6. EXAMPLES 2

Examples with the Wildcard Star

Introduction

As we have already seen the Wildcard Star is ***matched if there are zero or more instances of the preceding character (or grouping) in a Regular Expression.***

And we will remember that if we are looking for either the word "colour" or "color", then we can match these using the Question Mark as follows:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "colou*r"
```

So the character preceding the Question Mark ("u") can appear zero or more times, so it would also match with "colouur", "colouuur", "colouuuur", etc.

So the following Regular Expression:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "(abc)*"
```

will match any of these "", "abc", "abcabc", "abcabcabc", "abcabcabcabc", etc.

File Names

If we are looking for a file, and we know its name, but we are not sure of the file type, we can use a wildcard, so, if the file could be:

```
Example.docx
Example.pdf
Example.pptx
```

We can do the following:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "Example\\.*"
```

If we are looking for a file, and we don't know its name, but we do know the file type, we can use a wildcard, so, if the file could be:

```
Greetings.docx
Hello.docx
Hi.docx
```

We can do the following:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "*\\.docx"
```

Character Classes

If we want to create a Regular Expression to match any String that has a mix of uppercase and lowercase characters, we could do the following:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "[a-zA-Z]*"
```

And this would match "", "a", "x", "A", "X", "Ax", "Xa", "XXX","xxx","Xxx", etc.

And, for example, if we had a String "`XStringX`", we can match it as follows:

```
RegEx_Pattern = "X[a-zA-Z]*X"
```

So, this matches a String that starts with "X" followed by any combination of uppercase and lowercase characters ("`a-zA-Z`"), and it has to end with an "`X`", so it will also match with "XX", "XaX", "XAX", "XxX", "XXX", "XHelloX", "XGoodbyeX", etc.