

# **PowerSearchingWithGoogle.com**

## **Lesson 3.2: Filetype**

[Access Lesson 3.2 slides here](#)

### **Contents:**

#### *Filetype: operator*

Welcome to lesson 3.2, this is all about the filetype operator, which is another operator a little bit like the site operator that we learned about in the last lesson. Both of these operators allow you to take all these millions of results and hone in on exactly the kind of result you want after you do your search. So where a site operator allowed you to say let's look inside this site, the filetype operator says let's find files of this particular type.

## 3.2 Filetype



- The **filetype:** operator filters results by document type
  - PDF
  - DOC
  - DOCX
  - PPT
  - PPTX
  - TXT
  - CSV
  - DAT
  - .... And others you might not have thought about....
  - KML

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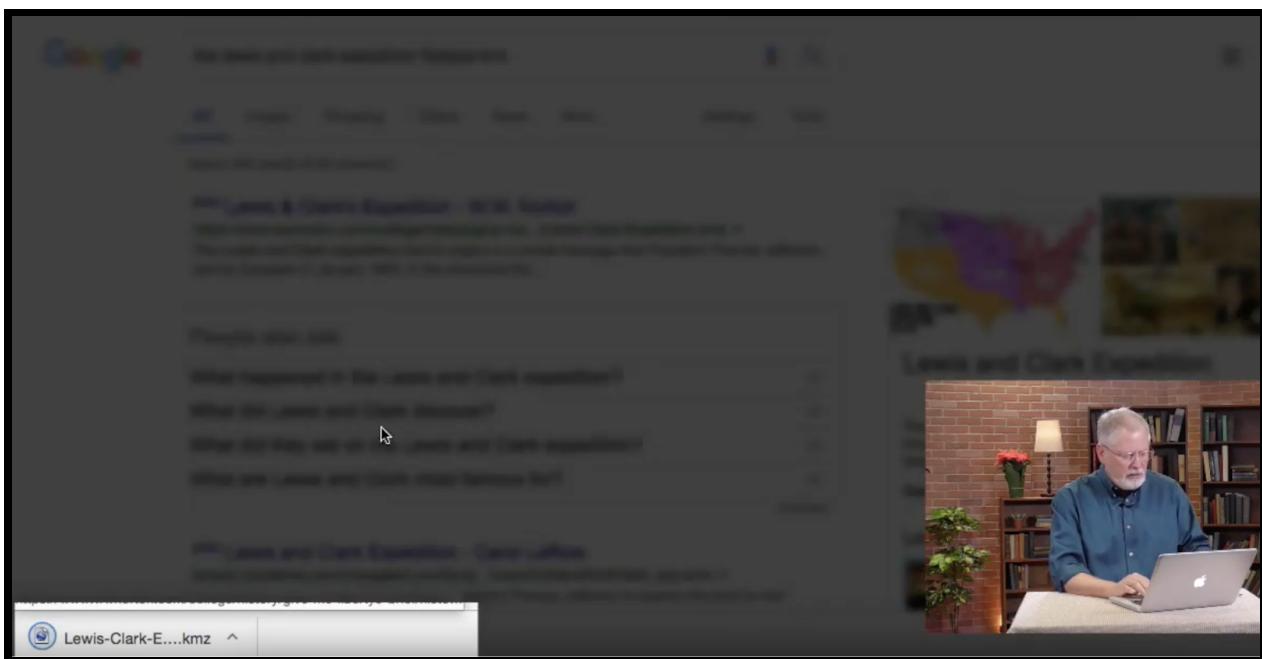
As you know, most web pages are HTML or HTM files, that is, those are the regular pages that get rendered on your browser. There's lots of other files with different file types out there and in this lesson you can use file type as a way to get just those files: PPT files, Excel files, KML files, DAT files, you name it, you can use filetype to get to it.



Let me show you how. So in Google you can just go ahead and search for something, say [the Lewis and Clark expedition] like that. And, now I want to find say a KML file. Now a KML file, also known as a KMZ file, is a file type that you can then import into Google Maps or into Google Earth.

A screenshot of a Google search results page for the query "the lewis and clark expedition filetype:kml". The results list several links, all preceded by a blue "[KML]" label. 1. Lewis and Clark Expedition - Google Earth Community (bbs.keyhole.com/ubb/download.php?Number=29917) - An introduction to the story of Lewis and Clark. Clicking the links will open Google Earth's browser and take you to the relevant part of the Discovering Lewis and Clark website. 2. Lewis &amp; Clark expedition map - Scribble Maps (https://www.scribblemaps.com/api/maps/Whi7LSrlbh/kml) - Lewis &amp; Clark expedition map. Lewis &amp; Clark expedition ... Three months into our expedition and this has been the only fatality thus far. We must continue. 3. The Lewis and Clark Expedition (created on ... - Life in the Tech Lab (www.lifeinthetechlab.com/teacher/gMaps/files/The\_Lewis\_and\_Clark\_Expedition.kml) - The Lewis and Clark Expedition (created on Tripinline). This is the route the Lewis and Clark Expedition took. view on Tripinline ... 4. Lewis and Clark Expedition - Maps - Google (https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?showlabs=1&amp;ie=UTF8&amp;oe...0...) - Lewis and Clark Expedition. These are a few major checkpoints along the Lewis and Clark Trail. kml\_NetworkLink. Lewis and Clark Expedition. kml\_Link ... 5. Lewis and Clark Expedition - MapStory (https://mapstory.org/geoserver/geonode/wms/kml?layers=geonode:lewis\_1e4213f1...kml\_range, 157245.389763275. kml\_altitudeMode, clampToGround. kml\_NetworkLink. Lewis and Clark Expedition. No abstract provided. kml\_visibility, 1.) - Lewis and Clark Expedition. No abstract provided. kml\_visibility, 1. To the right of the search results is a sidebar with related search terms and a "People also search for" section with thumbnail images and links to related topics like the Trail of Tears, Battle of New Orleans, XYZ Affair, and American frontier.

