

# What can I use to perform an email validation during entry-field accept?

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You can use regular expressions in your entry-field to validate the contents accepted, and return an error message if necessary.

The following example shows how to declare regular expression on a screen section entry-field:

```
...
03 ef1
   Entry-Field
   value var
   validation-regexp "^[a-zA-Z0-9~!$%^&*_=+}{';?]+(.[a-zA-Z0-9~!
-   "$%^&*_=+}{';?]+)*@([a-zA-Z0-9_][a-zA-Z0-9_]*(.[a-zA-Z0-9_]+)*.
-   "(aero|arpa|biz|com|coop|edu|gov|info|int|mil|museum|name|
-   "net|org|pro|travel|mobi|[a-z][a-z])|([0-9]{1,3}].[0-9]{1,
-   "3}].[0-9]{1,3}].[0-9]{1,3}))(:[0-9]{1,5})? $"
   validation-errmsg ';"Invalid mail address"';
   validation-opts 7
...
```

This code will validate the message using the regular expression, with options activated to handle it in a case insensitive manner, trimming the left and right sides of the string.

If the entry-field content doesn't match with the regexp specified by validation-regexp, then the a message box containing the validation-errmsg value is automatically displayed by the runtime and focus is kept on the field.

**Matches:** bob-smith@foo.com | bob.smith@foo.com | bob\_smith@foo.com

**Non-Matches:** .smith@foo.com | smith@foo\_com | bob.smith | bob.smith@foo

The regexp syntax must respect Java specifications

<http://docs.oracle.com/javase/8/docs/api/java/util/regex/Pattern.html>.

Regular Expression are collected and discussed on the web. For example, on this web site:

<https://www.freeformatter.com/java-regex-tester.html>, you can find ready-to-use expressions for common issues as well as an online regexp validator tool.