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Regular expression to allow user to enter only text, not alphanumeric



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I know it may be very easy for many of you but I am stuck with it. Its killing my time. As I researched on net, I got many regular expression to check for numbers, digit and alphanumeric but I am unable to change the code to meet my requirement. I want user to enter only text in the given textbox(as in real a person name does not contain any special characters or any digit). Spaces are allowed because user might want to enter first name and last name.

I am trying with following using JQuery validation

```
jQuery(function() {  
    jQuery("#userName").validate({  
        expression: "if (VAL) return true; else return false;",  
        message: "Please enter the Required field(Only text is allowed)"  
    });  
    jQuery("#userName").validate({  
        expression: "if (isNaN(VAL)) return true; else return false;",  
        message: "Please enter Only text"  
    });  
});
```

tagged

jquery × 408587

regex × 76424

jquery-validate × 4012

asked 11 months ago

viewed 1742 times

active 11 months ago

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Software Engineer - Square - New York (SoHo)
Square

```
jQuery("#userName").validate({
    expression: "if (VAL.match(/^[a-zA-Z0-9_-]+$)) return **false**
    message: "Please do not enter alpha numeric values"
});
```

1st 2 validations are working perfectly. Last one is related to my query. Please help me out. Many many thanks in advance. :)

Thanks everybody specially to npinti, below code is working now.

```
<script type="text/javascript">
reg = new RegExp('^[A-Za-z ]+$');
/*  */
jQuery(function(){
    jQuery("#userName").validate({
        expression: "if (VAL) return true; else return false;",
        message: "Please enter the Required field(Only text is allowed)"
    });
    jQuery("#userName").validate({

        expression: "if(reg.test(VAL)) return true; else return false;",
        message: "Please enter only text"
    });
});</pre>
</div>
<div data-bbox="80 604 256 629" data-label="Text">
<p>jquery regex jquery-validate</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="80 651 244 674" data-label="Text">
<p>share | improve this question</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="80 729 163 750" data-label="Text">
<p>add comment</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="358 651 482 674" data-label="Text">
<p>edited Jan 17 at 0:07</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="360 677 394 723" data-label="Image">
<img alt="Profile picture of Sparky"/>
</div>
<div data-bbox="394 679 499 722" data-label="Text">
<p>Sparky<br/>26.8k 9 42 84</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="540 651 667 674" data-label="Text">
<p>asked Jan 16 at 6:45</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="542 677 576 723" data-label="Image">
<img alt="Profile picture of Shashi Roy"/>
</div>
<div data-bbox="576 679 659 722" data-label="Text">
<p>Shashi Roy<br/>84 1 3 14</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="20 785 109 811" data-label="Section-Header">
<h2>2 Answers</h2>
</div>
<div data-bbox="544 793 583 812" data-label="Text">
<p>active</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="603 793 648 812" data-label="Text">
<p>oldest</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="667 789 712 811" data-label="Text">
<p>votes</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="41 852 701 871" data-label="Text">
<p>▲ This regex should match what you need: <code>^[A-Za-z_ ]+$</code> This will match any letter (lower and upper</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 26 913 48" data-label="Text">
<p>New York, NY / relocation</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 64 888 86" data-label="Text">
<p><a href="#">Front End Developer</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 86 830 106" data-label="Text">
<p><b>The Lathe</b></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 106 849 126" data-label="Text">
<p>New York, NY</p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 143 876 163" data-label="Text">
<p><a href="#">Lead QA Engineer</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 163 843 184" data-label="Text">
<p><b>Productopia</b></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 184 913 204" data-label="Text">
<p>New York, NY / relocation</p>
</div>
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<p><a href="#">Senior Rails Engineer / Developer</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 242 806 261" data-label="Text">
<p><b>Niche</b></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 261 897 282" data-label="Text">
<p>New York, NY / remote</p>
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<p><b>Sefaira</b></p>
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<p>New York, NY</p>
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<p><a href="#">Software Engineers</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 417 816 438" data-label="Text">
<p><b>Meetup</b></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox="764 437 849 458" data-label="Text">
<p>New York, NY</p>
</div>
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</div>
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<p>2 <a href="#">How can I verify that user name starts with a letter and contains only alphanumeric characters?</a></p>
</div>
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</div>
<div data-bbox="764 777 963 850" data-label="Text">
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```



2



This regex should match what you need. `[A-Za-z]+`. This will match any letter (lower and upper case, denoted by `A-Z` and `a-z`) and spaces. The `+` denotes that it will match one or more repetitions of, and the `^` and `$` anchors instruct the regex engine to match the entire string.

If you want a more robust regex, meaning one that will cater for non english letters, you could use something like so: `^[\p{L}]+$`. This is the same as before, the only difference being that `\p{L}` caters for any letter (both upper and lower) in any language (taken from [here](#))

EDIT: As per @thg435 suggestion, `\p{L}` will not work since this is not supported by JavaScript.

share | improve this answer

edited Jan 16 at 7:51

answered Jan 16 at 6:53



npinti

21.4k ● 3 ● 15 ● 39

Hi npinti... Thanks for the response. My simple doubt is when I enter name1 or 1name or name@ or @name, it should not be allowed to be entered. But he can insert string(Name). I tried with your regex. Its not working. Please help me out. Thanks in advance. – [Shashi Roy](#) Jan 16 at 7:09

@ShashiRoy: Can you please update your question to what have you tried and what failed? – [npinti](#) Jan 16 at 7:19

Hi npinti... Sorry for the last post. Its working perfectly. There was an error from my side in applying your code in the script section. Code which is working now I've updated with my question above. Thanks a lot for saving my time :) – [Shashi Roy](#) Jan 16 at 7:33

@ShashiRoy: No worries. Note however, that in your example, you left out the space. – [npinti](#) Jan 16 at 7:35

1 I don't think Javascript supports `\p{L}`. – [thg435](#) Jan 16 at 7:42

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0

I think you should initiate regex object and not using `VAL.match`. Try this for third validation:

```
jQuery(function() {
```

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Idiom or word for a very crowded place



I need a program where the user inputs an array of doubles and the program outputs the array sorted

First initiate regex

```
reg = /[a-zA-Z0-9_-]/
```

//or

```
reg = new RegExp('[a-zA-Z0-9_-]');
```

```
jQuery("#userName").validate({
```

```
  expression: "if (reg.test(VAL)) return **false**; else return **true**;",
```

```
  message: "Please do not enter alpha numeric values"
```

```
});
```

```
});
```

share | improve this answer

answered Jan 16 at 6:53



Jon Kartago Lamida

440 ● 2 ● 10

Hi... thanks for the response. Its working good for checking alphanumeric values but its not allowing to enter simple texts also. – Shashi Roy Jan 16 at 6:59

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B *I* | | |





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