



## The new RX nodes in IBM SPSS Modeler

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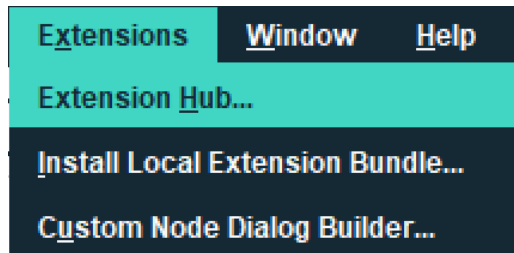
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## FAQ's

- **Is this session being recorded?** Yes
- **Can I get a copy of the slides?** Yes, we'll email a PDF copy to you after the session has ended.
- **Can we arrange a re-run for colleagues?** Yes, just ask us.
- **How can I ask questions?** All lines are muted so please use the chat facility – if we run out of time we will follow up with you.

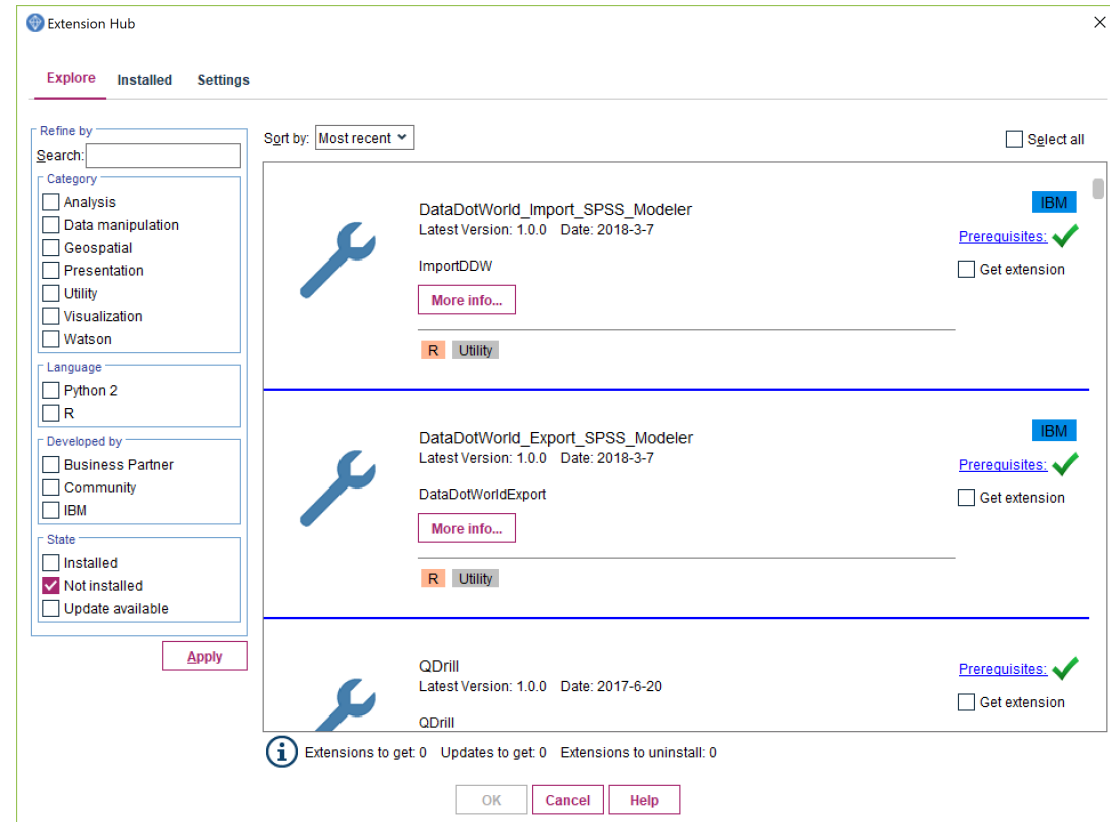
# Exploring/creating Extensions (to SPSS Modeler ... and SPSS Statistics)

- The **Extension Hub**... is available in both SPSS tools from the **Extensions** menu



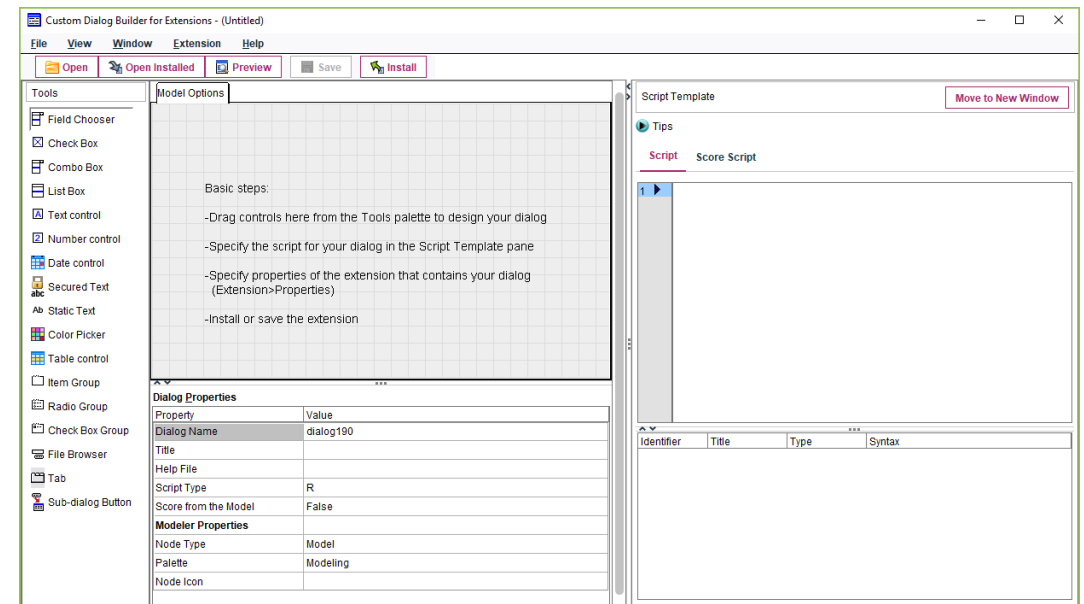
Free and charged extensions are available in the Extension Hub and usually in GitHub too:

