EscapedURLs

Dealing with escaped URLs

URLs that are present in HTML pages are usually encoded. For example:

```
href="/search.cgi?search1=abc&search2=xyx"
```

If the URL is extracted using a Regular Expression Post-Processor and used directly in another HTTP Sampler, then the sample may well fail, as the server is expecting to see:

```
/search.cgi?search1=abc&search2=xyx
```

As of JMeter 2.3.1 there is no automatic way of handling this, however there are some work-rounds. Assume that the URL is stored in the variable ESCAPED_URL.

Using Jexl:

```
${__jexl(vars.get("ESCAPED_URL").replace("&amp;"\,"&"))}
```

Using BeanShell:

Set the JMeter property **beanshell.function.init** to point to a file; add the following definition to the file:

```
// Fix ampersands in a string
String fixAmps(s) {
  return s.replaceAll("&amp;","&");
}
```

> ⚠ the current release of JMeter already contains the fixAmps() function in the file **BeanShellFunction.bshrc**

The function can then be called as follows:

```
${__BeanShell(fixAmps(vars.get("ESCAPED_URL"))}
```

or

```
${__BeanShell(fixAmps(vars.get("ESCAPED_URL"),PLAIN_URL)}
```

The latter function call will store the result in the variable PLAIN_URL The work-rounds above can be extended to handle other transformations such as %20 -> space, %2F -> / and %3A -> :