I'll never ask and answer on Stack Overflow again.

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https://reinhart1010.id/blog/2021/10/17/ill-never-ask-and-answer-on-stack-overflow-again.
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This blog post is supposed to be an exciting news that I have decided to return to StackOverflow after being inactive since 2014. However, after trying again to participate in the site again, I have finally decided not to join Stack Overflow again.

While the site itself is still enjoyable with millions of software developers. But please **mark my words:**

> Everything in Stack Overflow **is a duplicate** of everything in Stack Overflow.

Here's the thing. The number of users and questions over Stack Overflow seems to outpace the development of many programming languages, libraries, and frameworks. And this, at least, has been proven true for some programming languages such as C and BASIC which is way slower to have new language features compared to those in JavaScript and Python today.

What does this mean? This means that the **yield rate of new unique questions** deriving from that programming language, framework, or library are getting **slower and slower over time.** And, in layman's terms, what does this really mean to the future of Stack Overflow website?

> Theoretically, in the future, you won't be able ask new questions since **they'll be closed as duplicate** no matter the things you ask.

In this blog post I will also discuss how the general Stack Overflow community compares to an Indonesian-based community over **Kotakode.com**, a Q&A site which works similarly to the ones at Stack Overflow. While I myself have been appointed as one of the moderators of their official Telegram group, **this blog post is <u>not</u> an endorsement of and by the Kotakode.com company (PT. Kota Digital Nusantara) as well as the broader community.**

Regular Expressions: A Simple Example.

One day, an user on Stack Overflow asks a new question about PHP and regular expressions. The user would like to replace the following batch of text:

?DEMO - 92?JOHN AAA
?DEMO - 11?JOHN BBB
?DEMO - 34?JOHN CCC

?DEMO – 55?JOHN DDD
?DEMO – 73?JOHN EEE

into this:

JOHN AAA
JOHN BBB
JOHN CCC
JOHN DDD
JOHN EEE

Of course, this would be easy with Regular Expressions, right? And I know that **preg_replace()** would be the perfect job for that. Hence I suggest the author to use **preg_replace('/^\?DEMO – \d+\?/', '', $str);**.

The author of the question thanked my by marking my answer as the correct one. Hey, that's good! At least I get an additional **25 reputations** for that. But soon I realized that this is just a dream, as a couple of minutes later **someone with a gold badge of PHP closed this as a duplicate.**

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Parse texts with PHP [duplicate]

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This post is hidden. It was deleted 8 hours ago by oguz ismail, Nigel Ren, mickmackusa.

This question already has answers here:

regular expression to match everything until the last occurrence of / (3 answers)

Closed 10 hours ago.

I am reading records from a text document. But I want to delete the title at the beginning of the records

Records:

```
?DEMO - 92?JOHN AAA
?DEMO - 11?JOHN BBB
?DEMO - 34?JOHN CCC
?DEMO - 55?JOHN DDD
?DEMO - 73?JOHN EEE
```

Must be

```
JOHN AAA
JOHN BBB
JOHN CCC
JOHN DDD
JOHN EEE
```

I want to parse its records by referencing the ? character at the beginning and end of the title. What do you think should be the best alternative to this?

php   regex   preg-match

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asked 10 hours ago
SweetNGX
113 • 6

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1 Answer

Active   Oldest   Votes

1

This answer is hidden. This answer was deleted 8 hours ago along with its parent question.

I believe this can be somehow be resolved using `preg_replace()` and a bit of escaped characters in regex.

```
$str = '?DEMO - 92?JOHN AAA';
$str = preg_replace('/^\?DEMO - \d+\?/', '', $str);
```

See the results on https://regexr.com/67ka3.

The ^ forces the regex engine to search **at the beginning** of the string, so things like `?DEMO - 73?JOHN A??DEMO - 73?A?` won't be truncated into `JOHN A?A?`. I need to escape the question mark into `\?` since `?` is a lazy quantifier in Perl-compatible regular expressions like those in PHP.

I also used `\d+` instead of `\d{2}` to anticipate things like `?DEMO - 3?JOHN AAA` and `?DEMO - 143?JOHN AAA`.

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answered 10 hours ago
Reinhart Previano
1 • 2

