# Search across your code base, work items, or wiki

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With the search box, you can quickly find a code file, work item, or wiki page.

Initiate a code search

Code search requires installation of the Code Search extension. If it hasn't yet been installed, request that a member of your Project Collection Administrators group install it.

To start your search, choose **Repos>Files** or other page under **Code**, enter a keyword or phrase in the search box, and press *Enter* or choose the 🔍 start search icon.

| This project | IEnumerable | 🔍 |

Work with code search results

1. The search page shows a list of the matching code files. The selected file has all instances of the search string highlighted. If you see a list of work items, ensure that **Code** is selected in the top left.

2. Try assembling more complex search strings using the operators and functions listed in the handy drop-down list. Select the filter function or code type you want to include in your search string from the list, and type the criteria value.

- You can find all instances of "ToDo" comments in your code simply by selecting `comment:` and typing `todo`.

- You can search in specific locations, such as within a particular path, by using a search string such as `Driver path:MyShuttle/Server`.

- You can search for files by name, such as `Driver file:GreenCabs.cs`, or just by file extension. For example, the search string `error ext:resx` could be useful when you want to review all error strings in your code. But even if your plain text search string (without specific file type functions)

matches part of a filename, the file appears in the list of found files.

- You can combine two or more words by using Boolean operators; for example, `validate OR release`.

- You can find an exact match to a set of words by enclosing your search terms in double-quotes. For example, `"Client not found"`.

- You can use the code type search functions with files written in C#, C, C++, Java, and Visual Basic.NET.
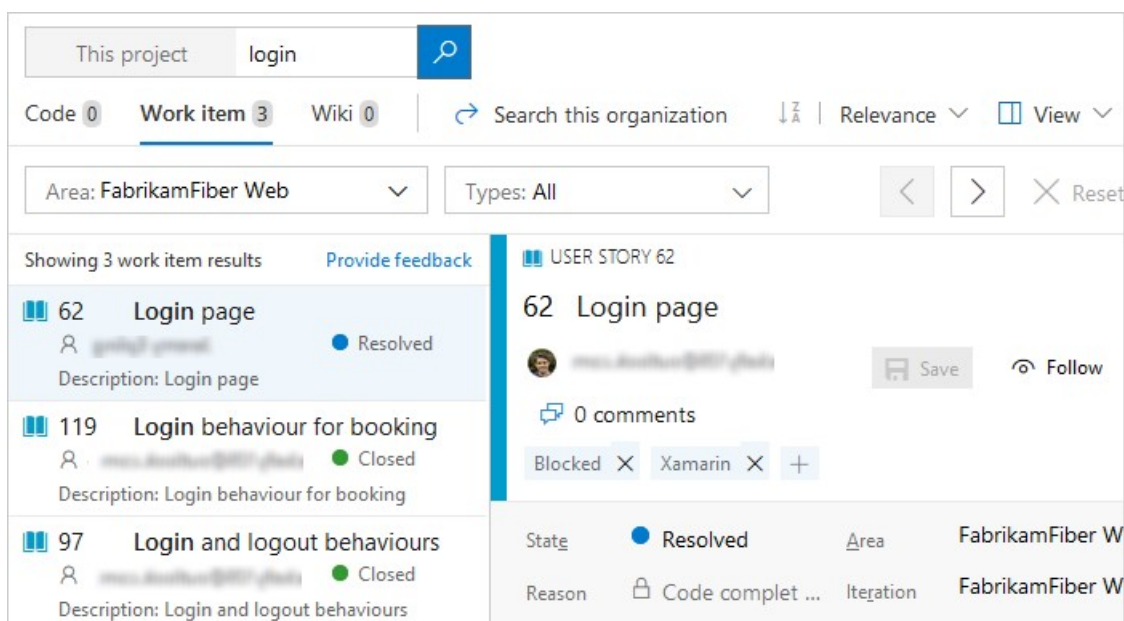
To learn more, see [Search code](#).

Initiate a work item search

1. Choose any **Boards** page, enter a keyword or phrase in the search box, and press *Enter* or choose the ⊙ start search icon.

2. Search results are displayed in a snippet view where the matches found are shown in bold.
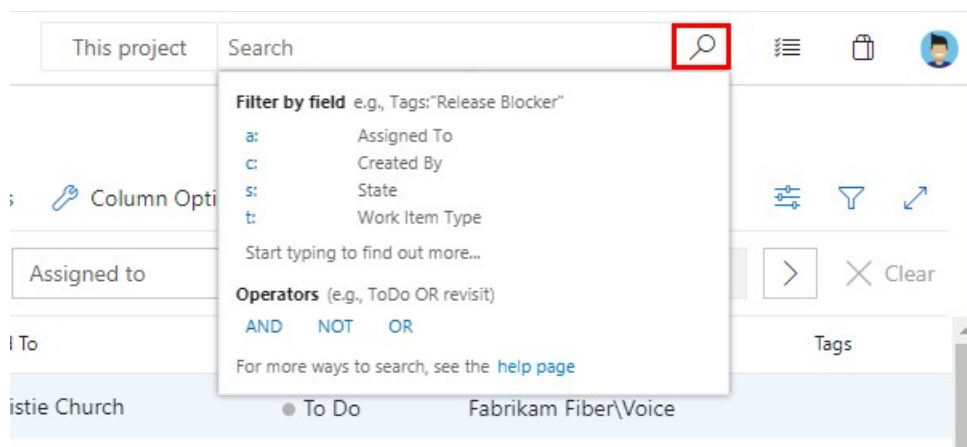

