

```
public String withoutX2(String str) {  
    // Strategy: Check 2nd position, then check first position  
    if (str.length() > 1 && str.substring(1).startsWith("x")) {  
        str = str.substring(0,1) + str.substring(2);  
    }  
    if (str.startsWith("x")) {  
        str = str.substring(1);  
    }  
    return str;  
}
```