<https://github.com/IBMPredictiveAnalytics>



## 2 ways to build Extensions in IBM/SPSS Modeler

1. Using the **Custom Dialog Builder** (available in both SPSS Modeler and SPSS Statistics)
  - Intended to make extension creation for R and Python more accessible
2. **CLEF** ([IBM SPSS Modeler CLEF Developer's Guide](#))
  - More flexible but more technical
  - The RX nodes are built on CLEF
  - CLEF = Clementine Extension Framework



# What is Regex (or Regexp)?

- A standard syntax for defining text search patterns
  - And therefore code that can be used to programmatically manage/prepare text data
- Utilised within broader programming languages ... e.g. Python, Java and C++
  - And Perl which has specific syntax for Regex
- Used – under the bonnet in:
  - Search engines
  - Word Processors
  - Text Analytic engines
  - Web forms
  - Etc.
- Can sometimes be used directly in tools e.g.
  - Notepad++ will let you search and replace with regular expressions
    - E.g. `[^\x00-\x7F]+` will find/replace any non-ASCII character
- More detail at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regular\\_expression](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regular_expression)

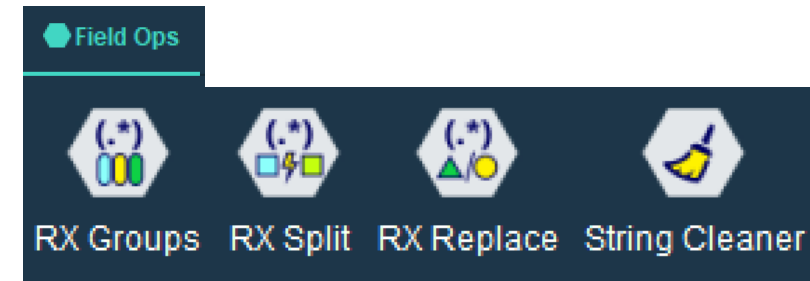
## Why Regex in SPSS Modeler?

- Modeler already has some powerful string handling **functions** accessible through the **Expression Builder** in various nodes; Derive, Filler, Select etc.
- The **Text Mining** node (Modeler Premium) can also do some clever text extraction when it does its Text Analytics
  - Much of which is done using regular expressions under the hood
- But both these areas have limits e.g.
  - If we wanted to split a string multiple times based on the same delimiting character we would need to combine multiple Derive nodes and use multiple functions in concert:
    - loccchar(), substring() ... repeat (several times)
  - Text Analytics is very good at identifying specific types of text, like emails, within a field... but it can't tag them, replace them or extract them into a separate field

## The 4 RX extension nodes in Modeler



They install into the **Field Ops** palette in Modeler



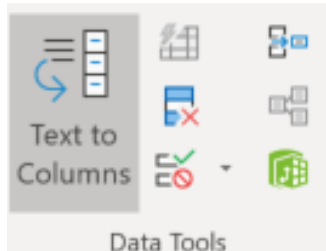
The 4 new RX nodes are available on the [Smart Vision Europe site](https://www.smartvision.eu/)  
Under the hood they call one of the most widely used Regex  
libraries:  
[ICU Regular Expression Library](https://unicode.org/re2doc/)



RX Split

## The RX Split Node

- If you have ever used the **Text to Columns** tool on the **Excel Data Ribbon...**



- ... the **RX Split node** gives you the same capability in Modeler
- If we have multiple fields all separated by the same delimiting character e.g. a period or a comma... we often import them – erroneously - as a single text field
  - This often happens when we receive data from on-line survey tools
  - Standard fields have one delimiter and multiple response fields have another
- The RX Split node will split them out and create one field per delimiter





RX Split

# The RX Split Node – Source Data

Table (85 fields, 2,023 records) #2

File Edit Generate

Table Annotations

	colsci	intmil	intsci	intenvir	intrhome	agekdbn	paeduc	Interests	scifrom
1	2	1	1	1	1	20	12	1.000000;1.000000;2.000000;1.000000;1.000000;2.000000;1.000000	2
2	2	1	3	1	1	33	97	1.000000;3.000000;3.000000;1.000000;3.000000;3.000000;1.000000	1
3	2	3	3	3	2	22	97	3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000	1
4	0	0	0	0	0	26	97	0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000	0
5	1	3	8	2	2	25	98	1.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;9.000000	1
6	1	1	2	2	1	31	6	2.000000;1.000000;3.000000;2.000000;2.000000;2.000000;1.000000	5
7	1	1	2	1	1	0	8	1.000000;2.000000;2.000000;1.000000;3.000000;2.000000;1.000000	3
8	0	0	0	0	0	22	12	0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000	0
9	1	1	2	2	1	0	16	1.000000;2.000000;2.000000;2.000000;2.000000;1.000000;2.000000	3
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000	0
11	1	2	2	1	1	30	4	2.000000;2.000000;1.000000;1.000000;2.000000;2.000000;1.000000	2
12	0	0	0	0	0	21	98	0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000	0
13	2	3	3	3	2	25	97	3.000000;1.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000	5
14	1	1	2	1	1	0	20	2.000000;2.000000;2.000000;2.000000;2.000000;1.000000;2.000000	5
15	0	0	0	0	0	23	97	0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000;0.000000	0
16	1	1	1	1	1	0	16	1.000000;3.000000;2.000000;1.000000;3.000000;2.000000;1.000000	3
17	2	3	3	3	2	25	3	3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000;3.000000	5
18	2	2	3	3	2	99	12	3.000000;2.000000;3.000000;3.000000;2.000000;3.000000;3.000000	1
19	1	1	1	1	1	31	12	1.000000;1.000000;1.000000;1.000000;2.000000;1.000000;1.000000	3
20	1	2	2	2	2	29	18	1.000000;3.000000;3.000000;2.000000;2.000000;1.000000;2.000000	3

OK

In the middle of our Census data file we find the multi-coded field **Interests** where survey respondents told us their level of interest in 7 topics like politics, the environment, etc.



