Regex Cheat-Sheet

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Anchors

Argument	Explanation
^	Start of string, or start of line in multi-line pattern
\A	Start of string
$	End of string, or end of line in multi-line pattern
\Z	End of string
\b	Word boundary
\B	Not word boundary
\<	Start of word
\>	End of word

Quantifiers

Argument	Explanation
*	0 or more
+	1 or more
?	0 or 1
{3}	Exactly 3
{3,}	3 or more
{3,5}	3, 4 or 5
{,5}	5 or less

Character

Character Classes

Argument	Explanation
\c	Control character
\s	White space
\S	Not white space
\d	Digit
\D	Not digit
\w	Word
\W	Not word
\x	Hexade-cimal digit
\O	Octal digit

Special

Argument	Explanation
\n	New line
\r	Carriage return
\t	Tab
\v	Vertical tab
\f	Form feed
\xxx	Octal character xxx
\xhh	Hex character hh

Examples

Metacharacter

Argument	Explanation
^abc	abc, abcdefg, abc123, ...
abc$	abc, endsinabc, 123abc, ...
a.c	abc, aac, acc, adc, aec, ...
bill|ted	ted, bill
ab{2}c	abbc
a[bB]c	abc, aBc
\(abc\){2}	abcabc
ab*c	ac, abc, abbc, abbbc, ...
ab+c	abc, abbc, abbbc, ...
ab\?c	ac, abc
a\sc	a c

Sample

Argument	Explanation
([A-Za-z0-9-]+)	Letters, numbers and hyphens
(\d{1,2}\/\d{1,2}\/\d{4})	Date (e.g. 21/3/2006)
([^\s]+(?=\.(jpg	gif
(^[1-9]{1}$	^[1-4]{1}[0-9]{1}$
(#?([A-Fa-f0-9]){3}(([A-Fa-f0-9]){3})?)	Valid hexadecimal colour code

(\w+@[a-zA-Z_]+?\.[a-zA-Z]{2,6})	Email addresses
(\<(/?[^\>]+)\>)	HTML Tag

POSIX

Argument	Explanation
[:upper:]	Upper case letters
[:lower:]	Lower case letters
[:alpha:]	All letters
[:alnum:]	Digits and letters
[:digit:]	Digits
[:xdigit:]	Hexade-cimal digits
[:punct:]	Punctu-ation
[:blank:]	Space and tab
[:space:]	Blank characters
[:cntrl:]	Control characters
[:graph:]	Printed characters
[:print:]	Printed characters and spaces
[:word:]	Digits, letters and underscore

Groups

Groups and Ranges

Argument	Explanation
.	Any character except new line (\n)

(a|b)	a or b
(...)	Group
(?:...)	Passive (non-c-apt-uring) group
[abc]	Range (a or b or c)
[^abc]	Not a or b or c
[a-q]	Letter from a to q
[A-Q]	Upper case letter from A to Q
[0-7]	Digit from 0 to 7
\n	nth group/-sub-pattern

Modifiers

Argument	Explanation
g	Global match
i	Case insensitive
m	Multiple lines
s	Treat string as single line
x	Allow comments and white space in pattern
e	Evaluate replacement
U	Ungreedy pattern

String

Replacement

Argument	Explanation

$n	nth non-pa-ssive group
$2	"-xyz-" in /^(abc-(xy-z))$/
$1	"-xyz-" in /^(?:a-bc)-(xyz)$/
$`	Before matched string
$'	After matched string
$+	Last matched string
$&	Entire matched string

Assertions

Argument	**Explanation**
?=	Lookahead assertion
?!	Negative lookahead
?<=	Lookbehind assertion
?!= or ?<!	Negative lookbehind
?>	Once-only Subexpression
?()	Condition [if then]
?()|	Condition [if then else]
?#	Comment