

**Paper 57-28****How Regular Expressions Really Work**

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**Abstract**

Regular expressions are a powerful and ubiquitous tool for manipulating text and data employed by many Unix editors and utilities like sed, awk, perl, vi, and emacs. This paper is divided into two parts. So the reader can begin to understand how regular expressions work in general, the first part will describe the basic parts of a regular expression: character classes, meta-characters, quantifiers, grouping, and anchoring. The second part will focus on the specific SAS® implementation using a real-life example culled from a SAS-L discussion list thread.

This paper was not available at the time of publication. Please contact the author.

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