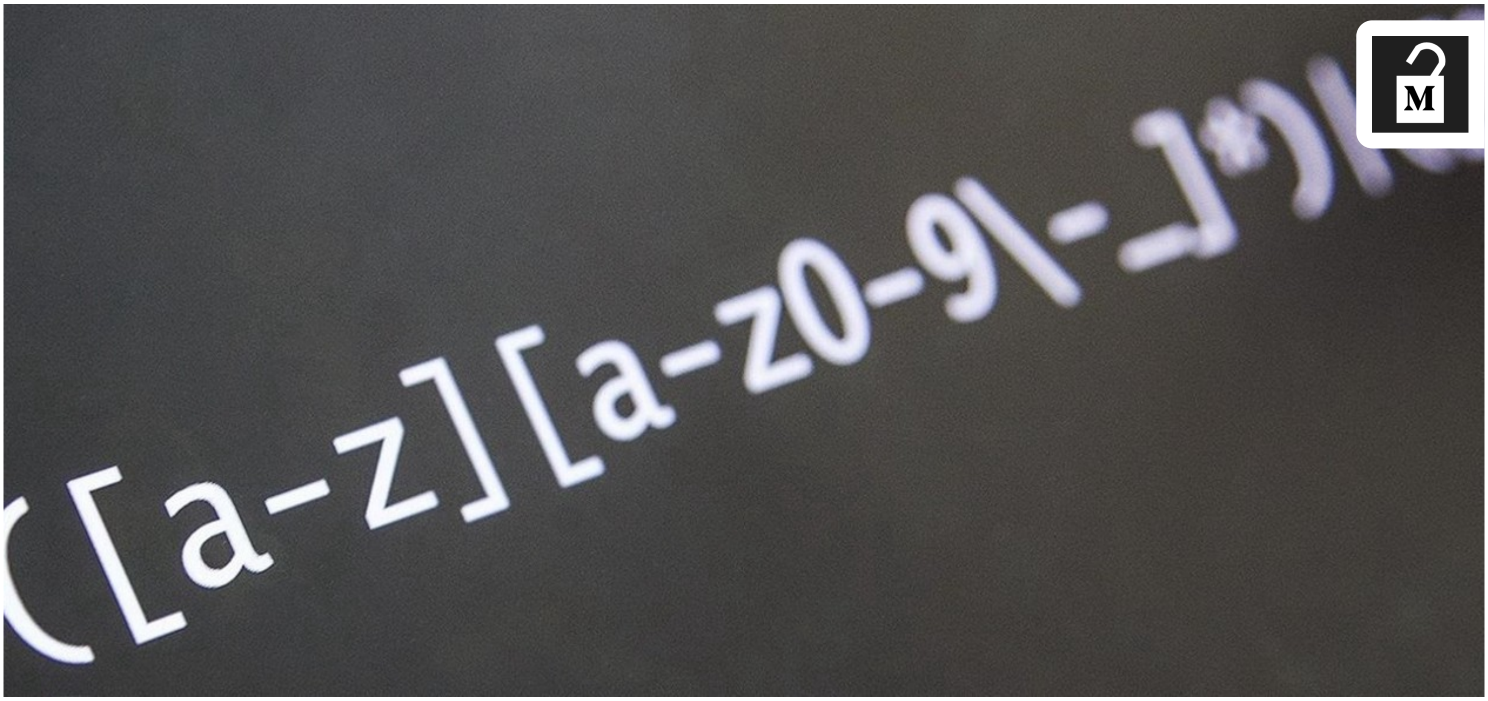
Regex cookbook — Top 10 Most wanted regex

