

Magento Elastic Suite

User Guide

User guide for Magento 1

Version: 12

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MAGENTO ELASTIC SUITE

I - INIRODUCTION	3
1.1 WHAT IS MAGENTO ELASTIC SUITE?	3
1.2 Who we are	3
1.3 REQUIREMENTS	3
1.4 TERMINOLOGY	4
1.5 FOR MORE INFORMATIONS	4
II - SEARCH ENGINE	5
II. 1 FINE ADJUSTMENT OF THE WEIGHT OF EACH PRODUCT ATTRIBUTE	5
II.2 FUZZY SEARCH	6
II.3 PHONETIC SEARCH	7
11.4 AUTOMATIC STOPWORDS DETECTION	9
II.5 ENHANCED SYNONYMS RECOGNITION	9
II.6 Phrase matching	10
II.7 BETTER AUTOCOMPLETE	11
III - FILTERS	14
III.] MULTIPLE SELECT IN LAYERED NAVIGATION	14
III.2 ENHANCED PRICE SLIDER	14
III.3 SUPPORT OF LARGES CATALOGS	15
III.3.a Support of a high number of filters	15
III.3.b Support of filters with a high number of values IV - MERCHANDISING	16 17
IV.1 SEARCH OPTIMIZERS	17
IV.1.a Search Optimizers based on product data	17
IV.1.b Search Optimizers based on customer behavior	19
IV.1.c Analyzing Search Optimizers	21
IV.2 VIRTUAL CATEGORIES	21
IV.3 MANUAL RANKING	24
IV.3.a Manual ranking in a virtual category IV.3.b Manual ranking in a search result page	24 25
V - TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS	26

I - INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHAT IS MAGENTO ELASTIC SUITE?

« Magento Elastic Suite » is a set of modules for Magento that provides several enhancements to Magento:

- A powerful and customizable search engine
- Improvements on the layered navigation
- New merchandising features
- I High performances & scalability

This set of modules has been designed to help merchants take up one of the biggest challenges in e-commerce: how to display the good product at the right time to the customers?

This set of modules has been created by Smile Lab and is released under the Open Software Licence version 3.0.

1.2 WHO WE ARE

Set up in 1991, Smile is the first European integrator specialized in open source solutions.

On top of our engineering expertise, Smile offers a vast range of services: consulting upstream and in support of the projects, the interactive agency both in creation and web design and in editorial, strategic and e-marketing advice, application maintenance, training, support & maintenance in operational condition, hosting and exploitation.



Magento recognized Smile as a core partner through the «Gold» partnership badge.

PARTNER



Since 2014, Smilelab is the innovation and experimentation entity of Smile. Our multidisciplinary team brings together experts in technology, innovation, and new applications. Together we explore, invent, and test technologies of the future, to better serve our clients.

1.3 **REQUIREMENTS**

Magento Elastic Suite has been successfully deployed and tested on the following Magento versions:

- Magento EE 1.13
- Magento EE 1.14
- Magento CE 1.8
- Magento CE 1.9

Another version has been released for Magento 2.

As far as possible, you should install the module at the early beginning of your Magento project, at the same time you install Magento. This way, your development team won't spend additional time to handle Magento Elastic Suite specificities.

1.4 TERMINOLOGY

Product attribute is a field in the product form. Product attributes

can be managed in the back-office in the menu Catalog >

Attributes > Manage Attributes.

Filter On most e-commerce website, when a list of products is displayed,

several filters are displayed in the left columns to help the user to

find a product: filter by price, brand, category...

Facet Synonym for « Filter ».

Layered Navigation The « layered navigation » is the use of filters for navigation.

Stopword A stopword is a word very frequently used and with little meaning

for a search. For example: and, or, to, for, are, be, by, in,...

Boost The ranking of a search engine is based on the calculation of a

relevance score for each product. Applying a boost of +10% to some products means to increase the score of these products by

+10%.

Fuzzy search A fuzzy search allows small mistakes during typing, by allowing

small changes in the letters entered by the user.

Phonetic search The phonetic search allows spelling and grammatical errors during

typing, by allowing changing a word by another with a similar

sound.

Autocomplete We call «Autocomplete» the suggestions that are displayed

during typing in the search field.

