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Filtering Input, **Regular Expressions** And Basic Patterns

Regular Expressions

Regular expressions have two common forms: basic and extended. Most commands that use regular expressions can interpret basic regular expressions. However, extended regular expressions are not available for all commands and a command option is typically required for them to work correctly.

The following table summarizes basic regular expression characters:

Basic Regex Character(s)	Meaning
.	Any one single character
[]	Any one specified character
[^]	Not the one specified character
*	Zero or more of the previous character
^	If first character in the pattern, then pattern must be at beginning of the line to match, otherwise just a literal ^
\$	If last character in the pattern, then pattern must be at the end of the line to match, otherwise just a literal \$

The following table summarizes the extended regular expressions, which must be used with either the `egrep` command or the `-E` option with the `grep` command:

Extended Regex Character(s)	Meaning
+	One or more of the previous pattern
?	The preceding pattern is optional
{ }	Specify minimum, maximum or exact matches of the previous pattern
	Alternation - a logical "or"
()	Used to create groups

Only basic regular expressions have been covered here. For more information concerning extended regular expressions, check out the [NDG Linux Essentials](#) and [NDG Introduction to Linux](#) courses.

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