NAME

PCRE - Perl-compatible regular expressions

SYNOPSIS

#include <pcre.h>

int pcre_dfa_exec(const pcre * *code***, const pcre_extra *** *extra***,**
const char * *subject***, int** *length***, int** *startoffset***,**
int *options***, int *** *ovector***, int** *ovecsize***,**
int * *workspace***, int** *wscount***);**

int pcre16_dfa_exec(const pcre16 * *code***, const pcre16_extra *** *extra***,**
PCRE_SPTR16 *subject***, int** *length***, int** *startoffset***,**
int *options***, int *** *ovector***, int** *ovecsize***,**
int * *workspace***, int** *wscount***);**

int pcre32_dfa_exec(const pcre32 * *code***, const pcre32_extra *** *extra***,**
PCRE_SPTR32 *subject***, int** *length***, int** *startoffset***,**
int *options***, int *** *ovector***, int** *ovecsize***,**
int * *workspace***, int** *wscount***);**

DESCRIPTION

This function matches a compiled regular expression against a given subject string, using an alternative matching algorithm that scans the subject string just once (*not* Perl-compatible). Note that the main, Perl-compatible, matching function is **pcre[16|32]_exec()**. The arguments for this function are:

code	Points to the compiled pattern
extra	Points to an associated **pcre[16|32]_extra** structure, or is NULL
subject	Points to the subject string
length	Length of the subject string
startoffset	Offset in the subject at which to start matching
options	Option bits
ovector	Points to a vector of ints for result offsets
ovecsize	Number of elements in the vector
workspace	Points to a vector of ints used as working space
wscount	Number of elements in the vector

The units for *length* and *startoffset* are bytes for **pcre_exec()**, 16-bit data items for **pcre16_exec()**, and 32-bit items for **pcre32_exec()**. The options are:

PCRE_ANCHORED Match only at the first position
PCRE_BSR_ANYCRLF \R matches only CR, LF, or CRLF
PCRE_BSR_UNICODE \R matches all Unicode line endings
PCRE_NEWLINE_ANY Recognize any Unicode newline sequence
PCRE_NEWLINE_ANYCRLF Recognize CR, LF, & CRLF as newline sequences
PCRE_NEWLINE_CR Recognize CR as the only newline sequence
PCRE_NEWLINE_CRLF Recognize CRLF as the only newline sequence
PCRE_NEWLINE_LF Recognize LF as the only newline sequence
PCRE_NOTBOL Subject is not the beginning of a line
PCRE_NOTEOL Subject is not the end of a line
PCRE_NOTEMPTY An empty string is not a valid match
PCRE_NOTEMPTY_ATSTART An empty string at the start of the subject
is not a valid match
PCRE_NO_START_OPTIMIZE Do not do "start-match" optimizations
PCRE_NO_UTF16_CHECK Do not check the subject for UTF-16
validity (only relevant if PCRE_UTF16
was set at compile time)
PCRE_NO_UTF32_CHECK Do not check the subject for UTF-32
validity (only relevant if PCRE_UTF32
was set at compile time)
PCRE_NO_UTF8_CHECK Do not check the subject for UTF-8
validity (only relevant if PCRE_UTF8
was set at compile time)
PCRE_PARTIAL) Return PCRE_ERROR_PARTIAL for a partial
PCRE_PARTIAL_SOFT) match if no full matches are found
PCRE_PARTIAL_HARD Return PCRE_ERROR_PARTIAL for a partial match
even if there is a full match as well
PCRE_DFA_SHORTEST Return only the shortest match
PCRE_DFA_RESTART Restart after a partial match

There are restrictions on what may appear in a pattern when using this matching function. Details are given in the **pcrematching** documentation. For details of partial matching, see the **pcrepartial** page.

A **pcre[16|32]_extra** structure contains the following fields:

flags Bits indicating which fields are set
study_data Opaque data from **pcre[16|32]_study()**
match_limit Limit on internal resource use
match_limit_recursion Limit on internal recursion depth
callout_data Opaque data passed back to callouts

tables Points to character tables or is NULL
mark For passing back a *MARK pointer
executable_jit Opaque data from JIT compilation

The flag bits are PCRE_EXTRA_STUDY_DATA, PCRE_EXTRA_MATCH_LIMIT, PCRE_EXTRA_MATCH_LIMIT_RECURSION, PCRE_EXTRA_CALLOUT_DATA, PCRE_EXTRA_TABLES, PCRE_EXTRA_MARK and PCRE_EXTRA_EXECUTABLE_JIT. For this matching function, the *match_limit* and *match_limit_recursion* fields are not used, and must not be set. The PCRE_EXTRA_EXECUTABLE_JIT flag and the corresponding variable are ignored.

There is a complete description of the PCRE native API in the **pcreapi** page and a description of the POSIX API in the **pcreposix** page.