1.5 FOR MORE INFORMATIONS

Magento Elastic Suite official website

GitHub Magento Elastic Suite for Magento 1

GitHub Magento Elastic Suite for Magento 2

Demo store (Magento 2)

Smile official website

http://magento-elastic-suite.io

https://github.com/Smile-SA/elasticsuite

https://github.com/Smile-SA/smile-magentoelasticsearch

http://demo.magento-elastic-suite.io

http://www.smile.fr

II.1 FINE ADJUSTMENT OF THE WEIGHT OF EACH PRODUCT ATTRIBUTE

Feature added in version 1.3

When a user enters a query, this query can be related to several product attributes:

- Name
- Description
- Brand
- Material
- **I** ...

All of them don't have the same weight: for example, finding the query in the name of the product is more relevant than finding the query in the description of the product.

With Magento Elastic Suite, you can set up the list of product attributes that should be used by the search engine, and you can set up their relative weight:

- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage attributes
- 2. Select the product attribute you want to edit
- 3. Choose if you want to use this attribute in search



4. Enter the search weight (1 or + / a higher value increase the weight in search)





Note

Without Magento Elastic Suite, the weight can be customized only with SoIR installation, and the weight must be an integer value between 1 and 5. With Magento Elastic Suite, the weight can be any integer value, allowing finer weight adjustment.



Recommended values

Examples of values that provided good results on past projects:

Product attribute	Search weight
SKU	10
Name	10

Brand	4
Description	1

II.2 FUZZY SEARCH

Feature added in version 1.0

Fuzzy search is a way to correct mistakes during typing, using the «Levenstein distance». With the Levenstein distance, the similarity of two words are evaluated by the number of letters that you should remove, add, or replace in order to change one word into another. The more the words are similar, the more Magento Elastic Suite will boost the product.



Example

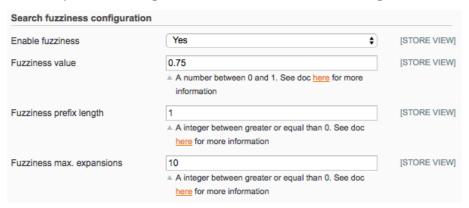
If a user enters the query « **trouper** », then we can assume that there is a high probability that the user is looking for a « **trouser** », because only 1 letter should be replaced in order to change the word « trouper » into « trouser ».



In comparison, there is a lower probability that the user is looking for « **trainers** » because 4 letters needs to be replaced/added in order to change « trouper » into « trainers ».

The fuzzy search can be enabled in the back-office:

1. Open the menu System > Configuration > Advanced Search Settings



- 2. Change the following settings:
 - a. Enable fuzziness: Enable/disable fuzzy search
 - b. **Fuzziness value**: The maximum number of letters that can be replaced when changing a word into another is given by: length(word)*(1-fuzziness value). For example, for a word of 10 letters with a fuziness 0.7, a word can by a similar to this word only if less than 10*(1-0.7)=3 letters are different.
 - c. **Fuzziness prefix length:** Number of letters at the beginning of the word that should not be changed (fuzzy search is not applied to the prefix). A lower value will provide better search results but will increase the workload on the server.

d. **Fuzziness max. expansions:** Maximum depth of the fuzzy search algorithm. A higher value will search for a higher number of differences of letters but will increase the workload on the server.

Be careful: the query could be very heavy if **Fuzziness prefix length** is set to **0** and **Fuzziness max expansions** is set to a high number.



Recommended values

Examples of values that provided good results on past projects:

Fuzziness value: 0.75
Fuzziness prefix lenght: 1
Fuzziness max.expansions: 10

Then you have to enable fuzzy search on each product attribute used by the search engine:

- 5. Open the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage Attributes
- 6. Select an attribute used by the search engine (the name, for example)
- 7. Set Enable fuzziness to Yes

Enable fuzziness	Yes \$



Recommended values

It is recommended to apply fuzziness to all text attributes.

II.3 PHONETIC SEARCH

Feature improved in version 1.3

Phonetic search is a way to correct spelling and grammatical errors.

When phonetic search is enabled, the search engine will suggest products with a similar phonetic sound. The phonetic search can include fuzzy search in order to allow minor differences in the pronunciation.

