

## Regular Expressions: Quick Reference Guide

### Special Metacharacters

. ^ \$ \* + ? \ [ ( ) | {

Escape with \

### Special Characters

\n New line

\r Carriage return

\t Tab

\f Form feed

### Character Classes

\s White space [ \t\r\n\f]

\S Not white space

\d Digit [0-9]

\D Not digit

\w Word character [A-Za-z0-9\_]

\W Not word character

### Anchors

^ Start of string, or start of line in multi-line pattern

\$ End of string, or end of line in multi-line pattern

### Quantifiers

? 0 or 1

\* 0 or more

+ 1 or more

{3} Exactly 3

{3,} 3 or More

{3,5} 3, 4, or 5

+? Add '?' to a quantifier to make it ungreedy.

### Groups and Ranges

. Any character except new line

a|b a or b

(...) Capture Group

(?:...) Passive Group (not captured)

[abc] Range (a or b or c)

[^abc] Not (a or b or c)

[a-t] Lowercase letter from a to t

[A-T] Uppercase letter from A to T

[0-7] Digit from 0 to 7

### String Replacement

\$n Nth group

\$2 "xyz" in (abc(xyz))

\$1 "xyz" in (?:abc(xyz))

## HTML / PCF Examples

### Find the President's Name

**Source** John R. Smith or John Richard Smith or John Smith

**Find** John\s(R\.\.?|Richard)?\s?Smith

### Find College Email Addresses

**Source** John.R.Smith@college.edu

**Find** [a-zA-Z0-9\_\-\.]+@college\.edu

### Convert Phone Numbers into a Standard Format

**Source** (555)345-2353 or 555.345.COOL

**Find** \((?([0-9]{3})?[\.\- ]+([0-9]{3})[\.\- ])([0-9A-Z]{4})

**Replace** \$1-\$2-\$3

**Result** 555-345-2353 or 555-345-COOL

### Change Group Access for a Specific Parameter

**Source** <parameter name="breadcrumb" type="text"  
**group="Everyone"** prompt="Breadcrumb" alt="Please enter  
 the breadcrumb text.">Admissions</parameter>

**Find** (<parameter[^>]+name="breadcrumb"[^>]+)group="[^"]+"

**Replace** \$1group="Administrators"

**Result** <parameter name="breadcrumb" type="text"  
**group="Administrators"** prompt="Breadcrumb" alt="Please  
 enter the breadcrumb text.">Admissions</parameter>