

How to use REGEX in Bash shell scripting?

You can always use regex `grep` or `sed` or some other external command/programs, but since the version 3 of bash (released in 2004) bash's provided a built-in regular expression comparison operator `"=~"`.

Bash regular expressions support sub-patterns surrounded by parenthesis for capturing parts of the match. The matches are assigned to an array variable `BASH_REMATCH`. The entire match is assigned to `BASH_REMATCH[0]`, while the first sub-pattern is assigned to `BASH_REMATCH[1]`, `BASH_REMATCH[2]`, etc.

```
#!/bin/bash

input="Hello world!"

if [[ "$input" =~ 'data(.*?)' ]]
then
    echo $BASH_REMATCH : ${BASH_REMATCH[1]}
else
    echo "NO MATCH!"
fi
```