In comparison with fuzzy search, the phonetic search allows more wrong letters, but fewer differences in the pronunciation.



Example

With fuzzy search, the query \ll **llaguing** \gg will produce no result or bad results.

With phonetic search, the query « **llaguing** » will return « **leggings** » products.

The Phonetic search is based on an algorithm called «Beider-Morse». The list of supported languages is: English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Russian, Hungarian, Romanian, and Turkish. The language used by the phonetic search is the language of the Magento store view.

The phonetic search can be set up in the back-office:

1. Open the menu System > Configuration > Advanced Search Settings

Phonetic search configuration		
Enable phonetic search	Yes A Require Phonetic analysis plugin installation: https://github.com/elastic/elasticsearch-analysis-phonetic	[STORE VIEW]
Enable phonetic fuzziness	Yes \$	[STORE VIEW]
Phonetic fuzziness value	0.5 A number between 0 and 1. See doc here for more information'	[STORE VIEW]
Phonetic fuzziness prefix length	A integer between greater or equal than 0. See doc here for more information'	[STORE VIEW]
Phonetic fuzziness max. expansions	2 ▲ A integer between greater or equal than 0. See doc here for more information'	[STORE VIEW]

2. Change the following settings:

- a. Enable phonetic search: enable/disable phonetic search.
- b. **Enable phonetic fuzziness**: enable/disable fuzzy search in phonetic search.
- c. **Phonetic Fuzziness value**: The maximum number of phonemes that can be replaced when changing a word into another is given by: length(phonemes)*(1-fuzziness value). For example, for a word of 10 phonemes with a fuziness 0.7, a word can by a similar to this word only if less than 10*(1-0.7)=3 phonemes are different.
- d. **Phonetic Fuzziness prefix length:** Number of phonemes at the beginning of the word that should not be changed (no fuzzy search in the prefix). A lower value will provide better search results but will increase the workload on the server.
- e. **Fuzziness max expansions:** the maximum number of iterations in the fuzzy search algorithm. A higher value will search for a higher differences of sounds but will increase the workload on the server.

Be careful, the query could be very heavy if **Phonetic fuzzyness prefix length** is set to 0 and **Phonetic fuzziness max expansions** is set to a high number.



Recommended values

Examples of values that provided good results on past projects:

Phonetic fuzziness value: 1 (this value disable fuzziness in phonetic search)
Phonetic fuzziness prefix lenght: 1

Phonetic fuzziness max. expansions: 2

We highly recommend to set up a high value in **Phonetic fuzziness value**, otherwise the phonetic search will find similarities between words very differents.

Then you have to enable phonetic search on each product attribute used by the search engine:

1. Open the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage Attributes

- 2. Select an attribute used by the search engine (the name, for example)
- 3. Set Use language analysis to Yes

Use language analysis Yes \$



Recommended values

It is recommended to apply phonetic search to all text attributes, except for attributes used to record a reference: SKU, EAN, supplier code...

II.4 AUTOMATIC STOPWORDS DETECTION

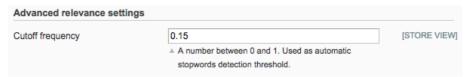
Feature added in version 1.3

When the user enters a query with several words, the short words like « and, or, to, for, are, be, by, in,... » are most of the time very frequently found in the catalog, so the short words might have a strong weight in the search result despite their lack of relevance. Most search engines on the market respond to this problem by using a list of « stop words ». The search engine will ignore any word in this list.

Magento Elastic Suite responds to this problem in a different way: the search engine calculate the frequency of each word in the catalog, and ignore the words with a frequency above a given limit, called «cutoff frequency». If all words in the request are above the cutoff frequency, then the query is searched as a normal query.

This feature allows a more accurate and automatic detection of the meaningless words. And it also allows to process queries with only stop words, like « to be or not to be » for example.

The cutoff frequency can be set up in the back-office in the menu **System > Configuration > Advanced Search Settings**





Recommended values

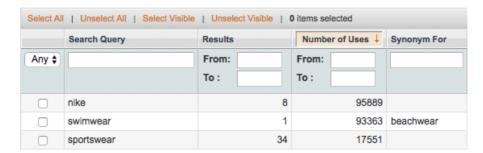
A usual value for the cutoff frequency is 0.15.

