

Element.Search(String)

Description

Searches for a specified string and returns a collection of type [SearchMatch\[\]](#).

C#

```
public virtual SearchMatch[] Search(System.String toMatch)
```

vb.net

```
Public Overridable Function Search(ByVal toMatch As String) As SearchMatch()
```

Parameters

toMatch

The string to find.

Returns

A collection of [SearchMatch](#) objects.

Remarks

The search string can be a literal, a regular expression, or a combination of both. Since the string can contain regular expressions, use a backslash to escape special characters. Special characters are [^ \$. | ? * + ()]. The collection this method returns implements the .NET [IEnumerable](#) interface that can be used to iterate over the search results.

Examples

C#

```
//--- Required for IEnumerator
using System.Collections;

WordApplication app = new WordAppliation();
Document doc = app.Open(@"c:\myDoc.doc");

//--- Search a document for social security numbers, or any series of
//--- nine digits, and remove them. The question mark after each dash
//--- makes the presence of the dash optional.
IEnumerator searcherator =
(doc.Search(@"\d\d\d-?\d\d-?\d\d\d\d")).GetEnumerator();
while (searcherator.MoveNext())
{
    SearchMatch match = (SearchMatch)searcherator.Current;
    match.Element.DeleteElement();
}
```

vb.net

```
'--- Required for IEnumerator
Imports System.Collections

Dim app As New WordAppliation()
Dim doc As Document = app.Open("c:\myDoc.doc")

'--- Search a document for social security numbers, or any series of
'--- nine digits, and remove them. The question mark after each dash
'--- makes the presence of the dash optional.
Dim searcherator As IEnumerator =
(doc.Search("\d\d\d-?\d\d-?\d\d\d\d")).GetEnumerator()
While searcherator.MoveNext()
    Dim match As SearchMatch = searcherator.Current
    match.Element.DeleteElement()
End While
```