Jonny Fox Follow
Mar 20, 2019 · 4 min read ★

The most commonly used (and most wanted) regexes



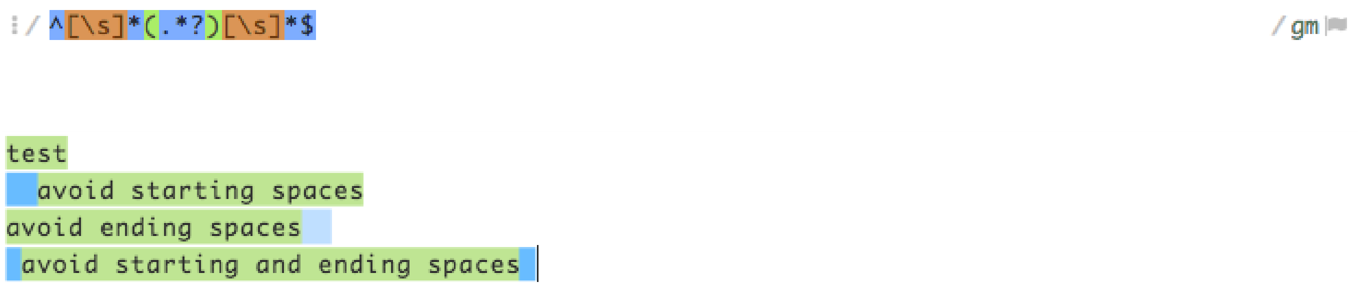
After some time I thought about publishing this article (see my previous tutorial) with the regex I used most in the projects on which I was involved.

Write in the comments any regex that you would like to add and I will try (if I can) to implement them 😅

Happy coding!!!

Trim spaces — try it!

Matches text avoiding additional spaces



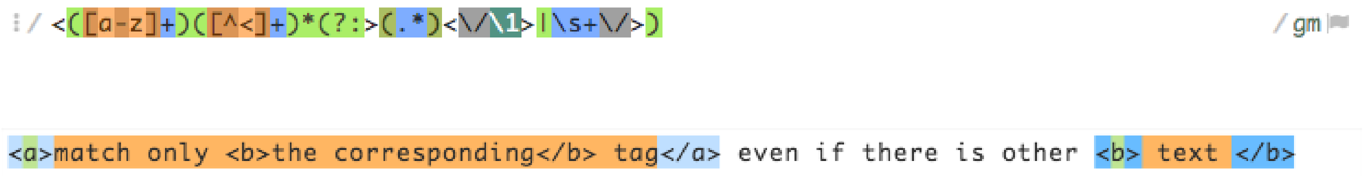
```
/ ^[\s]*(.*?)[\s]*$ / gm
```

```
test
 avoid starting spaces
avoid ending spaces 
 avoid starting and ending spaces 
```

```
^[\s]*(.*?)[\s]*$
```

HTML Tag — try it!

Matches any valid HTML tag and the **corresponding closing tag**



```
/ <([a-z]+)([^<]+)*(?:>(.*)<\/\1>|\s+\/>) / gm
```

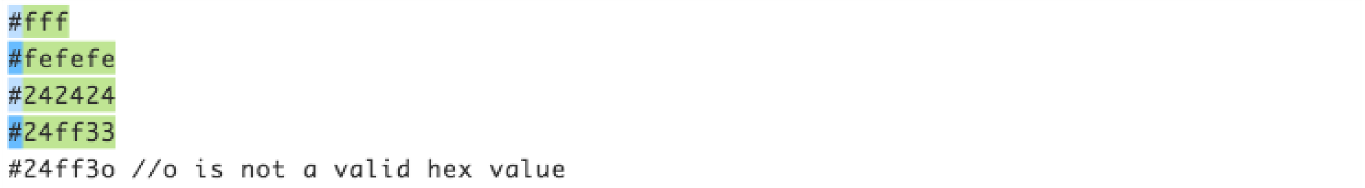
```
<a>match only <b>the corresponding</b> tag</a> even if there is other <b> text </b>
```

```
<([a-z]+)([^<]+)*(?:>(.*)<\/\1>|\s+\/>)
```

Hexadecimal value — try it!

Matches any valid **hex color** inside text

```
/ \B#([a-fA-F0-9]{6}|[a-fA-F0-9]{3})\b / g
```

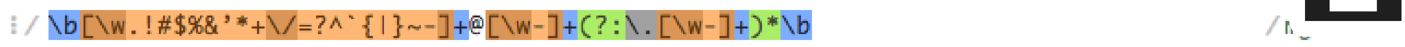


```
#fff
#fefefe
#242424
#24ff33
#24ff3o //o is not a valid hex value
```

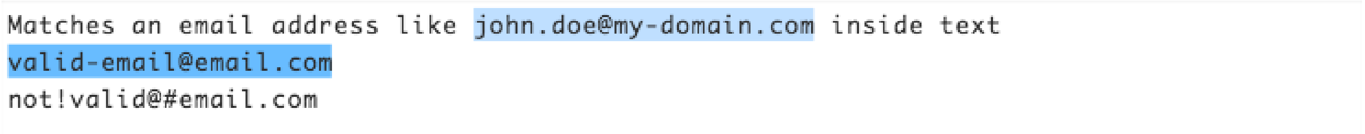
```
\B#(?:[a-fA-F0-9]{6}|[a-fA-F0-9]{3})\b
```

Valid email (RFC5322) — try it!