0.15 means that a word will not be significant for the search engine if this word is found in more than 15% of the indexed entities. An indexed entity is a product or a category.

11.5 ENHANCED SYNONYMS RECOGNITION

Feature added in version 1.0

In native Magento, synonyms can be set up in the menu **Catalog > Search Engine > Search terms**.



With this tool, when «beachwear» is set up as a synonym for «swimwear», then the query «beachwear» will display the results of the query «swimwear».

But the native Magento feature doesn't recognize synonyms inside a group of words. In the previous example, « men beachwear » will not be recognized as a synonym to anything else.

With Magento Elastic Suite, the synonym feature is applied to the words *inside* the query. It means that when «beachwear» is set up as a synonym for «swimwear», then any query including the word «beachwear» will be recognized as a synonym for «swimwear». In the previous example, «men beachwear» will be automatically recognized as a synonym for «men swimwear».

II.6 PHRASE MATCHING

Feature improved in version 1.3

The «phrase matching» recognize words that should be used together.



Example

If a user enters the query « Empire State Building », then the search engine will produce bad results if he displays products including any of the word « Empire », « State », and « Building ». It will be much better to display a product including the whole sentence « Empire State Building ».

Magento Elastic Suite provides this feature natively.

The phrase matching is working by searching all the sub-groups of words into the query of the user. For each sub-group, a query is run to find the products including the words of the sub-group in the same order relative to each other. Then the results of all sub-groups are combined together, with a boost on the sub-groups including a higher number of words of the query of the user.



Example

If a user enters the query "Dress Giorgio Armani", then the search engine will search for the following queries: (the symbol "..." can replace any group of letters)

Step 1.

Search for "Dress...Giorgio...Armani"

Step 2.

Search for "Dress...Giorgio"
Search for "Giorgio...Armani"
Search for "Dress...Armani"
Step 3.
Search for "Dress"
Search for "Giorgio"
Search for "Armani"

When these 7 queries has been run, all the results are combined together, with a high boost on the products provided by step 1, a lower boost on products provided by step 2, and no boost at all on the products provided by step 3.

The phrase matching can be set up in the back-office in the menu **System > Configuration > Advanced Search Settings**





Recommended values

A usual value for the **Phrase match boost value** is 4.

11.7 BETTER AUTOCOMPLETE

Feature added in version 1.0

In native Magento, the autocomplete only suggests popular searches (similar queries from other customers).

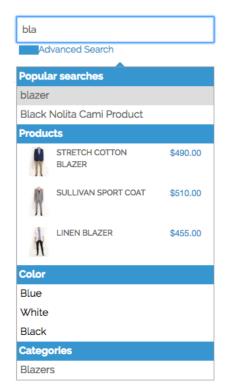
With Magento Elastic Suite, the autocomplete suggests:

- Popular searches
- Products
- Categories

And you can also add any other product attribute in the autocomplete, for example:

- Brands
- Colors
- Author
- Designer
- I Etc.

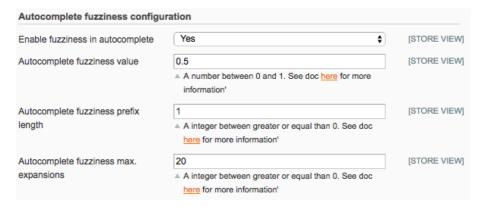
And with a quick development a developer can easily add others contents: static pages, shops, lookbooks,...



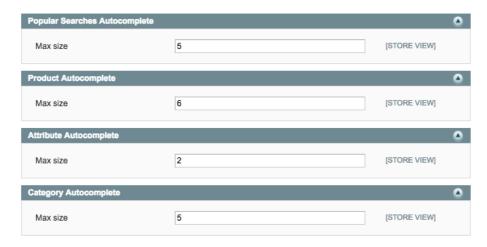
With Magento Elastic Suite, all the power of the search engine is natively available in autocompletion: search weight, fuzzy search, phonetic search, automatic stop words detection...