RX Split

# The RX Split Node - Settings

Preview

About...

?

Settings

Annotations

Match field:

Interests

☒

Prefix match field to field names

Pattern:

:

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Regular Expression Options...

Output suffix:

Max. splits:

7

OK

Cancel

Apply

Reset

In the pattern box we just specify the delimiter. We could use other regular expression ... or a specific character as we do here

In this example we know that there are 7 fields within this single field.  
So we set **Max splits:** to 7



RX Split

# The RX Split Node - Results

The split creates the 7 separate fields ready for analysis.

YOUNG_OLD	Interests_1	Interests_2	Interests_3	Interests_4	Interests_5	Interests_6	Interests_7
0	1.000000	1.000000	2.000000	1.000000	1.000000	2.000000	1.000000
0	1.000000	3.000000	3.000000	1.000000	3.000000	3.000000	1.000000
0	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000
1	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
1	1.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	9.000000
1	2.000000	1.000000	3.000000	2.000000	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000
0	1.000000	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000	3.000000	2.000000	1.000000
1	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
1	1.000000	2.000000	2.000000	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000	2.000000
0	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
0	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000	1.000000	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000
0	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
1	3.000000	1.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000
0	2.000000	2.000000	2.000000	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000	2.000000
0	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
0	1.000000	3.000000	2.000000	1.000000	3.000000	2.000000	1.000000
0	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000	3.000000
0	3.000000	2.000000	3.000000	3.000000	2.000000	3.000000	3.000000
0	1.000000	1.000000	1.000000	1.000000	2.000000	1.000000	1.000000
0	1.000000	3.000000	3.000000	2.000000	2.000000	1.000000	2.000000

In their previous format they had decimal places we don't need. We can use a standard filler node to truncate them.

Filler

Preview

Settings

Annotations

Fill in fields:

Interests\_1

Interests\_2

Interests\_3

Interests\_4

Replace: 

Always

Condition:

1

Replace with:

1 to\_integer (@FIELD)

OK

Cancel

Apply

Reset

This leaves us with the integer values ready for analysis.

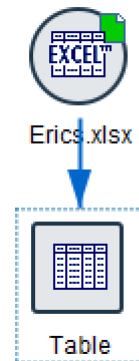
YOUNG_OLD	Interests_1	Interests_2	Interests_3	Interests_4	Interests_5	Interests_6	Interests_7
0	1	1	2	1	1	2	1
0	1	3	3	1	3	3	1
0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	3	3	3	3	3	9
1	2	1	3	2	2	2	1
0	1	2	2	1	3	2	1
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	2	2	1	1	2	2	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	3	1	3	3	3	3	3
0	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	1	3	2	1	3	2	1
0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
0	3	2	3	3	2	3	3
0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
0	1	3	3	2	2	1	2



RX Replace

## The RX Replace node

- Let's look to use the **RX Replace** node to redact emails
- Ultimately – in this example - we want to do this in an operational log that contains a mix of text some of which contains **personally identifiable** email names
- But let's start simple and illustrate how Regex works and how we can build up an expression using the **Context Menu** within the node
- The first part of our stream connects to a short data file of (fictional) Smart Vision Erics ...



EMAIL
Eric@sv-europe.com
Eclapton@sv-europe.com
EricCantona66@sv-europe.com
Eric.Bana@sv-europe.com
Eidel@sv-europe.com
ErikBjörnsson@sv-europe.com

Note that Smart Vision don't have a standard naming convention for emails!

- Let's say we want to use this view to create some Regex to redact the emails



RX Replace

## The RX Replace node – Using the Context Menu

Our identifiable names are mostly made up of letter. We can use the **Context Menu** in the node to automatically select the regex patter that will identify any letter

With that pattern selected we specify the suffix for the field that will contain the adjusted email (`_REDACTED`) And the text that will replace the Pattern ... “REDACTED”

The screenshot shows the 'RX Replace' dialog box with the 'Settings' tab selected. The 'Match field' is empty. The 'Pattern' field is empty, and a context menu is open over it, listing various regex patterns. The 'Letter [a-zA-Z]' option is highlighted in green. The 'Replace field name' is empty, and the 'Replace pattern' is empty. The 'Replace mode' is set to 'Replace all'.

Match field:

☒ Prefix match field to field names

Pattern:

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Regular Expression Options...

Replace field name:

Replace pattern:

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Replace mode: ☒ Replace all ☐ Replace first occurrence only

OK Cancel Reset

The screenshot shows the 'RX Replace' dialog box with the 'Settings' tab selected. The 'Match field' is set to 'EMAIL'. The 'Pattern' field contains '[a-zA-Z]'. The 'Replace field name' is set to '\_REDACTED'. The 'Replace pattern' is set to 'REDACTED'. The 'Replace mode' is set to 'Replace all'.

Match field:

☒ Prefix match field to field names

Pattern:

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Regular Expression Options...