New contributor

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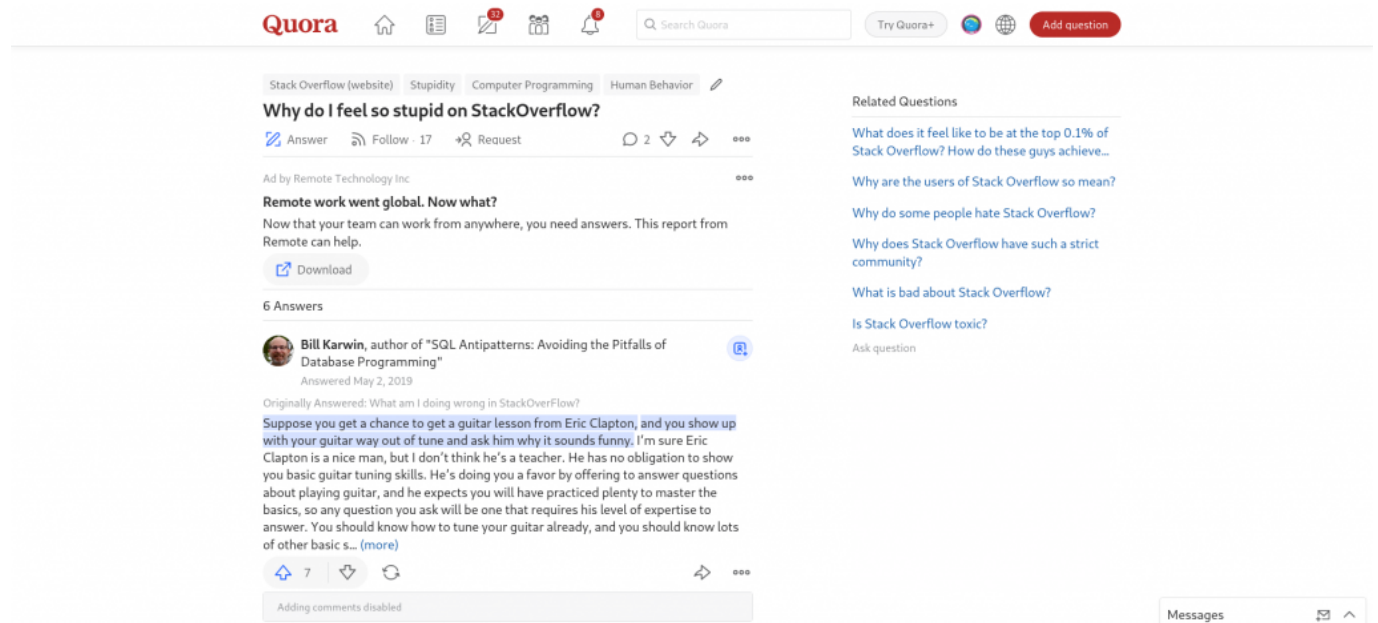Not the answer you're looking for? Browse other questions tagged php   regex   preg-match   or ask your own question.

https://stackoverflow.com/questions/69592918/parse-texts-with-php/69592967#69592967

Of course, I would be thankful to mickmackusa, Nigel Ren, and oguz ismail, three of the substantial amount of StackOverflow users out there who have emotionally influenced me to never visit StackOverflow again. At least, asking and answering questions on the site, as expected by their community guidelines:

> **Get used to answering and editing and asking questions first,** so that you have a better feel for the local culture and get to see your own work become a part of the site. (Voting and comment and deleting things are all secondary activities on Stack Overflow)

Learning from Quora

In Quora, all answers deriving from questions marked as duplicate **will be merged instead** into the referring questions, allowing other users to view different opinions and even upvote the answers. Furthermore, **Quora shows the original question which the user was originally answered for,** if the question has been renamed or merged with another one.

Quora knows that many of their questions tend to be open-ended, so this would be the best choice to keep the community alive. **And it worked well!**

However, Stack Overflow seems to expect that their answers are **close-ended**. And they thought closing duplicates this way could be better. This is also the reason why many long-time users are angry when someone asks an open-ended question, like, "Is HTML a programming language?". To quote from theirs:

> As it currently stands, this question is not a good fit for our Q&A format. We expect answers to be supported by facts, references, or expertise, but this question will likely solicit debate, arguments, polling, or extended discussion. If you feel that this question can be improved and possibly reopened, visit the help center for guidance.

I personally feel that the **well-educated users of Stack Overflow have created a barrier of entry for newcomers.** Whether they're visiting Stack Overflow for the first time, or even just got their hands in programming for the first time. Imagine a place where you're blamed for not hearing people's past discussions on that place, and Stack Overflow could be one of them. This is a problem not just for Stack Overflow, and this could affect millions of people who visited the site. Meanwhile, at **Kotakode.com**, our mission is to build and empower an inclusive community of Indonesian programmers and software developers. So seriously, what would be the point of that if we always mute and kick those newbies just because they are asking questions which have been answered years and even months ago?

How do we handle things differently in Kotakode.com?

Now, if you're visiting **Kotakode.com**, you'll notice that the site is generally written in Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia). This is because the site is dedicated towards Indonesian-speaking software developers, and the lack of a similar Q&A site for them have become one of the motivations behind building it from scratch.

Even if you're familiar with the language, asking and answering questions over Kotakode feels different than the likenesses of Stack Overflow. Some questions over Kotakode are open-minded, and we even have specific question tags such as **#referensi** (*lit.* references) to mark questions which could be filled with opinions and arguments - something which is discouraged otherwise in Stack Overflow.

Now, of course, Kotakode is still new, and we're just about 1 year old. However, what will happens if Kotakode face the same challenge as Stack Overflow today? There are many things which are needed to be discussed at first (e.g. duplicate policy), or we might end up splitting our sites for newbies and advanced, just like the CodeNewbie Community forum which is now separated from the larger DEV.to.

At the end, again, I won't be motivated to participate in Stack Overflow again. **Enough is enough.**