Autocomplete can be set up in the back-office:

- 1. Open the menu System > Configuration > Advanced Search Settings
- 2. Change the fuzziness settings (see chapter **Erreur! Source du renvoi introuvable.**II.2. for more details)



3. Change the maximum number of results that can be displayed with the settings **Max** size.



Then you have to set how products attributes are used in autocomplete:

- 4. Open the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage attributes
- 5. Select a product attribute
- 6. Change the following settings:



Used in autocomplete: if set to **Yes**, then this attribute will be used for product suggestions. For example, if this parameter is set to Yes on the product attribute «color», then when a user enters «black» the autocomplete will suggest black products.

Display in autocomplete: if set to **Yes**, then this attribute may be displayed in the suggestions. For example, if this parameter is set to Yes on the product attribute « color », then when a user enters « bla » the autocomplete will suggest the color « Black ».





III. 1 MULTIPLE SELECT IN LAYERED NAVIGATION

Feature added in version 1.0

With the native search engine of Magento, the customer can use several filters in the same time.



Example

Material = Polyester AND Color = Black

Magento Elastic Suite enhances this feature by adding the ability to select multiple values in the same filter.

Polyester (5)

Fleece (4)

Hemp (2)

Nylon (2)

Rayon (2)

CoolTech™ (1)

LumaTech™ (1)

Wool (1)

Multiples selections can be combined with other filters, like in Magento native search engine.



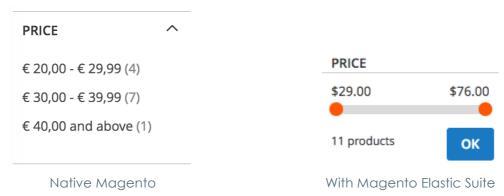
Example

(Material = Polyester OR Nylon) AND (Color = Black)

III.2 ENHANCED PRICE SLIDER

Feature added in version 1.0

Magento Elastic Suite displays the price filter as a slider instead of fixed price bands, providing more flexibility on the selection of the price range.



III.3.a Support of a high number of filters

On larges catalogs, a simple search query may return dozens of filters, too much filters to be displayed entirely. As a result, some important filters may not be displayed.

Magento Elastic Suite provides a solution to display only the filters that are the most relevant for the query of the user. This can be achieved by setting up the minimum percentage of products that should share an attribute in order to display the attribute in the list of filters. This percentage is called the **Facet coverage rate**.



Example

The search query « Black » returns 1000 products. A lot of filters can be applied to that query:

- Price (attribute shared by 1000 products)
- Color (attribute shared by 900 products)
- Size (attribute shared by 400 products)
- Battery Capacity (attribute shared by 30 products)
- Etc.

After setting up a « minimum coverage rate » of 20%, Magento Elastic Suite will display the filters Price, Color, and Size (shared by more than 20% of the products), and will **not** display the Battery Capacity filter (shared by less than 20% of the products).

This Minimum Coverage Rate can be set up in the back-office:

- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage Attribute
- 2. Select an attribute that can be used as a filter
- 3. Change the value of the Facet coverage rate

Facet coverage rate	90
	▲ Ex: Brand facet will be displayed only if 90% of the
	product have a brand.



Recommended values

The value of the coverage rate should be adjusted depending on two factors:

- (1) the percentage of products using this attribute in the catalog
- (2) the number of filters in the whole catalog

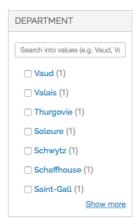
For example, if the Battery Capacity is used by 5% of the products (1), then we can assume that this filter is relevant only if more than 5% of products in the search results are sharing this attribute. Thus the Facet Coverage Rate should be set to a value higher than 5.

It is recommended to start by setting up the Facet Coverage Rate to the value of the percentage (1) multiplied by a ratio of 2. When this work has been done on all filters, it is recommended to run several queries and look at how many filters are displayed. Depending on the results, the ratio can be adjusted to a higher or to a lower value.

III.3.b Support of filters with a high number of values

Magento Elastic Suite provides several enhancements for filters with a high number of values:

- A real-time search in the values of the filter.
- A link « Show more » to fold/unfold a long list of values in the filter
- Several options to sort the values. Changing the default sorting can be used to display the most relevant values before the link « Show more ».



