No letter before word "wariant" in regex

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I want to define regex that to detect word `wariant` inside the text. The problem is that I want no letters before or after word `wariant` .

I have done that:

```
Pattern wariantPattern = Pattern.compile("[\\w]{0}wariant[\\w]{0}");
```

but unfortunately word: `subwariant` also matches it.

java   regex

asked Apr 5 '14 at 10:56

Yoda
6,509   50   142   246

3   Use the word anchor (\b) -- of course, double the backslash in a Java string – fge Apr 5 '14 at 10:57

1   @fge Make that an answer and I'll upvote it. – Dawood ibn Kareem Apr 5 '14 at 10:58

2 Answers

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You can use the word anchor `\b` :

```
Pattern wariantPattern = Pattern.c
```

Like all anchors, it will match a *position* in the input text (ie, it will not consume text) where one of these is true:

1. the previous character is not a word character and the next character is; or

2. the previous character is a word character and the next character

word character; or

4. this is the end of the input text and the last character is a word character.

Some regex engines have even more specialized anchors (`\<` for conditions 1 and 3, `\>` for conditions 2 and 4), but not Java.

answered Apr 5 '14 at 10:59

fge
91.3k   17   191   281

You can use word boundary `\b` :

2

```
Pattern wariantPattern = Pattern.c
```

answered Apr 5 '14 at 10:59

Szymon
38.9k   13   80   99