Regular Expression PHP

preg\_match – this function is used to perform a pattern match on a string. It returns true if a match is found and false if a match is not found.

Syntax : preg\_match(“/pattern/”,subject);

"function\_name(...)" is either preg\_match, preg\_split or preg\_replace.

* "/.../" The forward slashes denote the beginning and end of our regular expression
* "'/pattern/'" is the pattern that we need to matched
* "subject" is the text string to be matched against

**Meta characters**

The above examples used very basic patterns; metacharacters simply allow us to perform more complex pattern matches such as test the validity of an email address. Let’s now look at the commonly used metacharacters.

| **Metacharacter** | **Description** | **Example** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| . | Matches any single character except a new line | /./ matches anything that has a single character |
| ^ | Matches the beginning of or string / excludes characters | /^PH/ matches any string that starts with PH |
| $ | Matches pattern at the end of the string | /com$/ matches guru99.com,yahoo.com Etc. |
| \* | Matches any zero (0) or more characters | /com\*/ matches computer, communication etc. |
| + | Requires preceding character(s) appear at least once | /yah+oo/ matches yahoo |
| \ | Used to escape meta characters | /yahoo+\.com/ treats the dot as a literal value |
| [...] | Character class | /[abc]/ matches abc |
| [a-z] | Matches lower case letters | /a-z/ matches cool, happy etc. |
| [A-Z] | Matches upper case letters | /A-Z/ matches WHAT, HOW, WHY etc. |
| [0-9] | Matches any number between 0 and 9 | /0-4/ matches 0,1,2,3,4 |
| [^….] | Negation of range | [^0-9] matches that is not between numeric char |