

Regular Expressions

Module 15

Overview

- In this module:
- Why Regular Expressions?
- Basics
- Examples

Why Regular Expressions?

- Powerful searching toolbox
- Enable searching for practically anything
- Available in all many Linux utilities
- grep, sed, awk, vi, man/more, and many more
- Available in many platforms & programming languages
- Started on UNIX but available in various Windows tools
- Available in Perl, Python, Ruby, Java, ...

Basics

- Character

- abcde - search for the string 'abcde'

- Any Character

- b.d - search for b, then any character, then d

- Character Range

- [aeiou] - search for a lowercase vowel

- [a-z] - search for a **single** character in range

Basics

- Zero or more

- `ba*d` search for b, then zero or more 'a's, then d

- `b.*d` search for b, then zero or more of any character, then d

Basics

- Anchors

- By default, expressions match **anywhere** on line

- `^` anchor expression to start of line

- `^abc` - search for abc at start of line

- `$` anchor expression to end of line

- `abc$` - search for lines ending in abc