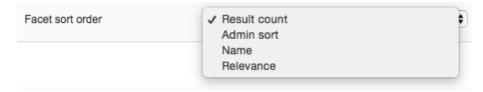
The number of values displayed before the «Show more» link can be set up in the back-office:

- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage Attribute
- 2. Select an attribute that can be used as a filter
- 3. Change the value of Facet max. size



The sorting order of the values can be set up in the same screen:

4. Change the value of **Facet sort order**



Result count: The values shared by the most products will be displayed first.

Admin sort: Manual sorting order, can be managed from the menu Catalog > Attributes > Manage Attributes.

Name: Alphabetical order.

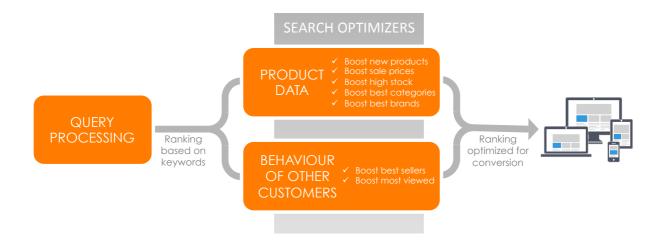
Relevance: The values shared by the products in the top of the list will be displayed first.

IV.1 SEARCH OPTIMIZERS

Smile only Feature not yet shared in github

Most search engines are providing results based on an analysis of the keywords in the query of the user.

Magento Elastic Suite is able to improve the results of the search engine by promoting products that are known to be good products, on the basis of product data and the behavior of other customer.



With his meta-language to set up the rules, the Search Optimizer is a very flexible and powerful feature of Magento Elastic Suite to increase the conversion rate.

Search Optimizers are not only useful for the ranking of products in the search engine, they can also be used for the ranking in category pages, thus providing a way to do a smart and dynamic merchandising on the whole e-commerce website.

IV.1.a Search Optimizers based on product data

Here are some examples of Search Optimizers based on product data:

- Boost new products (1)
- Boost products with a discount
- Boost products with a high level of stock (2)
- Decrease the ranking of products out of stock
- Decrease the ranking of products without images
- Boost products in a specific category
- Boost products of a specific brand
- Boost a specific list of products

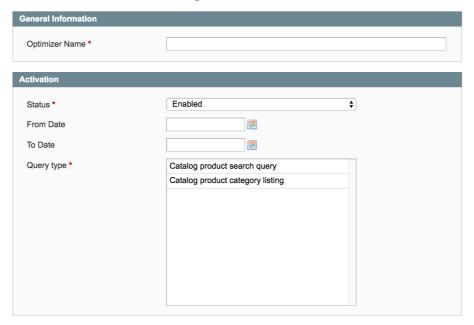
- (1) This boost is using the product attributes Set product as new from and Set product as new to
- (2) This boost can be set up with a rule like « Quantity is greater than 100 »

Search Optimizers based on product data can be set up in the back-office:

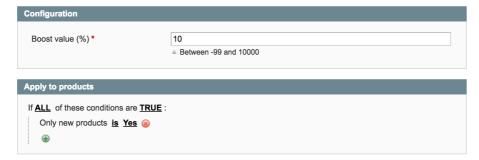
- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Search Engine > Search Optimizer
- 2. Click Add New Optimizer
- 3. Select Constant Score



4. Fill the form in the tab Global Configuration



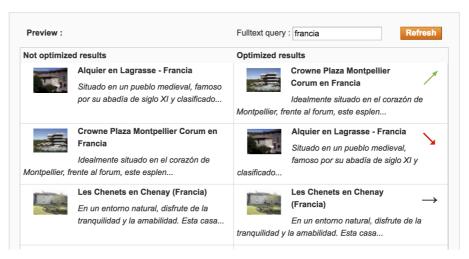
5. Fill the form in the tab **Boost configuration**



The block **Configuration** is used to set up the percentage of boost in the search result. The percentage can be negative if you want to decrease the ranking of some products.

The block **Apply to products** is used to identify the products you want to boost. You can set-up a rule based on product datas using a meta-language. If a product attribute is missing, you can add it from the menu **Catalog > Attribute > Manage Attribute** by setting **Yes** in the parameter **Use for Promo Rules Condition**.