Replace field name:

Replace pattern:

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Replace mode: ☒ Replace all ☐ Replace first occurrence only

OK Cancel Apply Reset



# The RX Replace node – Using the Context Menu to improve the Regex

That “sort of” works. We can’t identify the email name any more. But it isn’t very neat. Our current regex has replaced *every* letter with the word redacted

EMAIL	EMAIL_REDACTED
Eric@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED@REDACTEDREDACTED-REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDRED
Eclapton@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED@REDACTEDREDACTED-REDACTEDRED
EricCantona66@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED66@RE
Eric.Bana@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED.REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED@REDACTEDREDACTED-REDACTEDRED
Eidel@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTED@REDACTEDREDACTED-REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDRED
ErikBjörnsson@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDöREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDACTEDREDA

Named group (?P<GroupName>)
Capturing group ()
Non-capturing group (?:)
Start of word \b
End of word \b
Start of line ^
End of line \$
Tab character \t
Whitespace character \s
Letter [a-zA-Z]
Lower case letter [a-z]
Upper case letter [A-Z]
Digit character \d
Non-digit character \D
Word character \w
Non-word character \W
A word \b(\w+)\b
An integer \b(\d+)\b
Any single character .
Zero or more *
One or more +

We return to the Context Menu to see that a + sign will replace a pattern of *\*one or more\**

We add that to our current pattern.  
The result should now identify one or more letters

Pattern:

[a-zA-Z]+

This improves matters. But we still have number and the @ sign in the way so we have more “REDACTED”s than we would like...

EMAIL	EMAIL_REDACTED
Eric@sv-europe.com	REDACTED@REDACTED-REDACTED.REDACTED
Eclapton@sv-europe.com	REDACTED@REDACTED-REDACTED.REDACTED
EricCantona66@sv-europe.com	REDACTED66@REDACTED-REDACTED.REDACTED
Eric.Bana@sv-europe.com	REDACTED.REDACTED@REDACTED-REDACTED.REDACTED
Eidel@sv-europe.com	REDACTED@REDACTED-REDACTED.REDACTED
ErikBjörnsson@sv-europe.com	REDACTEDöREDACTED@REDACTED-REDACTED.REDACTED



RX Replace

## The RX Replace node – Customising the Regex to finalise

To take care of the @ we add it explicitly and repeat the letter pattern on either side of it...

Pattern:

```
[a-zA-Z]+@[a-zA-Z]+
```

EMAIL	EMAIL_REDACTED
Eric@sv-europe.com	REDACTED-europe.com
Eclapton@sv-europe.com	REDACTED-europe.com
EricCantona66@sv-europe.com	EricCantona66@sv-europe.com
Eric.Bana@sv-europe.com	Eric.REDACTED-europe.com
Eidel@sv-europe.com	REDACTED-europe.com
ErikBjörnsson@sv-europe.com	ErikBjöREDACTED-europe.com

Numbers and hyphens are in the way so we add patterns to take care of those...

Pattern:

```
[a-zA-Z0-9._-]+@[a-zA-Z0-9._-]+\.[a-zA-Z0-9_-].[a-zA-Z0-9_-]
```

EMAIL	EMAIL_REDACTED
Eric@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
Eclapton@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
EricCantona66@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
Eric.Bana@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
Eidel@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
ErikBjörnsson@sv-europe.com	ErikBjöREDACTED

This just leaves us with the non English/standard ASCII Ö. We can add that explicitly...

Pattern:

```
[a-zA-Z0-9ö._-]+@[a-zA-Z0-9._-]+\.[a-zA-Z0-9_-].[a-zA-Z0-9_-]
```

EMAIL	EMAIL_REDACTED
Eric@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
Eclapton@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
EricCantona66@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
Eric.Bana@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
Eidel@sv-europe.com	REDACTED
ErikBjörnsson@sv-europe.com	REDACTED



## RX Replace

# The RX Replace node – Deploying to operational data

Here we have an operational log file generated by monitoring equipment and technicians across a mobile telco network. We want to apply Text Analytics to it to look for themes in the reports that help us to diagnose and predict maintenance events. However the engineers frequently add emails into the middle of main report

Table (3 fields, 5,944 records)

File Edit Generate

Table Annotations

	Location_ID	Call_Id	SolutionReport
1	1.000	TT0000028717998	QQ7500 - Replaced parts;frgc unit changed in and working
2	1.000	MU_Drive Test RN	QQ7950 - Other;drive testing completed
3	1.000	000000023110043	QQ5300 - PMR;routine completed results to be emailed
4	1.000	TT0000033423948	QQ7500 - Replaced parts;changed frgl working no alarms confirmed by gerry
5	3.000	TT0000031798205	QQ7600 - Reset Equipment;bdfa reset maxim 9140999
6	6.000	TT0000030051835	QQ7950 - Other;I COULD FIND NO REASON FOR FAULT. I HAVE MOVE SPARE BB2F CARD 4 TO POSITION 5 TO CONTROL TRX 9 AND 10.I HAV...
7	7.000	MU_Drive Test RN	QQ7000 - COM'ed after discussion with Customer;Test calls completed
8	7.000	TT0000030776774	QQ7100 - No fault found.The site has been on air since 23-06-2013 at mid-day, good for 24hours, closing ticket. Alarm 7741 unrelated fault.
9	7.000	TT0000033851472	QQ7950 - Other;test waljed the area including customer building. no problems seen.Signal on both 2g and 3g are at full strength. building is only ...
10	7.000	TT0000033851472	QQ7830 - Assist Task;task completed
11	9.000	TT0000028752993	QQ7600 - Reset Equipment;reset bdfa. ok. confirmed by maxim. case reference 8834014
12	9.000	TT0000028752993	QQ7600 - Reset Equipment;Please check Andy Shore's comment about this issue.
13	9.000	000000021545794	QQ5300 - PMR;task completed as requested
14	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;drive testing completed as requested.
15	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;Drive test complete.
16	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;drive testing carried out ok
17	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;drive tests ok 02 informed.
18	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;drive testing completed ok
19	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;Test calls completed.
20	9.000	M_Drive Test RNC	Not Available;cpleted ok

OK

To remove these emails se can look to reuse the last version of the email redaction Replace..

RX Replace P5

Preview About...

