

Regular Expressions in Python Tutorial

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Motivating regular expressions

Scenario: You're evaluating Acme Company's products for a hospital. You're given a text file containing purchase records from Acme. Looking through the text file, however, you see that purchases from other companies are included as well, with no mention of which ones come from which!

1	PCOD	QTY	DEPT	COST
	A169	100	Micro	0.58
3	PDA1	1	Xray	600.00
	X280	5	ER	199.99
5	...			

Luckily, you know that Acme's product codes consist of one uppercase letter followed by three digits.

Motivating regular expressions

So you get to work with a script:

```
1 import string
2 for line in open('purchaserecords.txt', 'r'):
3     if line[0] in string.uppercase and \
4         line[1].isdigit() and \
5         line[2].isdigit() and \
6         line[3].isdigit():
7         print line
8     else:
9         continue
```

It's a bit clunky, but it works.