6. You can use the **Preview** tool to check the results of your Search Optimizer on any search query. This tool compare the results of the search engine with/without the Search Optimizer.



IV.1.b Search Optimizers based on customer behavior

Two kinds of optimizers can be set up:

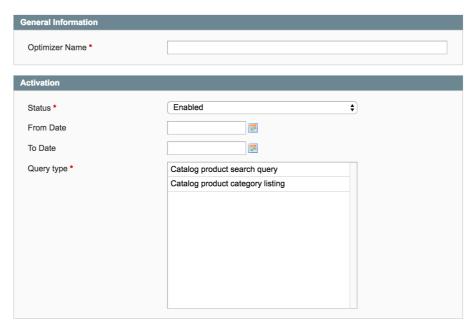
- Boost best-seller products
- Boost the most viewed products

Search Optimizers based on customer behavior can be set up in the back-office:

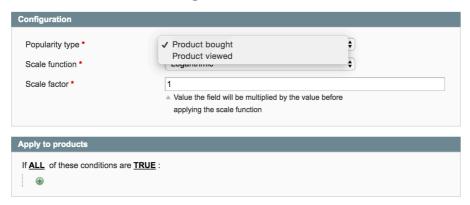
- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Search Engine > Search Optimizer
- 2. Click Add New Optimizer



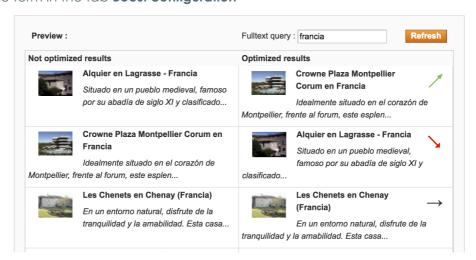
3. Select Popularity



4. Fill the form in the tab Global Configuration



5. Fill the form in the tab **Boost configuration**



6. You can use the **Preview** tool to check the results of your Search Optimizer on any search query. This tool compare the results of the search engine with/without the Search Optimizer.

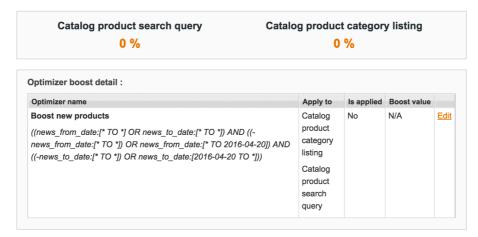
Requirement

Search Optimizers based on the pages viewed requires the installation of a tracker on the website frontend.

IV.1.c Analyzing Search Optimizers

Optimizing Search Optimizers sometimes requires a fine tuning of each rules. Magento Elastic Suite provides a tool to help you to analyze the effect of each rule on a given product.

- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Manage Products
- 2. Select a product
- 3. Open the tab Search Optimizers



This tab displays the percentage of boosts provided by each Search optimizer on this product.

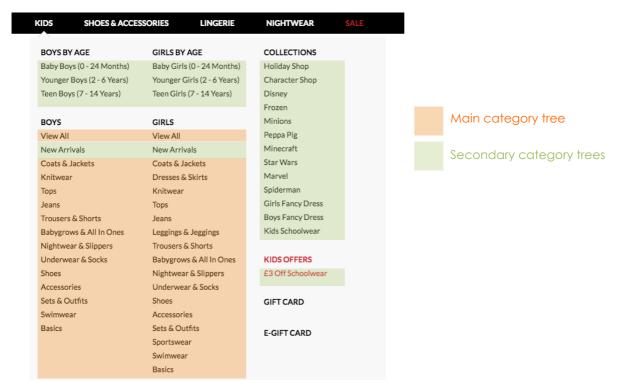
IV.2 VIRTUAL CATEGORIES

Feature added in version 1.0

One of the key factor of the success of an e-commerce website is the ability to help customers to:

- Find quickly what they are looking for
- Discover all the range of products

A way to cover that need is to provide several axis of navigation in addition to the «main navigation» by department.



Example of use

Secondary categories can be created using manual selections of products, for example:

- Shop by look
- | Gift ideas

With Magento Elastic Suite, secondary categories can also be created using an automatic selection of products based on a rule. When a rule has been set up, the list of products displayed to the customer is updated in real-time.



