

LET'S TALK PATTERNS.

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**SOME PEOPLE, WHEN CONFRONTED
WITH A PROBLEM, THINK "I KNOW, I'LL
USE REGULAR EXPRESSIONS".**

NOW THEY HAVE TWO PROBLEMS.

Jamie Zawinski

REGEX

What ? Why ? How ?

CHARACTERS



**QUANTIFIERS
&
POSITION MATCHING**



GROUPS



ASSERTIONS



CHARACTERS

▶ `\w` - word characters

▶ `\d` - digits

▶ `\s` - whitespaces(`\n`, `\r`, `\t`, `\f`)

▶ `\W` - non-word characters

▶ `\D` - non-digits

▶ `\S` - non-whitespaces(`\n`, `\r`, `\t`, `\f`)

`.` - any character except `\n`

QUANTIFIERS

- ▶ `*` - matches 0 or many
 - ▶ `+` - matches 1 or many
 - ▶ `?` - matches 0 or 1
 - ▶ `??` - lazy matches 0 or 1
- ▶ `{x}` - matches exactly x
 - ▶ `{x,}` - matches x or more
 - ▶ `{x, y}` - matches x to y times

POSITION MATCHING

- ▶ `^` - start of line in multi-line mode
 - ▶ `$` - end of line in multi-line mode
 - ▶ `\A` - start of string
 - ▶ `\Z` - end of string
- ▶ `\b` - matches word boundary
 - ▶ `\B` - matches non-word boundary

GROUPS

- ▶ Syntax: (...)
- ▶ Also called capturing groups

PASSIVE GROUPS

- ▶ Syntax: (?...)
- ▶ Also called non-capturing groups

SETS

- ▶ Syntax: [aef135]
- ▶ Also called character classes
- ▶ ^ for negated character class

RANGES

- ▶ Syntax: [a-z0-9]
- ▶ Useful for large sets

ASSERTIONS

- ▶ `?=` - positive lookahead
- ▶ `?!` - negative lookahead

- ▶ `?<=` - positive lookbehind
- ▶ `?<!` - negative lookbehind

THE BEST WAY TO
LEARN SOMETHING
IS BY **DOING IT !**

BUT FIRST,
QUESTIONS ?