



Regular Expression 101

by
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Regular Expression 101

- Leader: Travis Risner
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- Lab Partners: Chris, Jim, Joe



Regular Expression 101

- Lab Intent:
 - Covers basic regular expressions (RegEx) in Python
 - Focus is on RegEx syntax
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- Not covered:
 - Advanced RegEx topics such as lookahead and lookbehind
 - Non-Python RegEx usage
 - Unicode, hex or octal handling
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- Lab format:
 - Short lecture at the beginning and at the end
 - Download lab materials
 - Setup your workstation to use Jupyter
 - or method of your choice
 - Work through about 20 exercises
 - A ten minute break mid-session
 - If anyone comes back, we will resume
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- Expectations:
 - A workstation (e.g. laptop) with:
 - Reasonably current OS with Wireless capability
 - Browser to use Jupyter or IDE of your choice
 - Rodent of your choice
 - Some familiarity with Python development
 - Willingness to work with Python 3.3 or newer
- Questions?



Regular Expression 101

- What is RegEx?
 - A method of searching or scanning text based on the characteristics of the text.
 - Examples
- Why use RegEx?
- When to use RegEx.
- When not to use RegEx.
- RegEx is best suited for some tasks, but not others.



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- Setup details for lab
 - Wireless for Ohio Union
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- Material source
 - Go to GitHub:
 - <https://github.com/deeppunster/RegEx101>
 - Click on “Clone or Download” to download
 - Unpack the zip file
 - Go to: <https://try.jupyter.org>.
 - Click on Upload.
 - Choose RegEx 101 without answers.ipynb
 - Click on Upload
 - Click on RegEx 101 without answers



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- Go to first exercise



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- Break!



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Advanced Example



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- Recap
 - From re import <needed functions>.
 - Always use raw strings (r""" ... """) for RegEx.
 - If you need to use the same RegEx repeatedly, compile it.
 - Use VERBOSE mode unless RegEx is very simple.
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- Recap (continued)
 - Use RegEx when it makes sense.
 - First make sure it is correct before attempting to make it efficient
 - Don't make the next person hate you for using RegEx – it might even be you!



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References:

Python documentation at <https://docs.python.org/3/library/re.html>

Tutorial: <http://www.regular-expressions.info/python.html>

Python RegEx Cheatsheet:
<https://www.debuggex.com/cheatsheet/regex/python>

Interactive tutorial: http://www.learnpython.org/en/Regular_Expressions



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- Resources – Books:
- Mastering Regular Expressions by Jeffery Friedl
- Regular Expressions Pocket Reference by Tony Stubblebein
- Regular Expressions Cookbook by Jan Goyvaerts and Steven Leviathan
- Python Cookbook (a few recipes) by David Beasley and Brian Jones
- Automate the Boring Stuff with Python by Al Sweigart



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RegEx Testers

<https://www.debuggex.com/> -

Python, Javascript, PCRE

<http://www.pyregex.com/>

<http://python-regex.com/> - Python



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RegEx Testers (continued)

<http://www.regexr.com/> - Unknown

<https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/rext/>

(Firefox Addon, uses Java)



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RegEx Testers (continued)

<https://regex101.com/> -

Python, Javascript, PCRE (PHP)

<http://www.regexplanet.com/>

Python, GO, Haskell, Java, Javascript, .net, Perl, PHP, Ruby.
Tcl, XRegExp