This is a full text search that uses simple search strings for words or phrases. Work item search matches derived forms of your search terms; for example, a search for "updating" will also find instances of the word "updated" and "update". Note that searches are *not* case-sensitive.

3. Select a snippet of a work item to display it in the right window.

Open the search results in a new browser tab from a search box by pressing *Ctrl + Enter* or by holding *Ctrl* and clicking the ⊙ icon. In Google Chrome, press *Ctrl + Shift + Enter* to switch the focus to the new browser tab.

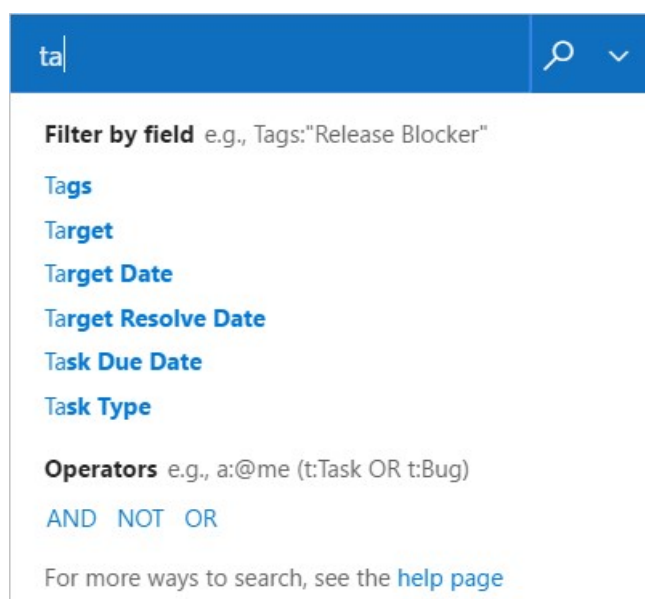**Fine tune your work item search results**

1. Fine tune your search by specifying the fields to search. Enter `a:` and a user name to search for all items assigned to that user.

The quick filters you can use are:

- `a:` for **Assigned to:**
- `c:` for **Created by:**
- `s:` for **State**
- `t:` for **Work item type**

2. Start typing the name of a field in your work items; for example, type `ta`.

The dropdown list shows work item field name suggestions that match user input thereby helping the user to complete the search faster. For example, a search such as **tags:Critical** finds all work items tagged 'Critical'.
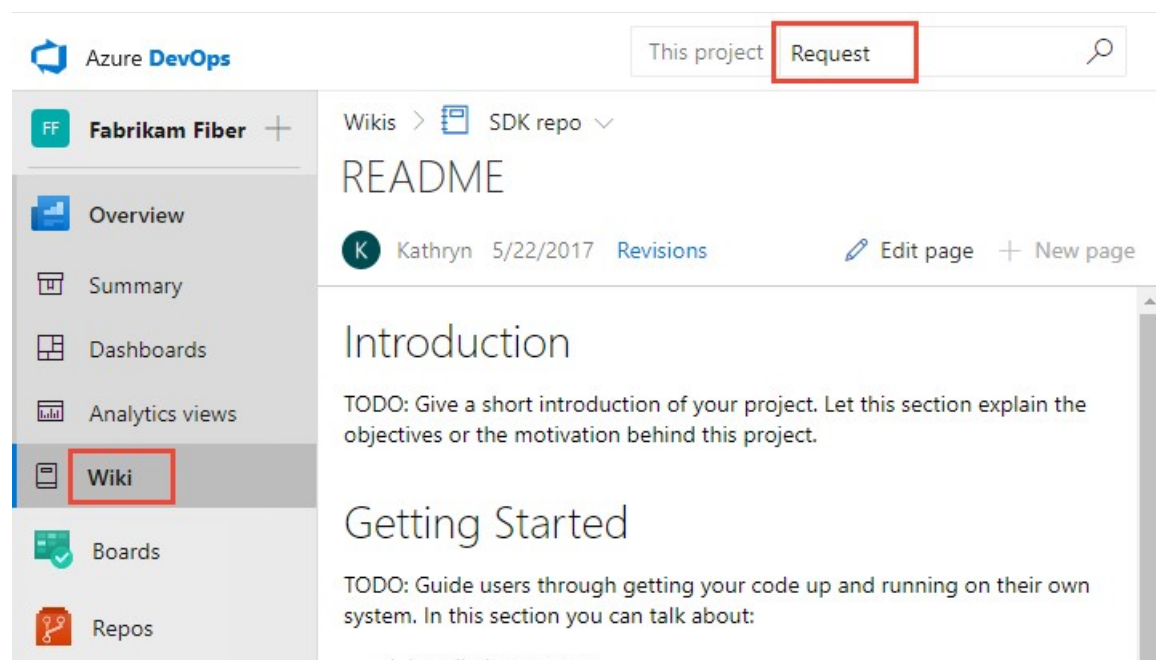
3. Add more filters to further narrow your search, and use Boolean operators to combine terms if required. For example, **a: Chris t: Bug s: Active** finds all active bugs assigned to a user named Chris.