Settings Annotations

Match field: SolutionReport

☒ Prefix match field to field names

Pattern:

[a-zA-Z0-9\_.-]+@[a-zA-Z0-9\_.-]+\.[a-zA-Z0-9\_.-].[a-zA-Z0-9\_.-]

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Regular Expression Options...

Replace field name: REDACTED

Replace pattern:

REDACTED

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Replace mode: ☒ Replace all ☐ Replace first occurrence only

OK Cancel Apply Reset





RX Replace

# The RX Replace node – Results

Back to regular Modeler nodes we can create a flag for the Redacted records...

Expression Builder

issubstring("REDACTED",lowertoupper(SolutionReport\_REDACTED)) > 0

String

Function	Return
hassubstring(String,N,S...	Integer
isalphacode(Char)	Boolean
isendstring(Substring,S...	Integer
islowercode(Char)	Boolean
ismidstring(Substring,S...	Integer
isnumbercode(Char)	Boolean
isstartstring(Substring,S...	Integer
issubstring(Substring,S...	Integer
issubstring(Substring,N...	Integer
issubstring_count(Subst...	Integer
issubstring_lim(Substri...	Integer
isuppercode(Char)	Boolean
last(String)	String
length(String)	Integer
locchar(Char,N,String)	Integer

Fields

Type	Field	Storage
Real	Site_ID	Real
String	Ref_Id	String
String	Title	String
String	DescriptionLog	String
String	SolutionReport	String
String	TT_Comment	String
String	InternalLog	String
String	SolutionReport...	String

><

Used between two strings. Concatenates all of the characters of STRING1 with all of the characters of STRING2.

☒ Check expression before saving

OK

Cancel

Check

Help

And look at how many we have. There aren't many. Needles in a haystack...

Value	Proportion	%	Count
F		99.95	46825
T		0.05	24

And check the way the redaction is added to individual data records...

5096....	TT5300 - PMR;Routine completed and results emailed to REDACTED
5289....	TT5300 - PMR;Dc battery test completed ok. Test forms emailed to REDACTED
5289....	TT5300 - PMR;Dc test completed ok. Test forms emailed to REDACTED



String Cleaner

## The String Cleaner node

- Compared with the other nodes in the set the String Cleaner is the odd one out
- **To use it we don't need to pick/enter any Regex**
- The Regex happens behind the scenes
- We have an ID field in the census data file that need to be converted to be compatible with another data source that we need to merge (join) with:
  - We need to remove any letters ... just leaving the numbers
  - We need to remove any spaces/table in the field

id	ID2
1	X13 Y78
2	X262 Y72
3	X101 Y23
4	X220 Y18
6	X983 Y77
11	X904 Y51
12	X576 Y70
14	X315 Y98
17	X673 Y32
19	X953 Y37
20	X522 Y99
21	X286 Y92
27	X513 Y45
28	X784 Y27
29	X646 Y26
30	X32 Y71
33	X321 Y75



# The String Cleaner node - Specification

## Pick the field to clean...

The dialog box is titled 'String Cleaner'. It has a 'Preview' button and an 'About...' button. Below these are tabs for 'Settings' and 'Annotations'. The 'Settings' tab is active. Under 'Options', the 'Fields' sub-tab is selected. A list on the left contains 'Fields', 'Whitespace', 'Capitalization', and 'Character Categories'. The 'Clean fields:' text box contains 'ID2'. The 'Output suffix:' text box contains '\_cleaned'. At the bottom are 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Apply', and 'Reset' buttons.

## Remove/reduce whitespace...

The dialog box is titled 'String Cleaner'. It has a 'Preview' button and an 'About...' button. Below these are tabs for 'Settings' and 'Annotations'. The 'Settings' tab is active. Under 'Options', the 'Whitespace' sub-tab is selected. The 'Clean fields:' text box is empty. The 'Output suffix:' text box is empty. The 'Trim:' section has three radio buttons: 'None', 'Left', and 'Both', with 'Both' selected. The 'Replace With Space' section has two checkboxes: 'Replace tab with space' (unchecked) and 'Replace duplicate space or tab with single space' (checked). At the bottom are 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Apply', and 'Reset' buttons.

## Remove text and space...

The dialog box is titled 'String Cleaner'. It has a 'Preview' button and an 'About...' button. Below these are tabs for 'Settings' and 'Annotations'. The 'Settings' tab is active. Under 'Options', the 'Character Categories' sub-tab is selected. The 'Clean fields:' text box is empty. The 'Output suffix:' text box is empty. The 'Categories' section has several checkboxes: 'Upper case English characters' (checked), 'Lower case English characters' (unchecked), 'Digits' (unchecked), 'Punctuation' (unchecked), 'Blanks' (unchecked), 'Spaces' (checked), and 'Non-printing characters' (unchecked). The 'Category handling:' section has two radio buttons: 'Remove selected categories' (selected) and 'Keep selected categories and remove others' (unchecked). At the bottom are 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Apply', and 'Reset' buttons.



