

How to Remove Commas Inside of Quotes From a CSV or Text File on Linux with Awk

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Let's say you have a CSV file that you would like to open in Excel or LibreOffice Calc to analyze. You find out the formatting is broken because there is a column that has quoted text with a comma in it:

Name, Country, City

Jason, US, Memphis

David, US, Little Rock

"Karam, Sage", US, Nazareth

As you can see, this may cause a problem when importing the file into your spreadsheet application as the 4th row has 4 commas, and the others only have 3.

This is easy to fix using Awk. Simply run this one-liner command, specifying your source file, and then a new file to output it to:

```
awk -F'"' -v OFS=" '{ for (i=2; i<=NF; i+=2) gsub(", ", "", $i) } 1' source_file.csv  
>processed_file.csv
```

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