# REG Matching

TapeTrack supports matching against a list of patterns stored in the Windows Registry using the special filter prefix:

`*REG:registry_value_name`

This allows a filter field to be compared against multiple patterns defined centrally in the Windows Registry.

REG filtering is functionally similar to LIST filtering, however the patterns are stored in a registry value instead of a file.

## How REG Matching Works

When a filter begins with:

```
*REG:
```

TapeTrack will:

- open the Windows Registry
- locate the specified value name
- read its contents
- treat the contents as a semicolon-separated list of patterns
- stop as soon as a match is found

## Registry Location

Registry location:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\GazillaByte\TapeTrack\Lists
```

Each registry value under this key represents a reusable filter list.

## Example

Example set of Description values for Volumes in TapeMaster:

Production database weekly backup
Prod DB full backup
Prod data backup set
Production export dump
Development database backup

Weekly archive - finance system

### Example Registry Value

Registry Key:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\GazillaByte\TapeTrack\Lists
```

Create a new String Value named:

```
ProdFilters
```

With the following data (semicolon-separated):

```
*prod*;*PRD*;*production*
```

### Using the REG Filter in TapeMaster

To filter the Description field using the registry list:

```
*REG:ProdFilters
```

This will match any Description containing:

“prod”

“PRD”

“production”

## Expected Matching Results

Using the filter:

```
*REG:ProdFilters
```

The following descriptions would typically match:

Production database weekly backup
Prod DB full backup
Production export dump
PRD database BKP
Prod data backup set

The following descriptions would typically not match:

Development database backup

Weekly archive - finance system

# Using Wildcards in REG Values

Each entry in the registry value supports standard TapeTrack wildcard matching.

Example registry value data:

```
*backup*;*archive*;*dump*
```

This allows a single REG filter to match multiple categories of Description text.

# When to Use REG vs LIST

| Method | Storage Location | Best Used For |
|---|---|---|
| LIST | External text file | Shared configuration files |
| REG | Windows Registry | Centralised per-user configuration |

REG filtering is especially useful in environments where:

- administrators want centrally managed filter sets
- users should not modify external files
- reusable filter definitions are required across multiple tools

REG filtering provides a centralized, reusable method of matching a field against multiple wildcard patterns stored in the Windows Registry. It behaves the same as LIST filtering, but stores the pattern list inside:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\GazillaByte\TapeTrack\Lists
```

This makes it ideal for controlled environments where filter rules need to be maintained per user or workstation.

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