

# Utility Function: PatternReplace()

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Ok, so this one is neat. It takes a pattern and a string, extracts the groups, and then injects the groups into a replacement string based on group numbers. The notation "\$x" is used to indicate replacement position, where x is the group number you want to use. The neat thing is that position 0 always corresponds to the whole original string.

```
<cffunction name="PatternReplace" output="false" returntype="string">
    <cfargument name="pattern" type="string" required="true" />
    <cfargument name="string" type="string" required="true" />
    <cfargument name="replacement" type="string" required="true" />

    <cfset var local = StructNew() />

    <cfif IsSimpleValue(arguments.pattern)>
        <cfset arguments.pattern = CreateObject("java", "java.util.regex.Pattern").compile(arguments.pattern) />
    </cfif>

    <cfset local.matcher = arguments.pattern.matcher(arguments.string) >

    <cfreturn local.matcher.replaceAll(arguments.replacement) />
</cffunction>
```

Example:

```
<!-- This results in "google dog" -->
<cfset x = PatternReplace("d(o)(g)", "dog", "$2$1$1$2le $0") />
```