RX Groups

## The RX Groups node

- We use the RX Group node to parse out pattern groups in longer text fields into new fields based on the patterns
  - Somewhat like the RX Split node but where we don't have a consistent delimiter
- In this example we have data from a NASA packet sniffing traces\* containing IP addresses, timestamps, URLs, etc.
- Our objective is to separate out the contents of each record into separate fields for further analysis

```
Log
in24.inetnebr.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:01 -0400] "GET /shuttle/missions/sts-68/news/sts-68-mcc-05.txt HTTP/1.0" 200 183
uplherc.upl.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:07 -0400] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 304 0
uplherc.upl.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:08 -0400] "GET /images/ksclogo-medium.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
uplherc.upl.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:08 -0400] "GET /images/MOSAIC-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
uplherc.upl.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:08 -0400] "GET /images/USA-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
ix-esc-ca2-07.ix.netcom.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:09 -0400] "GET /images/launch-logo.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 1713
uplherc.upl.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:10 -0400] "GET /images/WORLD-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
slppp6.intermind.net - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:10 -0400] "GET /history/skylab/skylab.html HTTP/1.0" 200 1687
piweba4y.prodigy.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:10 -0400] "GET /images/launchmedium.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 11853
slppp6.intermind.net - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:11 -0400] "GET /history/skylab/skylab-small.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 9202
slppp6.intermind.net - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:12 -0400] "GET /images/kscdogosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 3635
ix-esc-ca2-07.ix.netcom.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:12 -0400] "GET /history/apollo/images/apollo-logo1.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 117
slppp6.intermind.net - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:13 -0400] "GET /history/apollo/images/apollo-logo.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 3047
uplherc.upl.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:14 -0400] "GET /images/NASA-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
133.43.96.45 - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:16 -0400] "GET /shuttle/missions/sts-69/mission-sts-69.html HTTP/1.0" 200 10566
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:17 -0400] "GET / HTTP/1.0" 200 7280
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:18 -0400] "GET /images/kscdogo-medium.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 5866
d0ucr6.fnal.gov - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:19 -0400] "GET /history/apollo/apollo-16/apollo-16.html HTTP/1.0" 200 2743
ix-esc-ca2-07.ix.netcom.com - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:19 -0400] "GET /shuttle/resources/orbiters/discovery.html HTTP/1.0" 200
d0ucr6.fnal.gov - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:20 -0400] "GET /history/apollo/apollo-16/apollo-16-patch-small.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 14897
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:21 -0400] "GET /images/NASA-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:21 -0400] "GET /images/MOSAIC-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:22 -0400] "GET /images/USA-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:22 -0400] "GET /images/WORLD-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 304 0
133.43.96.45 - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:22 -0400] "GET /images/KSC-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 1204
133.43.96.45 - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:23 -0400] "GET /shuttle/missions/sts-69/sts-69-patch-small.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 8083
133.43.96.45 - - [01/Aug/1995:00:00:23 -0400] "GET /images/launch-logo.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 1713
```



RX Groups

## The RX Groups node - Specifying

The screenshot shows the 'RX Groups' configuration window. It has a title bar with a close button. Inside, there's a toolbar with a 'Preview' button, an 'About...' button, and a help icon. Below the toolbar are two tabs: 'Settings' (selected) and 'Annotations'. Under the 'Settings' tab, there's a 'Match field:' dropdown set to 'Log'. A checkbox 'Prefix match field to field names' is checked. The 'Pattern:' text area contains a complex regex: `^([\\-\\w\\.\\.\\.]+) (\\S+) (\\S+) \\[\\[\\w:/]+\\s[+\\-]\\d{4}\\]\\ \"(.+?)\" (\\d{3}) (\\d+)`. Below this is a hint: 'Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns' and a button 'Regular Expression Options...'. The 'All match name:' field is set to '\_MATCH'. The 'Group names (1 per line):' text area lists: 'IPAddress', 'Identity', 'UserID', 'Time', 'Request', 'ResponseStatus', and 'Size'. At the bottom, 'Reference groups:' has two radio buttons: 'By position' (selected) and 'By name'. The footer contains 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Apply', and 'Reset' buttons.

RX Groups

Preview About...

Settings Annotations

Match field: Log

☒ Prefix match field to field names

Pattern:

```
^([\\-\\w\\.\\.\\.]+) (\\S+) (\\S+) \\[\\[\\w:/]+\\s[+\\-]\\d{4}\\]\\ \"(.+?)\" (\\d{3}) (\\d+)
```

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Regular Expression Options...

All match name: \_MATCH

Group names (1 per line):

```
IPAddress
Identity
UserID
Time
Request
ResponseStatus
Size
```

Reference groups: ☒ By position ☐ By name

OK Cancel Apply Reset

The 7 separate Regex patterns specified here

Are mapped (in order) into the 7 derived fields here



## The RX Groups node - Results

The first 20 records with the derived **RX Group** fields are shown below.

The **LogIPAddress** looks read for analysis – or perhaps to use as an ID for modelling e.g. Sequence analysis

We could use RX Split to take it further (splitting on the period to isolate domains)

LogIPAddress	LogIdentity	LogUserID	LogTime	LogRequest	LogResponseStatus	LogSize
in24.inetnebr.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:01 -0400	GET /shuttle/missions/sts-68/news/sts-68-mcc-05.txt HTTP/1.0	200	1839
uplherc.upl.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:07 -0400	GET / HTTP/1.0	304	0
uplherc.upl.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:08 -0400	GET /images/kscllogo-medium.gif HTTP/1.0	304	0
uplherc.upl.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:08 -0400	GET /images/MOSAIC-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0	304	0
uplherc.upl.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:08 -0400	GET /images/USA-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0	304	0
ix-esc-ca2-07.ix.netcom.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:09 -0400	GET /images/launch-logo.gif HTTP/1.0	200	1713
uplherc.upl.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:10 -0400	GET /images/WORLD-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0	304	0
slppp6.intermind.net	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:10 -0400	GET /history/skylab/skylab.html HTTP/1.0	200	1687
piweba4y.prodigy.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:10 -0400	GET /images/launchmedium.gif HTTP/1.0	200	11853
slppp6.intermind.net	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:11 -0400	GET /history/skylab/skylab-small.gif HTTP/1.0	200	9202
slppp6.intermind.net	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:12 -0400	GET /images/kscllogosmall.gif HTTP/1.0	200	3635
ix-esc-ca2-07.ix.netcom.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:12 -0400	GET /history/apollo/images/apollo-logo1.gif HTTP/1.0	200	1173
slppp6.intermind.net	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:13 -0400	GET /history/apollo/images/apollo-logo.gif HTTP/1.0	200	3047
uplherc.upl.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:14 -0400	GET /images/NASA-logosmall.gif HTTP/1.0	304	0
133.43.96.45	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:16 -0400	GET /shuttle/missions/sts-69/mission-sts-69.html HTTP/1.0	200	10566
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:17 -0400	GET / HTTP/1.0	200	7280
kgtyk4.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:18 -0400	GET /images/kscllogo-medium.gif HTTP/1.0	200	5866
d0ucr6.fnal.gov	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:19 -0400	GET /history/apollo/apollo-16/apollo-16.html HTTP/1.0	200	2743
ix-esc-ca2-07.ix.netcom.com	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:19 -0400	GET /shuttle/resources/orbiters/discovery.html HTTP/1.0	200	6849
d0ucr6.fnal.gov	-	-	01/Aug/1995:00:00:20 -0400	GET /history/apollo/apollo-16/apollo-16-patch-small.gif HTTP/...	200	14897

But let's focus on the **LogRequest**. Let's RX Split that further ...



