

JavaScript function to find Nth instance of a given character's position in string

Environment

- Dynatrace Recorder

You can use this JavaScript for advanced or custom scripting scenarios.

One possible implementation, shown in the example below, would be to use this function to parse out a value from a specific location in a list; for example, the user selects the 5th list element.

The `indexOf()` JavaScript function finds the first instance of a given substring in a longer string. But what if you want to find the second, or third instance instead?

The JavaScript function below will parse a string and return the position of the Nth instance of a given substring in that parent string.

```
/* ***** */
/** Function Definition **/
/* ***** */
function nthChar(str, chr, n){
  var count = 0;
  var currIndex = 0;
  var index;
  while(count < n){
    if (count == 0) {
      index = str.indexOf(chr);
      currIndex += index;
      alert('currIndex:' + currIndex);
    } else {
      index = str.indexOf(chr);
      currIndex += (index+1);
      alert('currIndex:' + currIndex);
    }
    str = str.slice(index + 1);
    alert('str = ' + str);
    count++;
  }
  return currIndex;
}
/* ***** */
/** Function Implementation **/
/* ***** */
/* myString is the string we need to search through */
var myString = 'text1,text2,text3,text4,text5,text6,text7';
/*
  let's say we want to pull the fifth list value (located between the 4th
  and 5th commas... this is how we do it using this function**/
var fourthComma = nthChar(myString, ',', 4); // position of 4th comma
var fifthComma = nthChar(myString, ',', 5); // position of 5th comma
/*slice out the value between the fourth comma and fifth comma **/
var fifthValue = myString.slice(fourthComma+1, fifthComma);
alert(fifthValue); // should alert back with 'text5'
```