

Python regex `match` vs. `search` functions

Difference between Python regex `match()` and `search()` function!

We'll cover the following



- Python Matching Versus Searching
- Example 1
- Example 2:

Python Matching Versus Searching

We have learned so far that Python offers two different **primitive** operations:

- `match`
- `search`

So, how they are different to each other?

Note that `match` checks for a match only at the beginning of a string, while `search` checks for a match anywhere in the string!

Example 1

Let's try to find the word `Python`:

```
1  #!/usr/bin/python
2  import re
3
4  line = "Learn to Analyze Data with Python"
5
6  m = re.search( r'(python)', line)
7
8  if m:
9      print "m.group() : ", m.group()
10 else:
11     print "No match by obj.search()"
12
13 m = re.match( r'(python)', line)
14
15 if m:
16     print "m.group() : ", m.group()
```



```
16 | print m.group() ; m.group()
17 | else:
18 |     print "No match by obj.match"
19 |
```



You will be able to see that, `match` function won't find the word "Python", but search can! Also note the use of the `re.I` (case insensitive) option.

Example 2:

```
#!/usr/bin/python
import re

email = "hello@1eremove_thisarntoanalayzedata.com ";

# m = re.match("remove_this", email) // This will not work!
m = re.search("remove_this", email)

if m:
    print "email address : ", email[:m.start()] + email[m.end():]
else:
    print "No match!!"
```