Matches any valid **email** inside text



```
/ \b[\w.!#$%&'*+\/=?^`{|}~-]+@[\w-]+(?:\.[\w-]+)*\b /
```



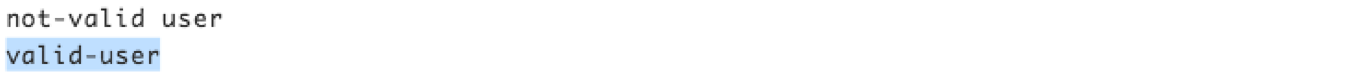
```
Matches an email address like john.doe@my-domain.com inside text
valid-email@email.com
not!valid@#email.com
```

```
\b[\w.!#$%&’*+\/=?^`{|}~-]+@[\w-]+(?:\.[\w-]+)*\b
```

Username (simple) — try it!

Minimum length of 3, maximum length of 16, composed by letters, numbers or dashes.

```
/ ^[a-z0-9_-]{3,16}$ / m
```

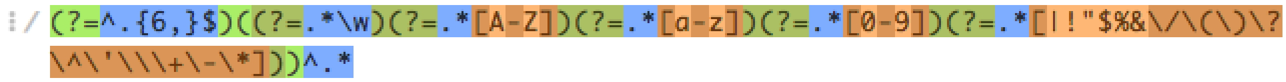


```
not-valid user
valid-user
```

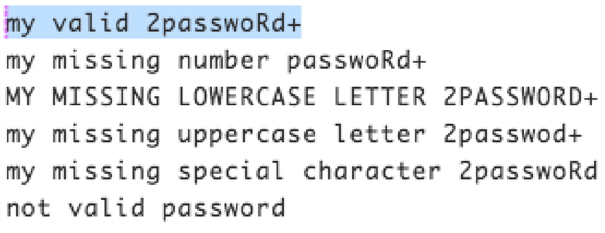
```
/^[a-z0-9_-]{3,16}$/
```

Strong password — try it!

Minimum length of 6, at least one uppercase letter, at least one lowercase letter, at least one number, at least one special character



```
/ (?=^.{6,}$)((?=.*\w)(?=.*[A-Z])(?=.*[a-z])(?=.*[0-9])(?=.*[|!"$%&\/\(\)\?
\^\'\\\+\-\*]))^.*
```

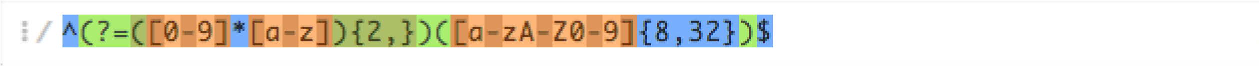


```
my valid 2passwoRd+
my missing number passwoRd+
MY MISSING LOWERCASE LETTER 2PASSWORD+
my missing uppercase letter 2passwod+
my missing special character 2passwoRd
not valid password
```

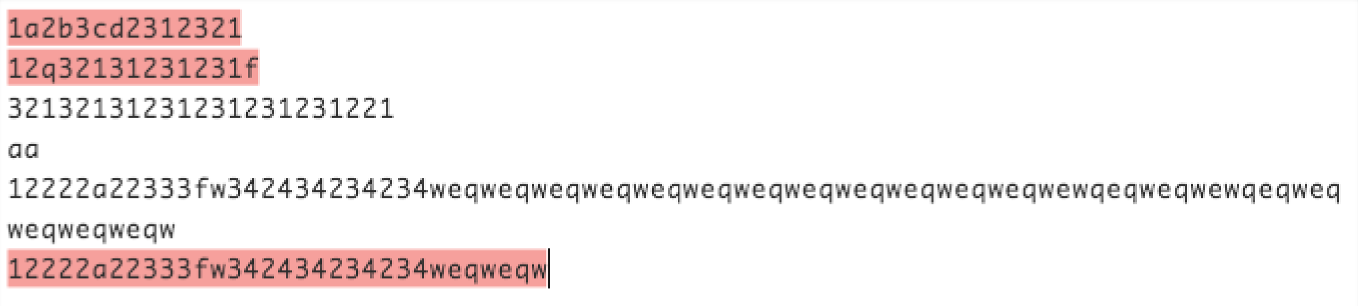
```
(?=^.{6,}$)((?=.*\w)(?=.*[A-Z])(?=.*[a-z])(?=.*[0-9])(?=.*[|!"$%&\/\
(\)\?\^\'\\\+\-\*]))^.*
```

2 of a kind— try it!

