NAME

PCRE - Perl-compatible regular expressions

SYNOPSIS

#include <pcre.h>

int pcre_exec(const pcre ****code*, const pcre_extra ****extra***,**
const char ****subject*, int** *length***, int** *startoffset***,**
int *options***, int ****ovector***, int** *ovecsize***);**

int pcre16_exec(const pcre16 ****code*, const pcre16_extra ****extra***,**
PCRE_SPTR16 *subject***, int** *length***, int** *startoffset***,**
int *options***, int ****ovector***, int** *ovecsize***);**

int pcre32_exec(const pcre32 ****code*, const pcre32_extra ****extra***,**
PCRE_SPTR32 *subject***, int** *length***, int** *startoffset***,**
int *options***, int ****ovector***, int** *ovecsize***);**

DESCRIPTION

This function matches a compiled regular expression against a given subject string, using a matching algorithm that is similar to Perl's. It returns offsets to captured substrings. Its arguments are:

code	Points to the compiled pattern
extra	Points to an associated **pcre[16|32]_extra** structure, or is NULL
subject	Points to the subject string
length	Length of the subject string
startoffset	Offset in the subject at which to start matching
options	Option bits
ovector	Points to a vector of ints for result offsets
ovecsize	Number of elements in the vector (a multiple of 3)

The units for *length* and *startoffset* are bytes for **pcre_exec()**, 16-bit data items for **pcre16_exec()**, and 32-bit items for **pcre32_exec()**. The options are:

PCRE_ANCHORED	Match only at the first position
PCRE_BSR_ANYCRLF	\R matches only CR, LF, or CRLF
PCRE_BSR_UNICODE	\R matches all Unicode line endings
PCRE_NEWLINE_ANY	Recognize any Unicode newline sequence
PCRE_NEWLINE_ANYCRLF	Recognize CR, LF, & CRLF as newline sequences
PCRE_NEWLINE_CR	Recognize CR as the only newline sequence
PCRE_NEWLINE_CRLF	Recognize CRLF as the only newline sequence
PCRE_NEWLINE_LF	Recognize LF as the only newline sequence
PCRE_NOTBOL	Subject string is not the beginning of a line
PCRE_NOTEOL	Subject string is not the end of a line
PCRE_NOTEMPTY	An empty string is not a valid match
PCRE_NOTEMPTY_ATSTART	An empty string at the start of the subject is not a valid match
PCRE_NO_START_OPTIMIZE	Do not do "start-match" optimizations
PCRE_NO_UTF16_CHECK	Do not check the subject for UTF-16 validity (only relevant if PCRE_UTF16 was set at compile time)
PCRE_NO_UTF32_CHECK	Do not check the subject for UTF-32 validity (only relevant if PCRE_UTF32

was set at compile time)
PCRE_NO_UTF8_CHECK Do not check the subject for UTF-8
validity (only relevant if PCRE_UTF8
was set at compile time)
PCRE_PARTIAL) Return PCRE_ERROR_PARTIAL for a partial
PCRE_PARTIAL_SOFT) match if no full matches are found
PCRE_PARTIAL_HARD Return PCRE_ERROR_PARTIAL for a partial match
if that is found before a full match

For details of partial matching, see the **pcrepartial** page. A **pcre_extra** structure contains the following fields:

flags Bits indicating which fields are set
study_data Opaque data from **pcre[16|32]_study()**
match_limit Limit on internal resource use
match_limit_recursion Limit on internal recursion depth
callout_data Opaque data passed back to callouts
tables Points to character tables or is NULL
mark For passing back a *MARK pointer
executable_jit Opaque data from JIT compilation

The flag bits are PCRE_EXTRA_STUDY_DATA, PCRE_EXTRA_MATCH_LIMIT, PCRE_EXTRA_MATCH_LIMIT_RECURSION, PCRE_EXTRA_CALLOUT_DATA, PCRE_EXTRA_TABLES, PCRE_EXTRA_MARK and PCRE_EXTRA_EXECUTABLE_JIT.

There is a complete description of the PCRE native API in the **pcreapi** page and a description of the POSIX API in the **pcreposix** page.