UNIX5

UNIT:5 FILTERS AND REGULAR EXPRESSIONS

The Remembered Pattern

The sed command stores the scanned pattern in a temp operator "\\" (two front slash). This is called the remembered pattern. The \\ representing an empty string is interpreted to mean the search and substitute patterns are same.

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$ sed '/director/s \\ member/' empist

In the above example the sed cmd searches for the pattern "director". The searched pattern is stored in "\\". In other word "\\" (two front slashes) remembers the pattern scanned. i.e why it is called as remembered pattern.

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Basic Regular Expression

The Basic regular Expression (BRE) can be further divided into three groups

1. The repeated patterns
2. The interval regular expression (IRE)
3. The Tagged regular expression (TRE)

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(1) The repeated patterns

The source string scanned by sed command is stored in the operator '&'. If in case the source string reappears in the target string, then it can be replaced with "&" instead of rewriting.

Eg: sed 's/director/executive director/' emp.lst

can also be written as

sed 's/director/executive &/' emp.lst

stored in &

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Interval Regular Expression (IRE)

To match a pattern at any specified location or within a range the interval regular expression can be used. IRE uses integers to specify the number of characters preceding the pattern and uses escaped pair of braces.

① ch \{m\} : The metacharacter ch can occur m times

② ch \{m,n\} : The metacharacter ch can occur b/w m and n times.

③ ch \{m,\} : The metacharacter ch must occur atleast m times.

Examples Refer Class Notes.

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The Tagged Regular Expression (TRE)

In tagged regular Expression the i/p line is broken into several groups. We choose one or more group from this and use as o/p. The TRE uses two regular expression one each for source and target pattern.

Working:

① The segments that have to be extracted must be identified. These segments must be placed within a matched pair of escaped braces.

② Each segment would automatically acquire the nth numeric value n, where n signifies the nth group from left.

③ To use the segments or group in the o/p we have to use the tag \n. This means to select the first group \1 to select the 2nd group \2 and so on.

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