

Java findNeedles() Method

Version: 1.0

Checks if up to 5 case-sensitive “needle” strings are located within a “haystack” string. Prints out the needles that are present in the haystack and the number of times they each appear.

“Most people stop looking when they find the proverbial needle in the haystack. I would continue looking to see if there were other needles.” –Albert Einstein (apocryphal)

Syntax

```
findNeedles(haystack, needles)
```

Parameters (Mandatory)

Parameter	Description
haystack	A String to search through (case-sensitive)
needles	An Array of 5 or less strings to search for in haystack (case-sensitive)

Technical Details

Delimiters: `\"'\\t\\n\\b\\f\\r`

Example

```
String[] Needles={"universal",  
    "stretch", "embroidery", "sharps",  
    "quilting"};  
String haystack = "hay hay  
    universal hay stretch hay  
    embroidery stretchstretch hay hay  
    stretch quiltinghay sharps.";   
findNeedles(haystack, Needles);
```

Output:
universal: 1
stretch: 2
embroidery: 1

Warning: `findNeedles()` will not recognize or count a needle if it included **delimiters** or is not **exactly equal** to the string stored in `haystack[i]`

Email to writer of code:

<sent with or as a calendar invite>

Hi <name>,

Thank you for sending findNeedles() for documentation. It's very clear, concise, and a bit whimsical :)

I've started writing out the documentation and grabbed an hour to meet and make sure that I am explaining it as well as possible (but please, feel free to change the time). I've attached my main questions below, just in case you'd prefer to respond via email:

- 1) Is there a reason I should give for why the limit of "needles" is 5?
- 2) Could you clarify why you are delimiting specifically with these characters: "[\\'\\t\\n\\b\\f\\r]" Should I caution users not to include any needles with those characters?
- 3) Unless I'm mistaken, **findNeedles()** does not register a needle if it is inside another word or has a comma, period, etc. after it (i.e. 'cat' in 'catastrophe' or the last word of sentences). Is there a reason I should give for this?
- 4) I noticed that **str.compareTo()** is case-sensitive, should I caution users of this?
- 5) Is there a reason why it prints out the information rather than returning it in an array?
- 6) And forgive my ignorance, but I'm not sure why **String[] words = haystack.split("[\\'\\t\\n\\b\\f\\r]", 0);** is in the outer loop? Could you clarify?

Thank you again,

Jonathan Cohn
Technical Writer

P.S. I might also suggest you add a 6th needle in version 2.0 #GameChanger