
Subject: Re: Regular expression
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Fri, 04 May 2007 16:04:41 GMT
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On Fri, 4 May 2007, Lasse Clausen wrote:

```
> mmmm, don't understand. Ok, here we go: I have a string like this
>
> bb[23]
>
> where bb can be any combination of alphanumerics and the number can be
> anything. I am looking for the regular expression that will match the
> whole thing. My first idea was (at the moment I am not bothered about
> the order of the different parts):
>
> regex = '[a-zA-Z0-9\[]]+'
>
```

This regexp searches for a bracket expression (a-zA-Z0-9\[]) followed by one or more ']'s. (\ behaves as an ordinary character after the opening bracket [, so the first] is the closing bracket.)

```
> but alas!
>
> print, stregex('bb[23]', regex)
>      4
>
```

3 matches the bracket expr. and] matches itself. So the answer is 4.

```
> What?! And any combination of omitting or changing the \ character
> will result in either IDL complainign about non-balanced brackets, a
> match at position 4 or it won't match.
>
```

Try something like this:

```
[a-zA-Z0-9]+  one ore more alphanumeric char
\[          [
[0-9]+      one or more digits
]          }
```

ie:

```
regex = '[a-zA-Z0-9]+\[[0-9]+\]
```

regards,
lajos
