Lab: Confluence search syntax

This page describes the special words and punctuation marks you can use in the search field of the advanced search to refine your results.

The following types of search are available:

- Search for exact matches
- Search for keywords using operators
- Search for keywords using wildcards

Search for exact matches

Surround the phrase you are searching for in double quotes to look for an exact phrase.

Use case	Example	Results
Phrase contains multiple words separated by spaces	`"product manager"` Results WILL contain "product manager" Results WON'T contain just "product" or just "manager"	Search results with exact match will be returned.
Phrase contains stop words like *and*, *the*, *or*.	`"the admin"` Results WILL contain "the admin" Results WON'T contain just "admin"	Search results with exact match will be returned.
Phrase contains the plural version of word(s)	`"entire boxes"` Results WILL contain "entire boxes" Results WON'T contain "entire box", just "entire", or just "box"	Search results with exact match will be returned.
Phrase contains special characters like / , & , _	`"Dev/Prod"` Results WILL contain "Dev/Prod", "Dev&Prod", "Dev_Prod" or "Dev Prod" Results WON'T contain just "Dev", "Prod", or "Prod Dev"	Ignoring the special character, search with the exact match will be returned.

Search for keywords using operators

When you don't know the exact phrase that leads to the content you want, you can enter keywords and operators in the search field.

OR search

To search for content that contains one of the terms, 'chalk' or 'cheese', use the operator OR in capital letters:

```
chalk OR cheese
```

AND search

To search for content that contains both the terms 'chalk' and 'cheese', use the operator AND in capital letters:

```
chalk AND cheese
```

NOT search

To search for content that contains 'chalk' but NOT 'cheese', use the operator NOT in capital letters:

```
chalk NOT cheese
```

Group search terms

To search for content that must contain 'chalk' but can contain either 'cheese' or 'butter', use brackets to group the search terms:

```
(cheese OR butter) AND chalk
```

Search for keywords using wildcards

Inserting wildcard characters is an easy way to format your keyword to replace single characters or multiple characters in the results.

- To perform a single character wildcard search, use the ? symbol.
- To perform a multiple character wildcard search, use the * symbol.
  Keywords or phrases containing wildcard characters need to be enclosed in quotation marks.
  ```
  "cha?k and che*"
  ```

Example

To return https://www.atlassian.com/ or http://www.atlassian.jp/, search for:

```
"http*.atlassian.*"
```

Leading wildcards

Confluence doesn't allow wildcards at the beginning of your search. For example, you can't search for "*hum*" or "?hum*", as they begin with a wildcard.

Single character

Use a question mark ? as a wildcard to replace a single character in your search.

Example

To return 'butter', 'bitter', 'better', or 'batter', search for:

`b?tter`

Searching using special characters does not work if surrounded by double quotation marks.

Multiple characters

Use an asterisk * as a wildcard to replace multiple characters in your search.

Example

To return 'chicken' or 'chickpea', search for:

`"chick*"`

Multiple wildcards

Use multiple wildcards in your search to replace single and multiple characters.

Example

To return 'chick', 'coconut', or 'chickpea', search for:

`"c*c*"`

You can also combine wildcard characters in one search. For example, the search term below will return 'chick' but not 'chickpea':

`"c*c?"`

Combined search

You can also combine wildcards and various search terms:

`o?tag* AND past AND ("blog" AND "post")`