Note

In native Magento, it's possible from version 1.14 to create a category based on a rule, but the rule engine is not so advanced, and the rule is run only one time: when the category is created.

The list of product is not updated in real-time.

Examples of categories based on a rule:

- Sale: all discounted products
- **Brand page**: all products from a given brand
- New products / New arrivals
- Good deals / Great offers: all products with a price below a given limit
- Shop by collection, for example « Winter 2017 »: all products with the attribute « Collection = Winter 2017 »

- Shop by material, for example « Linen selection » : all products with the attribute « Material = linen »
- Shop by age, for example « Teen boys »: all products with the attribute « Age = 7-14 years » and « Gender = Men »
- Shop by size

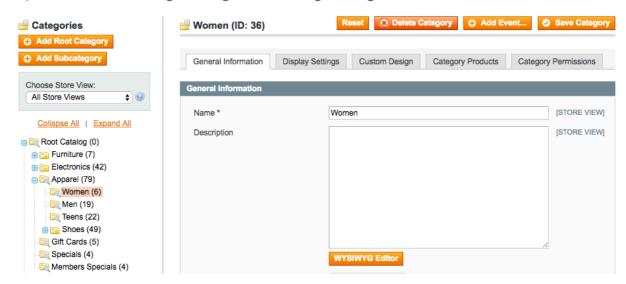


A virtual category can also have virtual sub-categories.



To create a new virtual category:

1. Open the menu Catalog > Categories > Manage Categories



- 2. Create a new category or select an existing category
- 3. Open the tab Category Products
- 4. Set Yes in Enable virtual category



5. Enter the rule of the virtual category.



You can set-up a rule based on product datas using a meta-language. If a product attribute is missing, you can add it from the menu **Catalog > Attribute > Manage Attribute** by setting **Yes** in the parameter **Use for Promo Rules Condition**.

IV.3 MANUAL RANKING

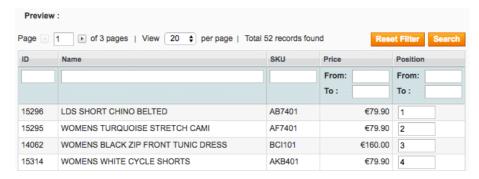
Feature added in version 1.2

Magento provides a feature to rank manually the products in a category. Magento Elastic Suite adds two features:

- Manual ranking in a virtual category
- Manual ranking of a search result page

IV.3.a Manual ranking in a virtual category

- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Manage Categories
- 2. Select a virtual category
- 3. Open the Category Products tab
- 4. Fill the **Position** column

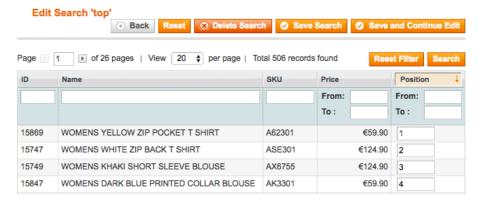


The position must be an integer number (positive or negative).

The products will be ranked by ascending values; the product with the lowest position will be the first to be displayed. A product without any value in the column **Position** will be ranked after all others products.

IV.3.b Manual ranking in a search result page

- 1. Open the menu Catalog > Search Engine > Search Terms
- 2. Select a query
- 3. Open the Custom results position tab
- 4. Fill the **Position** column



The position must be an integer number (positive or negative).

The products will be ranked by ascending values; the product with the lowest position will be the first to be displayed. A product without any value in the column **Position** will be ranked after all others products.

V - TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Magento Elastic Suite is based on the search engine Elastic Search, providing several technical enhancements to the native Magento search engine.

High Performances

Built on top of Apache Lucene, ElasticSearch delivers high performances allowing you to perform complex queries on large catalogs.

Massively Distributed

Elasticsearch allows you to start with a small hardware and add more nodes later; the cluster will automatically take advantage of the extra hardware.

High Availability

The replication feature detect new or failed nodes, and reorganize and rebalance data automatically, to ensure that your data is safe and accessible.

Per-Operation Persistence

Document changes are recorded in transaction logs on multiple nodes in the cluster to minimize the chance of any data loss.