

MySQL - Regexps



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You have seen MySQL pattern matching with **LIKE ...%**. MySQL supports another type of pattern matching operation based on the regular expressions and the **REGEXP** operator. If you are aware of PHP or PERL, then it is very simple for you to understand because this matching is same like those scripting the regular expressions.

Following is the table of pattern, which can be used along with the **REGEXP** operator.

Pattern	What the pattern matches
^	Beginning of string
\$	End of string
.	Any single character
[...]	Any character listed between the square brackets
[^...]	Any character not listed between the square brackets
p1 p2 p3	Alternation; matches any of the patterns p1, p2, or p3
*	Zero or more instances of preceding element
+	One or more instances of preceding element
{n}	n instances of preceding element
{m,n}	m through n instances of preceding element

Examples

Now based on above table, you can device various type of SQL queries to meet your requirements. Here, I am listing a few for your understanding.

Consider we have a table called **person_tbl** and it is having a field called **name** –

Query to find all the names starting with '**st**' –

```
mysql> SELECT name FROM person_tbl WHERE name REGEXP '^st';
```

Query to find all the names ending with '**ok**' –

```
mysql> SELECT name FROM person_tbl WHERE name REGEXP 'ok$';
```

Query to find all the names, which contain '**mar**' –

```
mysql> SELECT name FROM person_tbl WHERE name REGEXP 'mar';
```

Query to find all the names starting with a vowel and ending with 'ok' –

```
mysql> SELECT FirstName FROM intque.person_tbl WHERE FirstName REGEXP '^[aeiou]
```

