Learning Ruby - 6

Regular Expressions

Ruby's Regex Technology

- Specifying what you are after using a terse, compact syntax

- Very useful when working with textual data
- Similar technology available in Perl, C#, Python and Java (to name a few)
- Think of regex's as a programming technology within a programming technology
- Refer to the handout "Paul's Ruby Regex Primer"

A Useful Ruby Regex Processor

```ruby
#! /usr/bin/ruby -w

def show_regexp( target, regex )
    # Based on the code from page 69, Programming Ruby,
    # 2nd Edition by Dave Thomas.
    if target =~ regex
        "#{$`}>>#{$&}<<#{$'}"
    else
        "no match found"
    end # of if.
end # of show_regexp.

target, regex = ARGV.collect { |arg| arg }
regex = Regexp.new( regex )
puts show_regexp( target, regex )
```

More ... Ruby So Far

- Take the time to learn Ruby's regular expression syntax