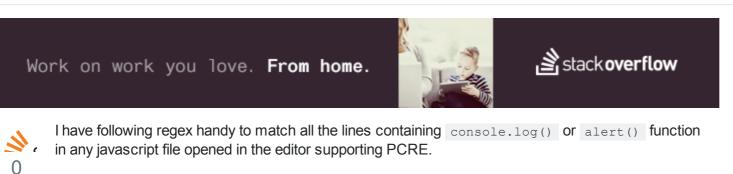


Regex for lines containing one string and not containing another string



^.*\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.

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I tried following regex but in vain:

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

javascript regex editor 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 replice/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 shoudn'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 Srníček 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/3dfls - Vicky Dev yesterday

remove \b from last \(^{?!.*window\.).*\b(console\.log|alert\().*\\$ - 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

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1 Answer

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You should use a negative lookhead, like this:

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



The negative lookhead 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.

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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. – Ibarros 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. – Ibarros yesterday

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

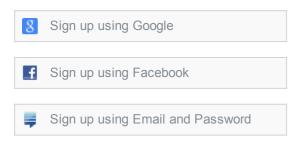
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