3. EXAMPLES 1

Examples with Brackets

Introduction

We will remember that the brackets metacharacters <u>are used to group together</u> <u>parts of a Regular Expression</u>. And we saw that if we want to match with the Strings "Damian" or "Damien", we can do it as follows

RegEx Pattern = "Dami(a|e)n"

Which can be read as creating a Regular Expression to match to any String with the letters: "D", "a", "m", "i", ("a" or "e"), and "n".

Telephone Numbers

We saw that mobile telephone numbers in Ireland have a prefix of either 085, 086 or 087, and then are followed by seven digits. For example:

- (085) 1234567
- (086) 2345678
- (087) 3456789

And we suggested a Regular Expression as follows:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "\\(08.\\) ...."
```

However, given that there are only three choices for the prefix, we can do refine this Regular Expression using the Vertical Bar and Brackets as follows:

RegEx Pattern = "\\(08(5|6|7)\\)"

Which searches for either 085, 086 or 087. And as we noted before, a Character Class (or Character Set) uses Square Brackets to achieve the same thing as the above selection, but without the need for the Vertical Bar notation, so the above RegEx can equivalently be expressed as follows:

RegEx Pattern = "\\(08[567]\\)"

Movie Titles

The "Jaws" series of movies (1975-1987) concerns the saga of a great white shark and its attacks on people, the titles of the first four movies are:

- Jaws
- Jaws II
- Jaws 3D
- Jaws The Revenge

If we wanted to search for any of these titles in a text, we could do so, as follows:

RegEx Pattern = "Jaws(\$| II| 3D| The Revenge)"

In this case we are looking for a title starting with the String "Jaws" followed by either: Nothing OR " II" or " 3D" or " The Revenge". So the interesting thing here is that to represent nothing, we use the Dollar symbol (\$), and this means "End of String", so, in other words, that there is no further text after the word "Jaws".

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