

Welcome to the Search Reference

<http://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/Splunk/latest/SearchReference/WhatsInThisManual>

This manual is a reference guide for the Search Processing Language (SPL). In this manual you will find a catalog of the search commands with complete syntax, descriptions, and examples. Additionally, this manual includes quick reference information about the categories of commands, the functions you can use with commands, and how SPL relates to SQL.

Getting Started

If you are new to Splunk software and searching, start with the [Search Tutorial](#). This tutorial introduces you to the Search & Reporting application. The tutorial guides you through uploading data to the Splunk platform, searching your data, and building simple charts, reports, and dashboards.

Before you start using search:

- Add data to your instance. Learn how by reading the [Getting Data In](#) manual.
- Understand how indexing works and how data is processed in the [Managing Indexers and Clusters of Indexers](#) manual.
- Learn about fields and knowledge objects, such as host, source type, and event type in the [Knowledge Manager Manual](#).

Search Manual

The [Search Manual](#) is a companion manual to the *Search Reference*. The *Search Manual* contains detailed information about creating and optimizing searches.

- Types of searches
- Retrieving events
- Specifying time ranges
- Optimizing searches
- Using subsearches
- Creating statistical tables and charts
- Grouping and correlating events
- Predicting future events

- Managing jobs

Quick Reference Information

The [Splunk Enterprise Quick Reference Guide](#) contains:

- Explanations about Splunk features
- Common search commands
- Tips on optimizing searches
- Functions for the `eval` and `stats` commands
- Search examples
- Regular expressions
- Formats for converting strings into timestamps

Command categories

The [search commands by category](#) topic organizes the commands by the type of action that the command performs.

For example, commands in the **reporting** category, are used to build transforming searches. Reporting commands return statistical data tables that are required for charts and other kinds of data visualizations.

This topic contains a brief description of each command along with a link to the details about the command in the Search Commands section of this manual.

Command syntax

Before you continue, see [Understanding SPL syntax](#) for the conventions and rules used in this manual.