



Stack Overflow is a community of 4.7 million programmers, just like you, helping each other.

Join them; it only takes a minute:

Sign up

Join the Stack Overflow community to:



Ask programming questions



Answer and help your peers



Get recognized for your expertise

Regex for lines containing one string and not containing another string

Work on work you love. From home.



I have following regex handy to match all the lines containing `console.log()` or `alert()` function in any javascript file opened in the editor supporting PCRE.

```
^.*\b(console\.log|alert)\b.*$
```



But I encounter many files containing `window.alert()` lines for alerting important messages, I don't want to remove/replace them.

So the question how to regex-match (single line regex without need to run frequently) all the lines containing `console.log()` and `alert()` but not containing word `window`. Also how to escape round brackets(parenthesis) which are unescapable by `\`, to make them part of string literal ?

asked yesterday

viewed 40 times

active yesterday

Related

1490

[Indent multiple lines quickly in vi](#)

2261

[Regular expression to match line that doesn't contain a word?](#)

1176

I tried following regex but in vain:

```
^.*\b(console\.log|alert)((?!window).)*\b.*$
```

javascript regex editor pcre

share improve this question

asked yesterday



Vicky Dev

258 2 13

what happens if both of them is not there? is it mandatory that one should be present and other absent? – [rock321987](#) yesterday

If both strings aren't there then no match as it is not the line I want to replace/remove, If `window` and `alert` are both in same line like `window.alert()` then it should not match so `alert` or `console` should be there but in same line `window` shouldn't be present. In short only match lines having `alert()` or `console.log()` and not having `window`. – [Vicky Dev](#) yesterday

Can you elaborate what you mean by this: "how to escape round brackets(parenthesis) which are unescapable by \, to make them part of string literal"? What exactly do you need? There is no need to escape `(` and `)` in strings and you can escape them using a backslash in regexes. – [Petr Smíček](#) yesterday

I tried to match exactly `alert()` in this same regex by `^(?!.*window\..)*\b(console\.log|alert\()\b.*$`, but as you can see here in demo link, it doesn't work. [regexr.com/3df1s](#) – [Vicky Dev](#) yesterday

remove `\b` from last `^(?!.*window\..)*\b(console\.log|alert\()\b.*$` – [rock321987](#) yesterday

unsafe in what sense? security wise or efficiency wise? – [rock321987](#) yesterday

can't say much about security..but there will be no issue of efficiency unless the file is very very huge in GB's (or TB's) – [rock321987](#) yesterday

add a comment

1 Answer

active

oldest

votes



You should use a negative lookahead, like this:

How to check if a string "StartsWith" another string?

223

Non greedy regex matching in sed?

1326

RegEx match open tags except XHTML self-contained tags

4645

How can I check if one string contains another substring?

1

Shared part in RegEx matched string

0

Elegant regex multimatching in limited space on a single line

1

Regex matching lines not containing word EMPTY

0

Regex - Find string in line but replace another string in the same line

Hot Network Questions



What are some tips for battling forearm fatigue for performing long passages of fast notes (keyboard)?



How do I make a PC's religion help drive the story?



Why do some location on Earth have only one tidal maximum per day instead of two?



Function template overloading difference

1

```
^(?!.*window\.).*\b(console\.log|alert)\b.*$
```

The negative lookahead will assert that it is impossible to match if the string `window.` is present.

Regex Demo

As for the parenthesis, you can escape them with backslashes, but because you have a word boundary character, it will not match if you put the escaped parenthesis, because they are not word characters.

The metacharacter `\b` is an anchor like the caret and the dollar sign. It matches at a position that is called a "word boundary". This match is zero-length.

There are three different positions that qualify as word boundaries:

- Before the first character in the string, if the first character is a word character.
- After the last character in the string, if the last character is a word character.
- Between two characters in the string, where one is a word character and the other is not a word character.

share improve this answer

edited yesterday

answered yesterday



lbarros

798 3 12

Thanks for answer, it works, can you answer my sub-question, in what situation does parenthesis cannot be escaped by a backward slash, and how should I escape them in those situations ? – [Vicky Dev](#) yesterday

They can be escape with backslash, but because you have a word boundary character, it will not match if you put the escaped paren. You will have to remove the second word boundary. – [lbarros](#) yesterday

So I have to mandatorily remove the word boundary character ? – [Vicky Dev](#) yesterday

If you want to match the parens inside the capture group, yes. – [lbarros](#) yesterday

Please include this in your answer with some explanation and I will mark it accepted. – [Vicky Dev](#) yesterday

add a comment

How can developers test time-dependent contracts?

How are globals any different from a database?

Why is radian so common in maths?

Orbits around the Photon sphere of a black hole (Schwarzschild coordinates)

Aladdin ending explanation?

Is it possible to connect an external GPU via Ethernet?

Find the value of an algebraic expression

Why would a government passively encourage its people to not obtain a formal education?

Look, look with your special eyes!

How to stop one player taking control of the game?

`exec` and `tee` to the logfile. explain this bash commands

Required to work unpaid overtime to "make up" for a shorter commute after moving closer to the office

What is the function for "round n to the nearest m"?

Is it common to require employers' acceptance for private software developments?

Plot independent 2D graphs on walls of 3D Plot

Better to give a poor/unfinished talk at a conference or cancel it?

How can I define a key mapping which involves a control character?

Find the domain

Why does Uncle Bob suggest that coding standards shouldn't be written down if you can avoid it?

In the Five(ish) Doctors Reboot, what is each cameo provider's connection to Doctor Who?

Your Answer

B B B B B B B B B B B B

Sign up or [log in](#)

Post as a guest



Sign up using Google



Sign up using Facebook



Sign up using Email and Password

Name

Email

Post Your Answer

By posting your answer, you agree to the [privacy policy](#) and [terms of service](#).

Not the answer you're looking for? Browse other questions tagged [javascript](#) [regex](#) [editor](#) [pcre](#) or [ask](#)

[about us](#) [tour](#) [help](#) [blog](#) [chat](#) [data](#) [legal](#) [privacy policy](#) [work here](#) [advertising info](#) [mobile](#) [contact us](#) [feedback](#)

TECHNOLOGY

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stack Overflow | Programmers | Database Administrators |
| Server Fault | Unix & Linux | Drupal Answers |
| Super User | Ask Different (Apple) | SharePoint |
| Web Applications | WordPress Development | User Experience |
| Ask Ubuntu | Geographic Information Systems | Mathematica |
| Webmasters | Electrical Engineering | Salesforce |
| Game Development | Android Enthusiasts | ExpressionEngine® Answers |
| TeX - LaTeX | Information Security | more (13) |

LIFE / ARTS

- Photography
- Science Fiction & Fantasy
- Graphic Design
- Movies & TV
- Seasoned Advice (cooking)
- Home Improvement
- Personal Finance & Money
- Academia
- more (9)**

CULTURE / RECREATION

- English Language & Usage
- Skeptics
- Mi Yodeya (Judaism)
- Travel
- Christianity
- Arqade (gaming)
- Bicycles
- Role-playing Games
- more (21)**

SCIENCE

- Mathematics
- Cross Validated (stats)
- Theoretical Computer Science
- Physics
- MathOverflow
- Chemistry
- Biology
- more (5)**

OTHER

- Stack Apps
- Meta Stack Exchange
- Area 51
- Stack Overflow Careers