How to perform a case-insensitive search by key on ISAM files

The START I/O statement supports the WHILE LIKE clause, which allows you to search for records that match a regular expression pattern. By leveraging regular expressions, you can greatly expand the flexibility and power of your search criteria.

In this article, we'll demonstrate how to use the WHILE LIKE clause together with regular expressions to perform case-insensitive searches on ISAM keys. To do this:

- Begin your search pattern with (?i) to indicate case-insensitive matching.
- Enclose the word (or substring) you want to find within a dot-asterisk: .* on both sides, so the search will locate the term in any position within the key.

For example:

```
    Move "(?i).*salt.*" to key-search-pattern   Start customers-
file     while key is like key-search-pattern.
```

The code above will allow the program to read all records (on a reading loop) that have the word "SALT" on any case combination in any position of the record key. A sample program is attached with a full example. When this sample is run, it produces the following output:

```
Creating file...Searching: keystart OkaKey01    aaaaaaabKEY02    bbbbbbbckeY03    ccccc
cc-----Searching: SALTstart OkdsaLt034  dddddddeSaLt023  eeeeeeefsaLT025  fffffff-----S
earching: raYstart OkgraY002F  gggggggghRaY003G  hhhhhhhiray004D  iiiiiii-----
```