

We've recently made an accessibility improvement to the community and therefore posts without any content are no longer allowed. Please use the spoiler feature or add a short message in the message body in order to submit your weekly challenge.



2022-05-26 Updates: Email: If you're not seeing emails be delivered from the Community, please check your spam and mark the Community emails as not junk. Thank you for your patience.



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IDEAS WANTED

We're actively looking for ideas on how to improve Weekly Challenges and would love to hear what you think!

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Challenge #4: Date Parsing



GeneR
Alteryx Alumni (Retired)

For the fourth challenge let's look at parsing Dates from text strings. To view the previous challenge, click [HERE](#).

A dataset contains a text field that has a date embedded within the text. The problem is that the date is represented a few different ways. For example:

- 16-APR-2005
- Nov•16,•1900
- 4-SEP-00
- Jan•5•2000

The goal is to create a new Date/Time field populated with the dates contained within the text field. You will also need to standardize the dates so that they are all formatted the same.

We have listed this as an advanced exercise since parsing out the dates can be challenging depending on the technique you employ to do it. As always, we love to hear your comments. Have fun!

UPDATE 12/7/2015:

The solution has been uploaded

challenge_4_start_file.yxmd

challenge_4_solution.yxmd

Data Analysis Difficult Parse Preparation

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dataMack
12 - Quasar

Thanks for posting these. I'm using them as learning exercises for the analysts on my team. Its fun to see the different approaches someone may take to solve the same problem- especially when they explain why. We all seem to learn new things this way.

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TaraM
Alteryx

We updated this exercise with the solution. Be sure to check out this week's [exercise](#).

Tara McCoy

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dataMack
12 - Quasar

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For example, in the first RegEx tool node, 4 output fields are configured, which then get evaluated into a single output via a sequence in a single formula tool. As I examine the RegEx tool, I wonder why 4 outputs were needed? Does each solve for a particular format? Are they designed to be mutually exclusive, etc.

[illegible]

I think of there was just a brief 1-2 sentence explanation for the particular choices, it would greatly enhance understanding of the solution.

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Hi @dataMack,

I will try to provide a bit more explanation on approaches in the future, but keep in mind that there are many ways to solve an exercise and we are only posting an example. There is always another way and more often than not, a better way.

Best Regards,

Best Regards,

@GeneR

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Thanks @GeneR That's perfect- I was wondering if you specifically made 4 to catch the possible variations only in the source file, or if the statements were designed to work on other variations that may not be present in that source, but possible in another, similar file. Very much appreciate the explanation- thank you!

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This is the first exercise I've downloaded and looked at so far (we just got our Alteryx licenses). I initially looked at the RegEx syntax and thought "my Lord, how am I ever going to unpack that so that I could ever hope to build one of those myself", and then I noticed the drop-down menu next to the Regular Expression text box. That is seriously wonderful...the fact that you can build a RegEx statement by just selecting the components you want in the order you want. I realize this won't be necessary once I familiarize myself with the syntax more, but having this tool for the novice user is gold. Alteryx is an amazing tool. That's all I wanted to say. :-)

-Mike

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markp201
8 - Asteroid

My perspective was there were variations for only two formats.

(\d{1,2}(\s-)\D{3,}(\s-)\d{2,4})

(\D{3,}(\s)\d{1,2}\.{1,2}\d{2,4})

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 **ACE mceleavey**
17 - Castor

My regex skills are lacking, but here goes:

► Spoiler

bu:lien


 challenge_4_solution.yxmd




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 **KatieA**
Alteryx Alumni (Retired)

Solution attached!

 KA_challenge_4.yxmd



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