MooD International Support Portal Support Solution

**Regular Expression Replace field modifier (SAT) - What is a regular expression?**

A regular expression is a pattern used to match text. Regular expressions are used for text processing in many programming languages (for example, Perl) and in UNIX utilities such as **grep**. They share common semantics and you are best looking online for additional information on regular expressions.

In SAT, the **Regular Expression Replace** string modifier lets you match a string against an regular expression and then replace it accordingly. Here is an example:

Source data:

# Surname Forename Smith Bob

**Jones Rob**

If you pass **Forename** through this regular expression: Regular Expression: **(Bob|Rob)**

Replacement: **Robert**

**Bob** and **Rob** become **Robert**.

You must exercise caution with regular expressions and consider their impact across your source data. Regular expressions do exactly what you ask. This can have undesired consequences. For example, if the example regular expression was used against the input string **Robert**, you would get **Robertert**. This is because it has matched **Rob** and replaced it with **Robert**. To avoid this, the regular expression would need to be **(Bob|Rob)$**. The **$** symbol means match at the end of a string only.

***Readers Comments (if any) Images (if any)***

© MooD Enterprises Ltd, all rights reserved.