

Exploring Scripting in Altium Designer Q & A

Question/Comment	Response
Is it possible to write scrips to check that parts have their correct footprints in the design, e.g. if description contains 0805 then the footprint is 0805?	This could be done. Making it foolproof is another issue all together. You may have a number of different 0805 footprints. Half the battle would be making sure that you have a robust, consistent nomenclature for your descriptions and footprint names. Once you extract the names, the script will need to parse through the data and look for those things which would qualify it. If you are building this from scratch, think it out; if you need to change existing footprint names, you risk breaking the link for prior projects.
What are some of the coolest / most-useful scripts you've seen? We're trying to figure out how this is useful to us	By far, the most useful script has been the logo maker in which one can have the script read a bit file and create a logo from it. The other scripts have been specific to companies that want formatted data for upload into their company's PLM system. To be honest, I have found that if a script has gained any notoriety, Altium turns it into a function within the tool. In short, scripts are best suited for your specific company needs.
You mentioned that "primitives' properties" can't be modified, what about "user parameters"? can they be modified? and/or their visibility?	If the parameter is a user parameter, you have the ability to add, modify and delete both the name of the parameter and its value. If the parameter is a system parameter such as 'comment' or 'description' you will only be able to change the value.
How many lines of code are there in Altium?	According to the site embarcadero.com, Altium Designer contains over 15 million lines of code. The article was written in 2014, so this number has increased since then. https://community.embarcadero.com/blogs/entry/altium-designer-15-000-000-codelines-1600 <i>Thanks to Randy Clemmons who provided this information during the webinar.</i>
How did you switch between the code and form?	To switch between the code and form, make sure that you that have selected a script file type that allows for a form. Once this is in view, look for the tabs at the bottom of the editor labeled "form" and "code".