coursera

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# Activity: Use regular expressions to find patterns

## Introduction

Security analysts often analyze log files, including those that contain information about login attempts. For example as an analyst, you might flag IP addresses that relate to unusual attempts to log in to the system.

Another area of focus in cybersecurity is detecting devices that require updates. Software updates help prevent security issues due to vulnerabilities.

Using regular expressions in Python can help automate the processes involved in both of these areas of cybersecurity. Regular expression patterns and functions can be used to efficiently extract important information from strings and files.

In this lab, you'll write regular expressions to extract information such as device IDs or IP addresses.

## Tips for completing this lab

## Scenario

In this lab, you're working as a security analyst and your main tasks are as follows:

- extracting device IDs containing certain characters from a log; these characters correspond with a certain operating system that requires an update.
- extracting all IP addresses from a log and then comparing them to those that are flagged in a list.

## Task 1

In order to work with regular expressions in Python, start by importing the `re` module. This module contains many functions that will help you work with regular expressions. By running the following code cell, the module will be available through the rest of the notebook.

In [1]:
```
# Import the `re` module in Python

import re
```