

HOW I LEARNED
TO STOP WORRYING
AND LOVE
REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

WHAT ARE REGULAR EXPRESSIONS?

WHY WOULD I BOTHER?

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

HOW CAN I TEST?

WHERE DO I USE THEM?

WHAT ARE REGULAR EXPRESSIONS?

- WILDCARD / PATTERN MATCHING
- SEARCH AND SELECTING FOR A PATTERN IN A STRING
 - SEARCH
 - FIND AND REPLACE
 - INPUT VALIDATION
- CHARACTER BASED
- MANY "SPECIAL" CHARACTERS AND ESCAPE SEQUENCES

WHY WOULD I BOTHER?

- THEY LIVE IN EXISTING CODE
- ONCE PAST LEARNING CURVE, THEY PROVIDE A CONCISE WAY TO EXPRESS STRING MATCHING
- BECAUSE THEY ARE BUILT INTO MANY PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES, THEY TEND TO BE FAST

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

- STRINGS TO INDICATE INCLUSION, EXCLUSION AND GROUPING
- SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT ACROSS DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
 - [HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/COMPARISON_OF_REGULAR-EXPRESSION_ENGINES](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_regular-expression_engines)
- MORE ALIKE THAN DIFFERENT
- TWO MAJOR GROUPINGS - PCRE(PERL COMPATIBLE REGULAR EXPRESSIONS) AND ECMA (ECMASCRIPT/JAVASCRIPT)

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

- `^(1-)?\d{3}-\d{3}-\d{4}$`
 - 1-614-565-8382 or 800-555-1212
- `^([a-z0-9_\.-]+)@([\da-z\.-]+)\.([a-z\.-]{2,5})$`
 - john@johnfulton.org or info@techelevator.com

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- LIMITED GOOD TUTORIALS

- [HTTPS://REGEXONE.COM](https://regexone.com)

- A WORLD OF PRE-EXISTING REGULAR EXPRESSIONS AND REFERENCE SHEETS

- [HTTPS://WWW.W3SCHOOLS.COM/JSREF/JSREF_OBJ_REGEXP.ASP](https://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_obj_regexp.asp)
- GOOGLE "REGULAR EXPRESSIONS" OR "REGEX" AND SOME KIND OF INFORMATION (PHONE NUMBER, EMAIL, WEB ADDRESS, ETC.)

HOW CAN I TEST?

- EXCELLENT TOOLS FOR TESTING AND VETTING REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

- [HTTPS://REGEX101.COM](https://regex101.com)
- [HTTPS://REGEXR.COM](https://regexr.com)
- [HTTPS://WWW.REGEXPAL.COM](https://www.regexpal.com)

WHERE DO I USE THEM?

- [HTTPS://REPL.IT/@JOHNFULTONORG/REGEX-EXAMPLE-JAVA](https://repl.it/@johnfultonorg/regex-example-java)
- [HTTPS://REPL.IT/@JOHNFULTONORG/REGEX-EXAMPLE-C#](https://repl.it/@johnfultonorg/regex-example-c#)
- [HTTPS://REPL.IT/@JOHNFULTONORG/REGEX-EXAMPLE-JAVASCRIPT](https://repl.it/@johnfultonorg/regex-example-javascript)

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