

For some reason, could be good or not, you want to know the number of occurrences of a character (or a string) in a MySQL field or a string.

Let's say we have the following table:

```
mysql> desc `url`;
```

Field	Type	Null	Key	Default	Extra
id	int(10) unsigned	NO	PRI	NULL	auto_increment
name	varchar(50)	NO			
url	varchar(255)	NO			
fk_category_id	int(10) unsigned	NO		NULL	

We want to find how many slashes "/" each url have. The easy way is using the length and the replace command:

```
LENGTH([field]) - LENGTH(REPLACE([field], '[char_to_find]', ''))
```

Here's an simple example:

```
mysql> select `id`, `url`, LENGTH(`url`) - LENGTH(REPLACE(`url`, '/', ''))  
as `number` from `url`;
```

id	url	number
1	http://www.thesunrisepost.com	2