At least 2 letters (uppercase or lowercase) at any index, minimum length of 8, maximum length of 32



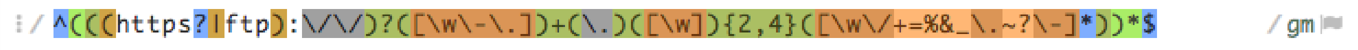
```
/ ^(?=([0-9]*[a-z]){2,})([a-zA-Z0-9]{8,32})$
```



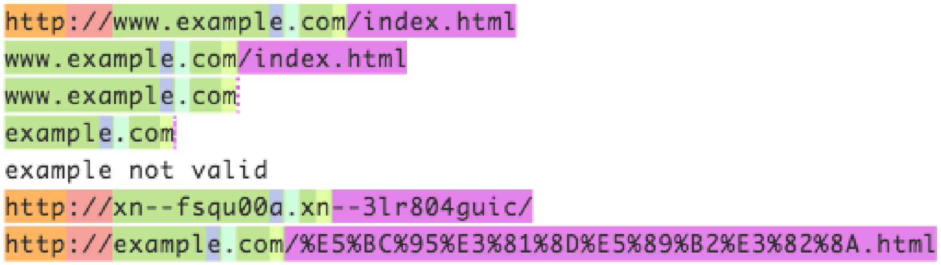
```
1a2b3cd2312321
12q32131231231f
32132131231231231231221
aa
12222a22333fw342434234234weqweqweqweqweqweqweqweqweqweqweqweqwewqeqweqwewqeqweq
weqweqweqw
12222a22333fw342434234234weqweqw
```

```
^(?=([0-9]*[a-z]){2,})([a-zA-Z0-9]{8,32})$
```

If you want to use capturing groups to get scheme, path, etc. (or add user-info, host, port…) feel free to ask it in comments!



```
/ ^(((https?|ftp):\/\/)?([\w\-\.])+(\.)([\w]){2,4}([\w\/+=%&_\.~?\-]*))*$ / gm
```

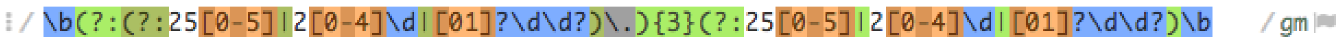


```
http://www.example.com/index.html
www.example.com/index.html
www.example.com
example.com
example not valid
http://xn--fsqu00a.xn--3lr804guic/
http://example.com/%E5%BC%95%E3%81%8D%E5%89%B2%E3%82%8A.html
```

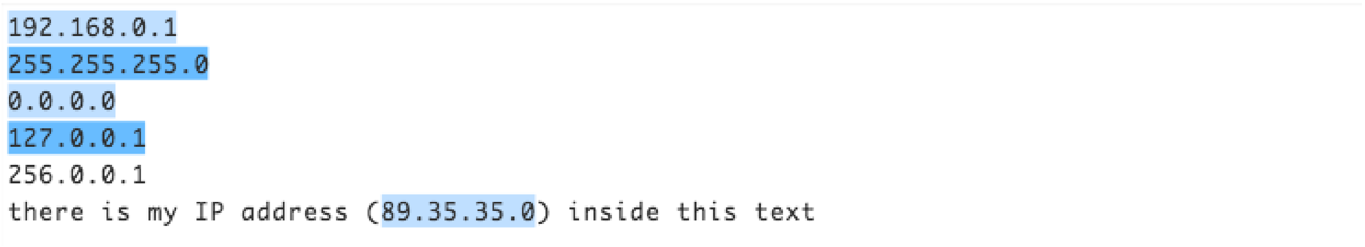
```
^(((https?|ftp):\/\/)?([\w\-\.])+(\.)([\w]){2,4}([\w\/+=%&_\.~?
\-]*))*$
```

IPv4 address — try it!

