

Re: Regex Capture problem

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.programming/2007-04/msg04216.html>

- *From:* Dave Runyan <DaveRunyan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 26 Apr 2007 16:30:03 -0700
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Thanks, Ron – as it is so often the problem was the nut holding the wheel. I "learned" my regex using a freeware utility that had slightly different syntax, so I had to convert many lines of expressions. Along the way I somehow forgot that * is an enumerator, not a character placeholder – so I was trying to capture (*) instead of (.*). As soon as I saw your fragment I realized what the problem was.

Initially I ALSO had the parameters backwards in the method invocation (having the search in a property, and the input and replacement strings in the call is just hard for me to grok it seems), but when I fixed that, I then made the * error and the message I got was the same, 5018, with no helpful text.

Okay – thanks again for your help – I will probably be asking something again sooner than I imagine.

"Ron Rosenfeld" wrote:

On Wed, 25 Apr 2007 08:56:04 -0700, Dave Runyan
<DaveRunyan@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I am using the VBScript_RegExp_55 library in an Excel-based VBA project to build a text-file processor that uses rules stored in an Excel spreadsheet. I have used Regex utilities before, so I understand the concepts of text capture and re-use in a Regex expression.

But when I try to capture text with (*), for example, and then try to re-use it with \1, I get either no changes made, or an object-generated error 5081. I have not been able to isolate when these two results occur.

I believe my program code is basically correct, because I can do search and replace type stuff just fine, including in the same "run" as the capture operations that fail. Here are my options settings:

```
objRgx.IgnoreCase = False ' Set case sensitive.
```

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```
objRgx.Global = True ' Set replace all.  
objRgx.MultiLine = True ' Set multiline mode.
```

Thanks for any help you can provide.

Unfortunately, I'm still not following your example.

But, so far as your question about capturing text with (*), and then re-using it, note the following:

Given the UDF:

```
=====
Function RESub(str As String, SrchFor As String, ReplWith As String) As String
Dim objRegExp As RegExp

Set objRegExp = New RegExp
objRegExp.Pattern = SrchFor
objRegExp.IgnoreCase = True
objRegExp.Global = True
objRegExp.MultiLine = True

RESub = objRegExp.Replace(str, ReplWith)

End Function
=====
```

With these simple parameters:

```
str = "Now is the time"  
SrchFor = Now is (.*) time  
ReplWith = "$1"
```

Function returns "the" as would be expected.

--ron