

- WHAT'S IN A
NAME
(VALIDATION)?



Hello!

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VALIDATING NAMES

names: important
info, difficult to
validate



WHAT IS A
NAME?

what do we
assume about
names?

what are names



but no, really

the form of a
name is different
almost
everywhere

in the USA, we still
often assume
western euro
norms

names: a way to
refer to someone.
pretty much it

sorry, there's no
good way to
validate them D:



SO WHAT CAN
YOU DO?

what do you need
the name for?

do you need to ID
them by name?

do you need to
separate first
name/last name?

do you only need
one part of a
name?

let the user help
you by telling
them what you'll
use the name for

don't assume
which part is the
surname/family
name

make sure your ui
accommodates
both long + short
names



COMPASSIONATE VALIDATION

your system
might not be able
to process all
possible names

don't position it as
a problem with
the user's name

admit the system
limitation in
validations + work
to improve

Thanks!

QUESTIONS?

You can find me at
<http://carlymho.com/>
[@carlymho](#)

RESOURCES & FURTHER READING

["Regular Expression for Validating Names and Surnames,"](#)

stackoverflow

["Your Last Name Contains Invalid Characters,"](#) John Graham-Cumming

["Representing People's Names in Dublin Core,"](#) Andrew Waugh

["Wookey - is that it?"](#) Wookey

["Falsehoods Programmers Believe About Names,"](#) Patrick McKenzie