



Parameter String Search

Boost Your BIM.

Use this plug-in to search Autodesk® Revit® project elements and their parameter values for a given string value.

[Description](#) | [General Usage Instructions](#) | [Screenshots](#) | [Installation/Uninstallation](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [Known Issues](#) | [Contact](#) | [Version History](#)

Description

Use this plug-in to search Revit project elements and their parameter values for a given string value. Standard string search options can be specified to define how the string is matched, which Revit elements and which of their parameters are searched. Results are presented in a modeless navigator form listing the search hits. Selecting a search hit zooms to and highlights the Revit element containing it.

General Usage Instructions

In Revit, click "Add-Ins" ⇒ "String Search" panel ⇒ "String Search" to launch the command.

In the dialogue that appears, you can type in the search string in the 'Find what' text box.

Click 'OK'. The command will search for the given string on all standard and user parameters of all elements in the current view.

All occurrences of the search string are listed in a data grid view in a modeless navigator dialogue. Double click on a row in the navigator to zoom to the element.

A log file of the search operation and its results is created in your temporary directory. To view the log file, right click on the search form and select 'Display Log File'.

The string matching options and the elements and parameters to search can be modified as follows.

Options

Category: Limit the search to elements belonging to a specific category. All other categories will be skipped. Specify an asterisk '*' to search all categories. This is the default setting.

Parameter name: You can specify the name of a specific parameter to search in. All other parameters will be skipped. Specify an asterisk '*' to search all parameters. This is the default setting.

Find options: Match case and match whole parameter limit the string pattern matching to more specific cases, i.e. the upper and lower case of each character must match, and the specified search string must match the entire parameter value.

Element selection: You can search either the currently selected element set, all elements in the current view, or all elements in the entire project. The latter can be slow.

Instances versus Types and Symbols: You can specify whether to search in the BIM elements themselves, such as walls and family instances, or in the element types, such as wall types and family symbols. When searching element types, there is no way to limit the search to selected elements (because they cannot be selected) or to a view (because they are not displayed graphically). By default, all elements in the current view are searched. Searching types is not additional to instances, it is complementary. You can search either element types (derived from ElementType in the API) or instances, but not both at once.

Parameter selection: You can select whether only standard built-in Revit parameters are searched, or user-defined family and shared parameters, or both.

Advanced: You have the option of using a regular expression to specify the search string. This option is intended for users with advanced programming knowledge and is not suited for non-programmers. The .NET RegEx library is used for this. For more detail about regular expression, please refer to the following link to a 'cheat sheet':

<http://regexlib.com/cheatsheet.aspx>

You can also search in BuiltInParameter, which are only visible through the Revit API. Again, this option is intended for users with advanced programming knowledge and is not suited for others. With this option, the parameter selection option is ignored and the 'Parameter name' setting switches to a list of all built-in parameters. Again, you can search in all of them using the asterisk '*', or pick a specific one. Searching all built-in parameters across the entire project can be extremely slow.

Examples

To search for a string 'abc' in all parameter values of all elements in the current view, simply type in 'abc' as the search string and hit OK. If any occurrences are found, they are listed in the modeless navigator window. You can continue working in Revit as normal. If you double click an entry in the navigator, the Revit screen will zoom in to the selected element and highlight it.

To search for all structurally non-bearing walls, you might make use of the built-in parameter option as follows:

Enter the search string 'Non-bearing'

Under Category, select Walls

Under Advanced, select 'Search BuiltInParameter'

Under Built-in parameter, select WALL_STRUCTURAL_USAGE_TEXT_PARAM

Click OK and examine the results in the navigator.

Screenshots



The String Search dialog



String Search results.

Commands

Installation/Uninstallation

The installer that ran when you downloaded this plug-in from Autodesk Exchange Store has already installed the plug-in. You may need to restart the Autodesk® product to activate the plug-in. To uninstall this plug-in, exit the Autodesk product if you are currently running it, simply rerun the installer by downloading it again from Autodesk Exchange Store, and select the 'Uninstall' button, or you can uninstall it from 'Control Panel\Programs\Programs and Features' (Windows 7/8) or Add/Remove Programs (Windows XP), just as you would uninstall any other application from your system.

Known Issues

none

Contact

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Author/Company Information

Boost Your BIM

Support Information

Email us at BoostYourBIM@gmail.com with feedback or requests for enhancements.

Version History

Version Number	Version Description
1.1.0	Updated to support Revit 2013 and Revit 2014 Exchange Store bundle requirement
1.0.0	Original release