Perl Weekly Challenge - 020, Task #1
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Write a script to accept a string from command line and split it on change of character. For example, if the string is “ABBCDEEF”, then it should split like “A”, “BB”, “C”, “D”, “EE”, “F”.

Discussion

“There’s more than one way to do it” is a Perl programming motto. I decided to solve this using a Perl 6 regex. In my opinion, if you do much programming with character strings, regexes are too powerful to not learn.

Perl 6 solution

```perl6
1 #
2 # Perl Weekly Challenge - 020
3 # Task #1
4 #
5 # See
6 # engineering.purdue.edu/~mark/pwc-020-1.pdf
7 # for more information.
8 # Run using Perl v6.d.
9 use v6.d;
10 #
11 # See
12 # https://docs.perl6.org/routine/MAIN
13 # for how to define a MAIN sub. For this program, only
14 # a single string from the command line needs to be
15 # accepted with no options and the following will suffice.
16 # This is nice because if I used a sub MAIN here, I would
17 # put all of the code below indented inside the sub MAIN
18 # and would need to reduce the font size so it would fit
19 # on the page.
20 $_ = shift @*ARGS;
21 #
22 # The Perl 6 regex
23 # /((.){}0*)/;
24 # with no comments could be used. For this regex I prefer
25 # commenting it like below to explain it to people who may
26 # have not used regexes before.
27 #
28 # Search for the quoted comments in the code below in
29 # https://docs.perl6.org/language/regexes
30 # for more information.
31 # Start a Perl 6 regex (called "regular expression" in Perl 5).
32 ( # Start a group to match a string of identical characters.
33 ```
Match a single character.

"This code block publishes the capture inside the regex, so that it can be assigned to other variables or used for subsequent matches."

Match the previously matched character zero or more times.

End the group to match a string of identical characters. There are zero or more groups of identical characters.

End the Perl 6 regex.

"Coercing the match object to a list gives an easy way to programmatically access all elements:"

say $/.list.join;