

simple regex question

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/SunManagers/2005-01/0419.html>

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Date: 01/29/05

Date: Fri, 28 Jan 2005 18:54:14 -0600 (CST)

To: sunmanagers@sunmanagers.org

I want to match, case does not matter, a string

foo: bar

where foo starts the line, there can be one or more whitespace characters between the : and the bar, and there can be zero or more whitespace characters between the bar and the end of line. "whitespace characters" here means spaces or tabs.

```
/usr/bin/egrep -i ^foo:[ ]*bar[ ]*$
```

works with any combination of spaces I use. But when I add \t to the regex:

```
/usr/bin/egrep -i ^foo:[ \t][ \t]*bar[ \t]*&
```

it fails. I have tried escaping the \t (as in, \\t), but that did not help.

I tried bracketing with (and), but that did not help. I have used double and single quotes, and that did not help. Can anyone suggest how to write an RE that will see a tab character? TIA and I will summarize.

| Christopher L. Barnard O When I was a boy I was told that |
| cbarnard@tsg.cbot.com / \ anybody could become president. |
| (312) 347-4901 O---O Now I'm beginning to believe it. |
| <http://www.cs.uchicago.edu/~cbarnard> ---Clarence Darrow |
+-----PGP public key available via finger or PGP keyserver-----+

sunmanagers mailing list

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