

Regular Expression and wild card characters

Regular Expression and wild card characters

- > If we want to represent group of characters for particular pattern then we should go with regular expression
- > To build a regular expression we need to take help of wild card characters
- > A wild card characters can be used as a substitute for required sequence of characters in the regular expression

-> Some wild card characters are as below

- 1) * represent zero or more characters.
- 2) ? represent only one character
- 3) [] represent of range of character
- 4) [abc] represent either a or b or c
- 5) [123] represent either 1 or 2 or 3
- 6) [!abc] Any character except a c and c
- 7) [a-z] any lower case alphabet symbol
- 8) [A-Z] any upper case alphabet symbol
- 9) [a-zA-Z] Any alphabet symbol
- 10) [0-9] any digit from 0 to 9
- 11) [a-zA-Z0-9] any alpha numeric character
- 12) [!a-zA-Z0-9] except alpha numeric character(i.e only special symbol)
- 13) [:lower:] any lower case alphabet symbol
- 14) [:upper:] any upper case alphabet symbol
- 15) [:alph:] Any alphabet symbol
- 16) [:digit:] Any digit from 0 to 9
- 17) [:alnum:] any alpha numeric character
- 18) [![:digit:]] Any character except digit
- 19) {} list of files with comma separated

Examples

1) list out all files in the current working directory

Ans : `ls *`

2) list out all files with some extension

Ans : `ls *.*`

3) list out all files start with A

Ans : `ls A*`

4) list out all files start with A and end with t

Ans : `ls A*t`

5) list out all files with .java extensions

Ans : `ls *.java`

6) list out all files where file name contains only 2 characters
Ans: `ls ??`

7) list out all files where file name start with A and contains only two character
Ans: `ls A?`

8) list out all files where file name contains only 3 character
Ans: `ls ???`

9) list out all files where file name contains at least 3 characters
Ans: `ls ???*`

10) list out all files where file name contains either a or b or c
Ans: `ls [abc]*`

11) list out all files where file name should not start with a,b or c
Ans: `ls [!abc]*`

12) list out all files where name start with lower case alphabet
Ans: `ls [a-z]*`

13) list out all files where name start with upper case alphabet
Ans: `ls [A-Z]*`

14) list out all files where name start with digit
Ans: `ls [0-9]*` or `ls [[:digit:]]*`

Note: We can use these wild card characters with following command like `cp`, `mv` `rm` also