RX Split

# RX Splitting our Log Request

Our **LogRequest** has 3 parts ... with the interesting part (the page/content seen) in the middle. This is space delimited so we can return to our RX Split node to isolate the interesting text into a separate field (we will call it URL)

RX Split

Preview About...

Settings Annotations

Match field: LogRequest

☒ Prefix match field to field names

Pattern: \s

Hint: use the context menu to insert common regular expression patterns

Regular Expression Options...

Output suffix: \_SPLIT

Max. splits: 3

OK Cancel Apply Reset

Named group (?P<GroupName>)
Capturing group ()
Non-capturing group (?:)
Start of word \b
End of word \b
Start of line ^
End of line \$
Tab character \t
Whitespace character \s
Letter [a-zA-Z]
Lower case letter \l
Upper case letter \u
Digit character \d
Non-digit character \D
Word character \w
Non-word character \W
A word \b\w+\b
An integer \b\d+\b
Any single character .
Zero or more *
One or more +

It looks like the **LogRequest** is space delimited so we can use the **Context Menu** to specify the **Whitespace character** (\s) as our delimiter. This gives us the following field as a URL...

URL
/icons/blank.xbm
/icons/menu.xbm
/icons/image.xbm
/history/apollo/apollo-13/apollo-13-patch-small...
/history/apollo/apollo-17/apollo-17.html
/facilities/mlp.html
/history/apollo/apollo-17/apollo-17-patch-small...
/images/mlp-logo.gif
/elw/ATLAS_CENTAUR/atlprev.htm
/icons/unknown.xbm
/shuttle/missions/sts-71/images/KSC-95EC-09.
/ksc.html
/shuttle/resources/orbiters/orbiters-logo.gif
/shuttle/resources/orbiters/challenger.html
/shuttle/resources/orbiters/challenger-logo.gif
/shuttle/resources/orbiters/orbiters-logo.gif
/ksc.html
/images/ksclogo-medium.gif
/images/MOSAIC-logosmall.gif
/images/USA-logosmall.gif



## Isolating HTML URLs for further analysis

To finish off we **Derive** a flag field to tag URLs that have identify interesting content viewed by the visitor (HTML content)...

Derive field:

HTML\_FLAG

Derive as: Flag

Field type: Flag

True value: T

False value: F

True when:

```
1 issubstring("HTM", lowertoupper(URL)) > 0
```



We can select on this flag and can see which (HTML) content is most consumed by our visitors

Value	Proportion	%	Count
/ksc.html		12.69	43673
/shuttle/missions/sts-69/mission-sts-69.html		7.15	24604
/shuttle/missions/missions.html		6.52	22442
/software/winvn/winvn.html		3.01	10342
/history/history.html		2.94	10128
/history/apollo/apollo.html		2.61	8984
/shuttle/countdown/liftoff.html		2.29	7864
/history/apollo/apollo-13/apollo-13.html		2.09	7176
/shuttle/technology/sts-newsref/stsref-toc.html		1.89	6517
/shuttle/missions/sts-69/images/images.html		1.53	5263
/shuttle/missions/sts-69/movies/movies.html		1.41	4846
/shuttle/missions/sts-69/liftoff.html		1.32	4558
/facilities/lc39a.html		1.3	4461
/shuttle/resources/orbiters/endeavour.html		1.29	4434
/shuttle/missions/sts-70/mission-sts-70.html		1.18	4065
/shuttle/technology/sts-newsref/sts_asm.html		1.08	3706
/shuttle/countdown/countdown.html		1.02	3518
/shuttle/missions/sts-71/movies/movies.html		1.02	3507

And from here we can analyse visitor behaviour in a more algorithmic way. Looking at common **sequences** and common **clusters** of content (which would reveal segments of visitor behaviour)





