Subject: Interesting Idea: Stop writing Regular Expressions. Express them with Verbal Expressions.
Posted by sergeynikitin on Fri, 21 Aug 2015 12:55:48 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Stop writing Regular Expressions. Express them with Verbal Expressions.

GitHub user jehna has fashioned a runaway hit with his unique way of constructing difficult regular expressions.

VerbalExpressions turns the often-obscure-and-tricky-to-type regular expression operators into descriptive, chainable functions. The result of this is quite astounding. Here's the example URL tester from the README:

```
VerEx tester = VerEx()
        .startOfLine()
        .then( "http" )
        .maybe( "s" )
        .then( "://" )
        .maybe( "www." )
        .anythingBut( " " )
        .endOfLine();
```

This style may be off-putting to old-school regex pros, but even they would have to admit that it's quite approachable and easy to reason about.

The main project is a JavaScript library, but in the world of open source the more success you have, the more ports you get.

VerbalExpressions has been ported to so many other languages that a GitHub organization was created just to host them all. I think this idea struck a real nerve.

Article links:
English: Stop writing Regular Expressions. Express them with Verbal Expressions.

GitHub C++ variant of lib: https://github.com/VerbalExpressions/CppVerbalExpressions

Subject: Re: Interesting Idea: Stop writing Regular Expressions. Express them with Verbal Expressions.
Posted by koldo on Fri, 21 Aug 2015 21:02:26 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

It seems interesting. Regular Expressions always were rather complex for me. Maybe they are richer, but for the great majority of times they are not so intuitive.