Regular Expressions

What is the one tool which you can use to help

* The linguist with messy Toolbox data that he wants to import into FLex?
* The go hung Translator that has never heard of Paratext and typed his whole NT into Microsoft Word?
* The Translator that fell asleep in class and used " instead of << and >> in his whole NT?
* The linguist who wants to change his lexemes from a phonetic to a phonemic writing system?
* The translation team which wants to do the OT now but their NT is from computer tape files?

"A [regular expression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regular_expression) ( also "RegEx" or "regex" ) is a string that is used to describe or match a set of strings according to certain [syntax](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syntax) rules." - WIkipedia

Software that uses Regular Expressions

Microsoft Office (Word)  
 Paratext  
 RegEx Pal  
 FLex  
 Adobe InDesign  
 EmEditor  
 Microsoft Visual Studio  
 GNU Grep  
 OpenOffice  
 RegExBuddy  
 TecIt  
 Many programming languages like C#, GNU, Java MySQL, PHP, Python, XML, Perl, REALbasic,etc.

Let's check out Word… (demo ^p ^t ^d)  
Let's check out Paratext… (demo Find Expression and Replace Expression)  
Let's check out RegEx Pal (Demo and then help them install or have them install ahead of time?)  
Serious work? Go to RegEx Buddy  
What can RegEx do for you?  
 Regularize data for input into another program  
 Toolbox/Excel/Word/OO > FLex (Other tools like Sheetswiper and SOLID can help as well)  
 Toolbox/Word/OO > Paratext (SILAS can also help)  
 Repair Paratext data that a user has hopelessly mangled  
 Prepare Paratext data for Production  
 Change Data in FLex Bulk Editing Tool (uses a special type called "ICU")  
 Transitioning Data from Phonetic > Phonemic>Orthographic writing systems  
 Targeting and changing data with regular features

Getting Started  
 Useful Regular Expressions.txt  
 Heidi RegEx Collection.txt  
 RegEx Pal Help File  
 FLex Help File  
 <http://icu.sourceforge.net/userguide/regexp.html>   
 <http://www.icu-project.org/userguide/regexp.html>   
<http://www.regular-expressions.info/>   
 <http://www.codeproject.com/>   
<http://perldoc.perl.org/perlrequick.html> (a tutorial based on Perl)  
<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA010873051033.aspx>  
<http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/2k3te2cs.aspx>   
 [www.regexbuddy.com](http://www.regexbuddy.com)