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Subject: regular expressions

Posted by [Michael Werger](#) on Fri, 04 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Dear IDL'ers

for a complex batch processing in IDL I need to do some regular expression handling. Of course I can do this like:

```
function regexp_match,argument,pattern  
defsysv,!true, 1 eq 1 ; defined here only for completeness  
defsysv,!false, 1 eq 0 ; see above
```

```
command='perl -e "print ("'+argument+' =~ m/'+pattern+')"'  
spawn,command,result  
if (result[0] eq 1) then result = !true else result = !false  
return,result  
end
```

and then in some code:

```
if regexp_match(string,'^\s*\d+') then print,'(spaces and) digits found!'
```

but this is rather slow, requires perl to be setup properly and so on. Did anyone already wrote some routines like regexp\_replace and regexp\_match (I think these names are speaking for themselves? - like the tcl routines regsub and regexp?)

Suggestions to improve the above routine are also welcome.

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