two colons and the amount of space between the colons and the second dollar sign.

```
$Archive::                               $
$Author::                               $
$Date::                                  $
```

When it is expanded, it looks like the following:

```
$Archive:: /KeywordAlignTest/KeyAlign1.txt $
$Author:: Guest $
$Date:: 11/11/95 5:57p $
```

If you don't leave enough space between the colons and the dollarsign, SourceSafe will truncate the value so it would look like the following:

```
$Archive:: /KeywordAli$
$Author:: Guest $
$Date:: 11/11/95 5:$
```

- Place comment characters in front of keywords so the keywords are not compiled. SourceSafe sets the following comment characters by default:

```
*.ASM = "; "
*.BAS = "rem "
*.BAT = "rem "
*.S = "; "
;default comment for all other file types
*.* = "*" "
```

If you want to use a different comment character in a file that has a specific file extension, add the following lines to the Srcsafe.ini file on the server:

```
[Keyword Comments]
*.C = "/*", "*/"
```

The comment character is especially important in dealing with \$Log: \$ and \$History: \$ keywords. Unlike the other keywords, \$Log: \$ and \$History: \$ keywords add more information to the file each time keywords are updated -- instead of just replacing the previous information with the current information. A comment character, as defined by the Srcsafe.ini, is added to the beginning of each line created by \$Log: \$ and \$History: \$ keywords. For example, if the following is in a .txt file:

```
*$Log: $
*$History: $
```

and the default comment characters are in effect, it would look like the following after keyword expansion took place:

```
*$Log: /KeywordAlignTest/KeyAlign1.txt $
*
* 3    11/23/95 10:47a Guest
*
* 2    11/23/95 10:45a Guest
*
* 1    11/11/95 5:57p Guest
*$History: KeyAlign1.txt $
*
* ***** Version 3 *****
* User: Guest    Date: 11/23/95    Time: 10:47a
* Updated in $/KeywordAlignTest
*
* ***** Version 2 *****
* User: Guest    Date: 11/23/95    Time: 10:45a
* Updated in $/KeywordAlignTest
*
* ***** Version 1 *****
* User: Guest    Date: 11/11/95    Time: 5:57p
* Updated in $/KeywordAlignTest
```

REFERENCES

Microsoft Visual SourceSafe User's Guide for version 4.0, pages 68-71

APPLIES TO

- Microsoft Visual SourceSafe 5.0 Standard Edition
- Microsoft Visual SourceSafe 6.0 Standard Edition
- Microsoft Visual SourceSafe 4.0 Standard Edition

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