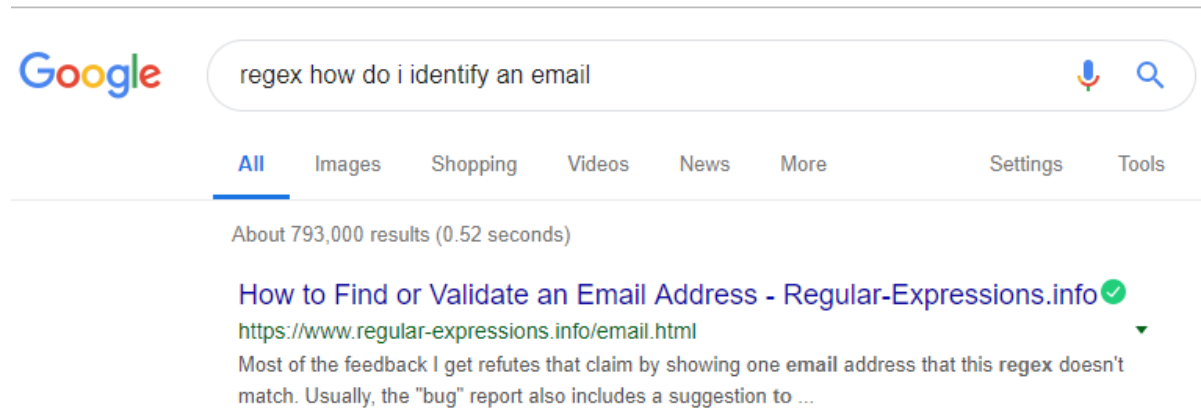
## All RX nodes are scriptable

The RX nodes can be (Python) scripted/automated in the familiar style...

```
node = modeler.script.stream().createAt("regex_cleaner", u"String Cleaner", 512, 192)
node.setPropertyValue("clean_fields", [u"HomePhone", u"MobilePhone"])
node.setPropertyValue("output_suffix", u"_processed")
node.setPropertyValue("trim_mode", u"both")
node.setPropertyValue("replace_tabs", True)
node.setPropertyValue("replace_duplicate_blanks", True)
node.setPropertyValue("capitalize_mode", u"none")
node.setPropertyValue("find_upper_english_chars", False)
node.setPropertyValue("find_lower_english_chars", False)
node.setPropertyValue("find_digits", True)
node.setPropertyValue("find_punctuation", False)
node.setPropertyValue("find_blanks", False)
node.setPropertyValue("find_spaces", False)
node.setPropertyValue("find_non_printing_chars", False)
node.setPropertyValue("categories_mode", u"keep")
```

# Getting help

- Regex examples are very easy to find ...

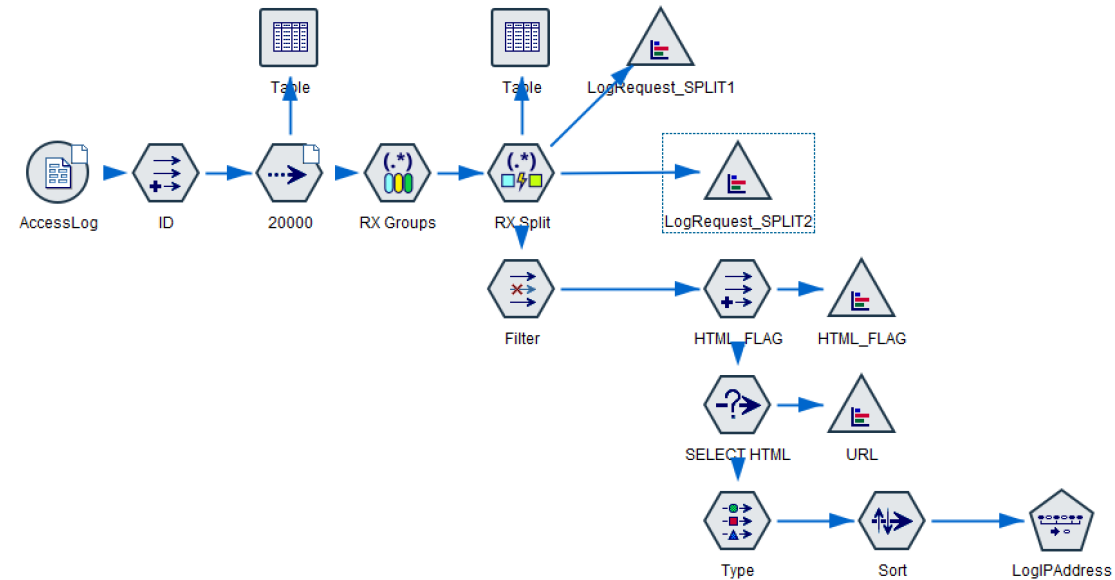


- <https://www.rexegg.com/regex-quickstart.html>

Quantifiers			
Quantifier	Legend	Example	Sample Match
+	One or more	Version \w-\w+	Version A-b1_1
{3}	Exactly three times	\D{3}	ABC
{2,4}	Two to four times	\d{2,4}	156
{3,}	Three or more times	\w{3,}	regex_tutorial
*	Zero or more times	A*B*C*	AAACC
?	Once or none	plurals?	plural

## In Summary

- The Regex nodes significantly extend the string handling capability \*within\* Modeler
- True to the Modeler ethos they are accessible to users who have little or no experience of regular expressions
- And even for those who do they integrate advanced text manipulation in the flow of a Modeler stream



## Extensions extending

- Smart Vision is planning to develop more extensions for both SPSS Modeler and SPSS Statistics
  - We have a v1.2 update to the RX nodes to extend UNICODE support and some fixes
  - A new, enhanced, **Metadata node**
  - Check in to <https://www.sv-europe.com/product-category/spss-extensions/> to see more
- Please do mail us to suggest/request other extensions
  - [info@sv-europe.com](mailto:info@sv-europe.com)

---

### SPSS extensions

We offer a small range of extensions for SPSS Statistics and SPSS Modeler to enhance the functionality of these products.

Showing all 3 results

Free downloadable SPSS Table Looks

£0.00 excl VAT

Add to the cart

Free SPSS Key Driver Analysis tool

£0.00 excl VAT

Add to the cart

Regular Expressions for IBM SPSS Modeler

£199.00 excl VAT

Add to the cart

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  - You can buy your analytical software from us often with discounts
  - Assist with selection, pilot, implementation & support of analytical tools
  - <http://www.sv-europe.com/buy-spss-online/>
- **Training and Consulting Services**
  - Guided consulting & training to develop in house skills
  - Delivery of classroom training courses / side by side training support
  - Identification & recruitment of analytical skills into your organisation
- **Advice and Support**
  - offer 'no strings attached' technical and business advice relating to analytical activities
  - Technical support services around SPSS

## What next?

The RX nodes are available at:

<https://www.sv-europe.com/product/regular-expressions-ibm-spss-modeler/>

The free, enhanced, Metadata node at:

<https://www.sv-europe.com/product/enhanced-metadata-node-for-ibm-spss-modeler/>

If you are new to IBM/SPSS Modeler we have an Intro Course at:

<https://www.sv-europe.com/smart-vision-spss-courses/introduction-spss-modeler/>



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Thank you