4. Narrow your search to specific types and states, by using the drop-down selector lists at the top of the results page.

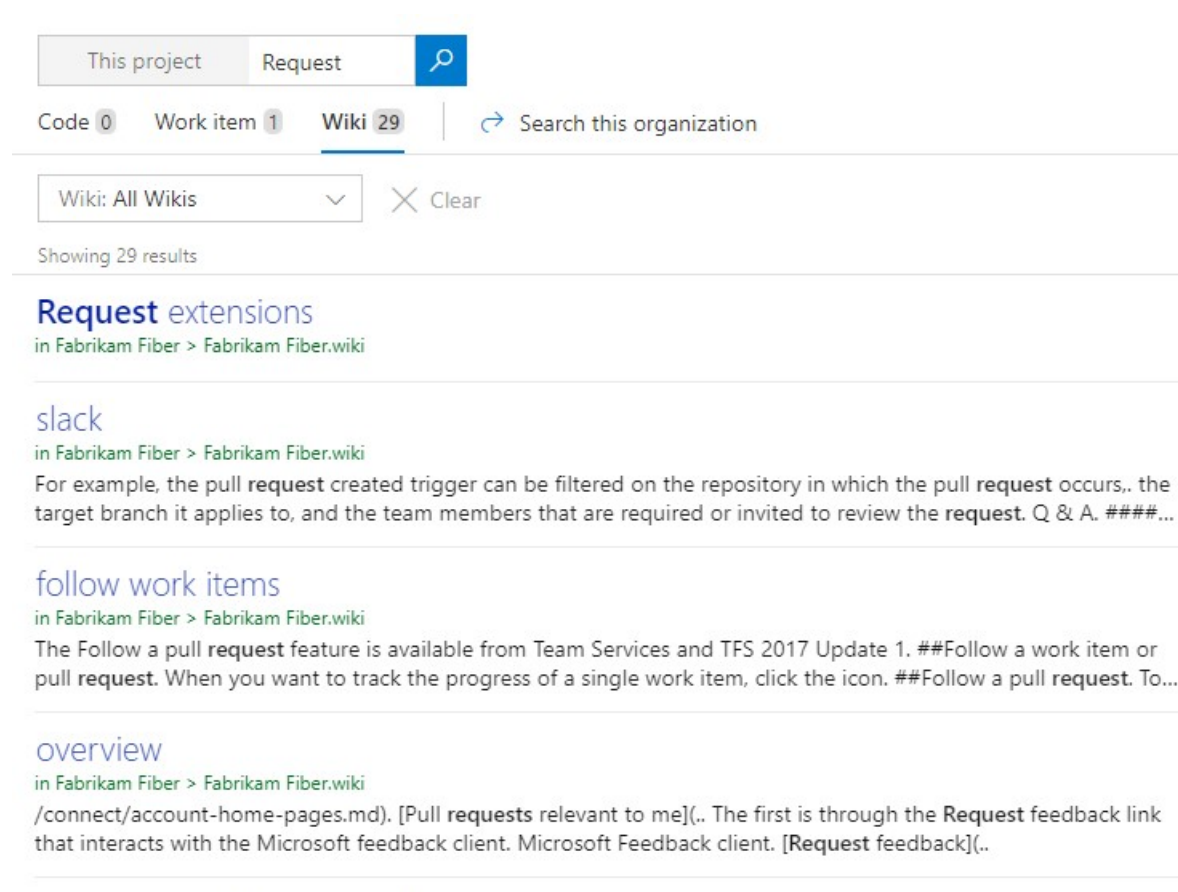To learn more, see [Search work items](#)

Initiate a wiki content search

With wiki search, you can search within a project wiki or across all wikis created for the organization. Simply select the **Search wiki** option from the search box and type a keyword or phrase within the search box.

Choose **Overview>Wiki** and type your keyword or phrase into the search box.

The search feature quickly returns wiki pages by title or page content. English language stemming support helps you find the most relevant wiki pages. For example, when you enter *request* in the search box, wiki search will return page results containing related words such as *requesting, requested, requests,* and so on.

Related articles

- Search code
- Search work items
- Create a wiki for your project