**Docker Search Command**

**Searching Docker Hub from the CLI**

The docker search command allows us to search Docker Hub directly from the command line interface (CLI). While its capabilities are somewhat limited, as it primarily searches against strings in the “NAME” field, you can still filter the output based on other columns returned by the search.

**Basic Usage**

In its most basic form, docker search looks for repositories that contain a specified string in their “NAME” field. For example, the following command searches for repositories that **include the string “nigelpoulton”:**

$ docker search nigelpoulton

NAME DESCRIPTION STARS OFFICIAL

nigelpoulton/pluralsight-docker-ci Simple web app used in my Pluralsight video … 27

nigelpoulton/k8sbook Simple web app used for demos in The Kuberne… 5

nigelpoulton/tu-demo Voting web server used for various Pluralsig… 16

nigelpoulton/getting-started-k8s Node.js web app 12

nigelpoulton/gsd Getting Started with Docker -- Pluralsight v… 9

nigelpoulton/acg-web Simple web app for A Cloud Guru Kubernetes D… 0

nigelpoulton/qsk-book Images for use in \*Quick Start Kubernetes\* b… 3

nigelpoulton/vote Fork of dockersamples Voting App for \*Docker… 1 3

The “NAME” field refers to the repository name, which includes the Docker ID or organization name for unofficial repositories. This will display all repositories created by or associated with Nigel Poulton.

**Searching for Specific Terms**

We can also search for repositories that include specific keywords. For example, to search for repositories with "alpine" in the name, you would use:

$ docker search alpine

NAME DESCRIPTION STARS OFFICIAL

alpine A minimal Docker image based on Alpine Linux… 10863 [OK]

alpinelinux/docker-cli Simple and lightweight Alpine Linux image wi… 11

alpinelinux/alpine-gitlab-ci Build Alpine Linux packages with Gitlab CI 3

alpinelinux/gitlab-runner-helper Helper image container gitlab-runner-helper … 7

alpinelinux/unbound 12

alpinelinux/rsyncd 2

alpinelinux/alpine-drone-ci Build Alpine Linux packages with drone CI 0

alpinelinux/ansible Ansible in docker 19

Here, we can see both official and unofficial repositories.

**Filtering Official Repositories**

To filter the search results and display only official repositories, you can use the --filter option with the is-official parameter:

$ docker search alpine --filter "is-official=true"

NAME DESCRIPTION STARS OFFICIAL

alpine A minimal Docker image based on Alpine Linux… 10863 [OK]

**Example Scenario**

Suppose, we are managing a production environment and need to ensure that only trusted and verified images are used. We can filter for official images to ensure compliance with security policies:

$ docker search alpine --filter "is-official=true"

This command will help us to find only the official Alpine images, which are more likely to be secure and maintained.

**Limiting Results**

By default, docker search will return up to 25 results. If we need more, we can use the --limit flag to increase this number, up to a maximum of 100 results:

$ docker search alpine --limit 50

**Example Scenario**

Suppose you are conducting a comprehensive review of available Alpine images for a project and need more than the default 25 results, increasing the limit can provide a broader view of available options:

$ docker search alpine --limit 50

**Advanced Filtering**

In addition to filtering for official images, Docker search supports other filters, such as the number of stars or whether the image is automated. For example, to find automated images with “alpine” in the name, you could use**:**

$ docker search alpine --filter "is-automated=true"

The "is-automated" filter is deprecated by the way, and searching for "is-automated=true" will not yield any results in future but for now is ok.

**Example Scenario**

If you prefer to use automated builds because they often include continuous integration and delivery (CI/CD) practices, you can filter for these types of images:

$ docker search alpine --filter "is-automated=true"

This helps you identify images that are automatically built and potentially more reliable for use in your workflows.

By leveraging these search and filter capabilities, you can efficiently locate and utilize the Docker images that best meet your needs, whether for development, testing, or production environments.