## Subject: Re: regular expressions (parsing strings) Posted by Dick Jackson on Thu, 13 Nov 2003 17:33:22 GMT

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"setthivoine you" <noone@nowhere.com> wrote in message
news:bou3o6$ajs$1@naig.caltech.edu...
> Hi.
>
> My IDL programs need to parse a text file which contains variables
  would need replacing at read-time. Specifically:
>
> #os
            =unix
> #windows_var1 =g:
> #windows_var2 =/rootdir/
> #unix var1 =/mnt/groupserver/
> #unix var2 =/rootdir/
> #var3
         =< <os> var1 >< <os> var2 >data/
> #var4
            =<var3>counterfile.txt
>
>
> So #var3 eventually becomes '/mnt/groupserver/rootdir/data/' and #var4
> becomes 'mnt/groupserver/rootdir/data/counterfile.txt'. And if #os was
> set to 'windows', #var4 becomes 'g:/rootdir/data/counterfile.txt'.
>
> I am trying to use regular expressions to replace the text
(specifically
> using strepex.pro from
http://astro.uni-tuebingen.de/software/idl/aitlib/misc/strep ex.html )
> but am having problems with nested tags.
>
> Could anyone point me to somewhere that could help me out?
Hi,
If you are using IDL >= 5.3, StRegEx is now built into IDL. It's quite
```

flexible and has worked well for me, but your problem may not be suited to regular expressions. I found this article "Finding nested expressions in regexs" from newsgroup comp.lang.python through Google:

http://groups.google.com/groups?th=ed6a75bc5eed7ee9&seek m=000401be9e6d%2 427a98ec0%24029e2299

If you can be more specific, maybe there is more we can do.

Cheers,

-Dick

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