

Remove last n characters of file in MacOs

Author : Tobias Hofmann

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With MacOS and finder you can easily substitute characters of files using the rename functionality. Just select 2 or more files, right click, and inform the character you want to substitute, like _ with space.

To remove the last N characters from a file that looks like Text-2018221112.mp4 to Text is more complicated. The rename dialog does not understand regex. What you can use is the shell and rename

Install rename

```
brew install rename
```

Go to the directory with the files and run

```
rename -n 's/.{11}.mp4/\.mp4/' *
```

Rename uses the well known sed syntax s/char/replace/.

- -n runs the replace in simulation mode. It will print the result, without renaming the files yet. Perfect for testing.
- {11} number of characters to replace
- \.mp4 is to insert mp4 again, as .{11}.mp4 will replace also the file suffix

In case the output matches your goal, run rename without -n and the files will be renamed.

```
rename 's/.{11}.mp4/\.mp4/' *
```