Matches any valid IPv4 address inside text



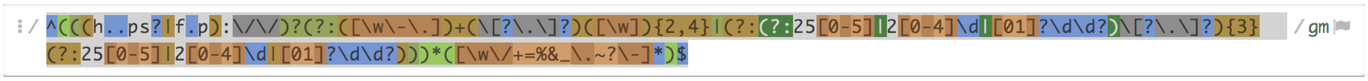
```
/ \b(?:(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)\.){3}(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)\b    / gm
```



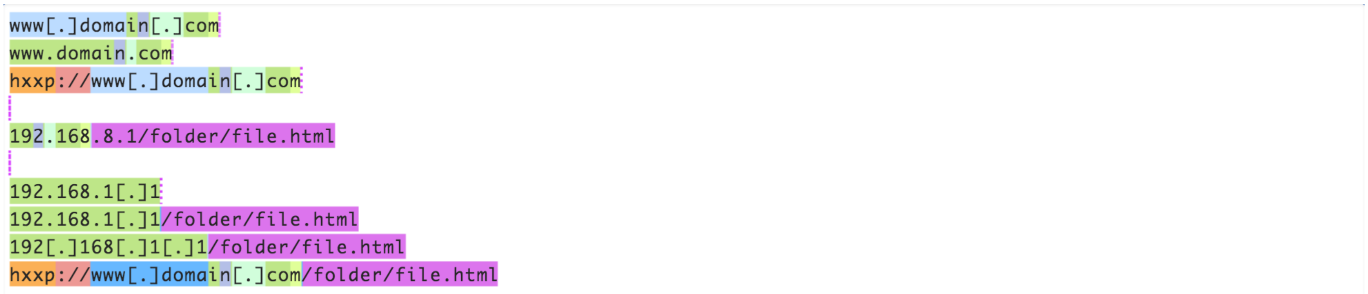
```
192.168.0.1
255.255.255.0
0.0.0.0
127.0.0.1
256.0.0.1
there is my IP address (89.35.35.0) inside this text
```

```
\b(?:(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)\.){3}(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)\b
```

"Defanged" URL or IPv4 address — try it!



```
/ ^(((h..ps?|f.p):\/\/)?(?:([\w\-\.])+(\[?\.\]?)([\w]){2,4}|(?:(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)\[?\.\]?){3}    / gm
  (?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)))*([\w\/+=%&_\.~?\-]*)$
```

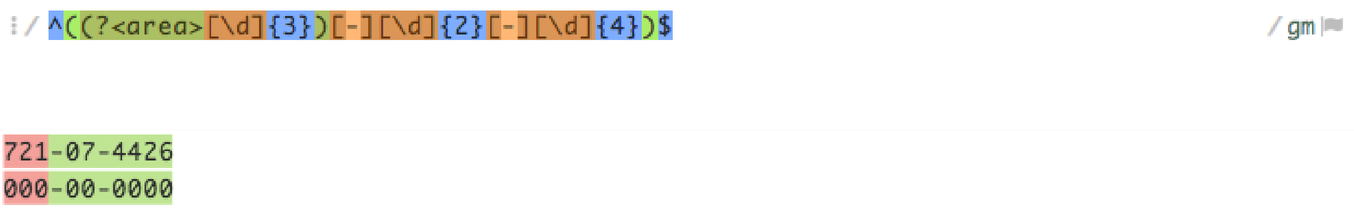


```
www[.]domain[.]com
www.domain.com
hxxp://www[.]domain[.]com

192.168.8.1/folder/file.html

192.168.1[.]1
192.168.1[.]1/folder/file.html
192[.]168[.]1[.]1/folder/file.html
hxxp://www[.]domain[.]com/folder/file.html
```

```
^(((h..ps?|f.p):\/\/)?(?:([\w\-\.])+(\[?\.\]?)([\w]){2,4}|(?:(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)\[?\.\]?){3}(?:25[0-5]|2[0-4]\d|[01]?\d\d?)))*([\w\/+=%&_\.~?\-]*)$
```

SSN — Social Security Number (simple) — try it!

If you want to check the validity of an SSN feel free to ask in comments!



```
/ ^((?<area>[\d]{3})[-][\d]{2}[-][\d]{4})$ / gm
```

```
721-07-4426
000-00-0000
```

```
^((?<area>[\d]{3})[-][\d]{2}[-][\d]{4})$
```

Alpha-numeric, literals, digits, lowercase, uppercase chars only

```
\w                  //alpha-numeric only
[a-zA-Z]            //literals only
\d                  //digits only
[a-z]               //lowercase literal only
[A-Z]               //uppercase literal only
```

Have fun and do not forget to recommend the article if you liked it ♥

Do not forget to check out my previous article about regex tutorial!