

Re: Regex question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.csharp/2008-12/msg02392.html>

- *From:* "tshad" <tfs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 25 Dec 2008 14:22:25 -0800
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"Jeff Johnson" <i.get@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:%23%23J8PgFZJHA.4596@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

"tshad" <tfs@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:OpJPJBkYJHA.5828@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

This is really a regex question.

I am wondering if anyone knows a good Regex expression that would pull a valid date from a string.

I have used:

```
strValue = Regex.Replace(valueIn, @"[^d/]", "");
```

which works most of the time.

But I have some cases where I have strings like:

```
05/07/08(-4%)  
09/19/08 DOM 55  
09/19/2008 DOM 53  
FOR 09/15/08 -23
```

Stop using Replace to get rid of the stuff you don't want, because clearly it's causing problems. Instead, examine all the possible inputs you might get and then craft a regex to EXTRACT those parts. Then TEST what you've extracted to see if it's a date. After all, 99/76/23 might fit the regex, but it isn't a valid date.

And how would you suggest I do that??? These are just examples of some of the inputs I am getting. I can't really get rid of any parts as I don't know what will be where.

Re: Regex question

I have no control over what the user will enter in this case.

I need to be able to find a date in the input. Using a variety of possible (probable) date formats, I should be able to extract the date from the input – if one exists.

If you are positive that the separator will always be a slash and that you'll only have digits (not 10/Dec/2008), you might get away with this:

That was what I was looking for.

```
Regex dateRegex = New Regex(@"\d{1,2}/\d{1,2}/\d{2,4}");
```

Then you'll use the Match() method (or Matches) and see if you get anything, and then Date.TryParse[Exact]() to see if it's a real date.

What I was planning to do – just wasn't sure of the regex.

Thanks,

Tom