This allows you to for example to see the path of the expedition. So, I say file type like this [filetype:KML] see that there? Search for that and I get about 195 different results. These are all KML files so if we start scrolling down you'll see these are all KML.



I'll see that if I click on one of these it's going to download the file. I'll click and you see on the bottom it's downloading that file so now I can go to for example Google Maps.



Now, I'm going to search on Google for [Google my maps], this is kind of a special-purpose good version of maps that allows you to create your own map.

Google search results for "google my maps".

Search bar: google my maps

Results:

- Google MyMaps** <https://www.google.com/mymaps> Not your computer? Use a private browsing window to sign in. Learn more. Next. Create account. Afrikaans . azərbaycan . català . Čeština . Dansk . Deutsch. You've visited this page many times. Last visit: 5/28/17
- My Maps – About – Google Maps** My maps. Create and share custom maps with Google My ...
- My Maps** Not your computer? Use Guest mode to sign in privately. Learn ...
- More results from google.com »**
- Google Maps** <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/> with your Google Account. Email or phone. Forgot email? Listen and type the numbers you hear. Type the text you hear or see. Not your computer? Use Guest ...
- Google My Maps - Apps on Google Play** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.google.android.apps.m4b...> Google My Maps is your way to keep track of the places that matter to you. Easily make custom maps in cities

Waiting for www.google.com...



I'm going to create a new map by starting up my maps. I'm going to create a new map.

Google My Maps

+ CREATE A NEW MAP

ALL OWNED NOT OWNED SHARED RECENT EXPLORE

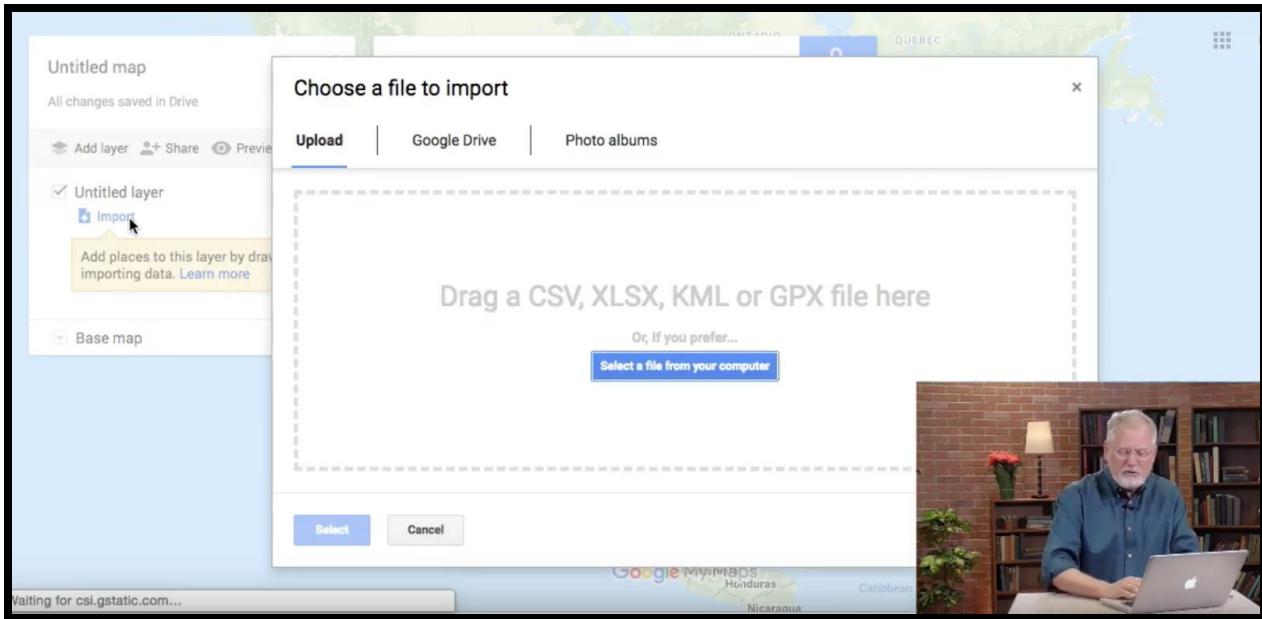
Untitled map Feb 9, 2019

Untitled map Mar 27, 2018

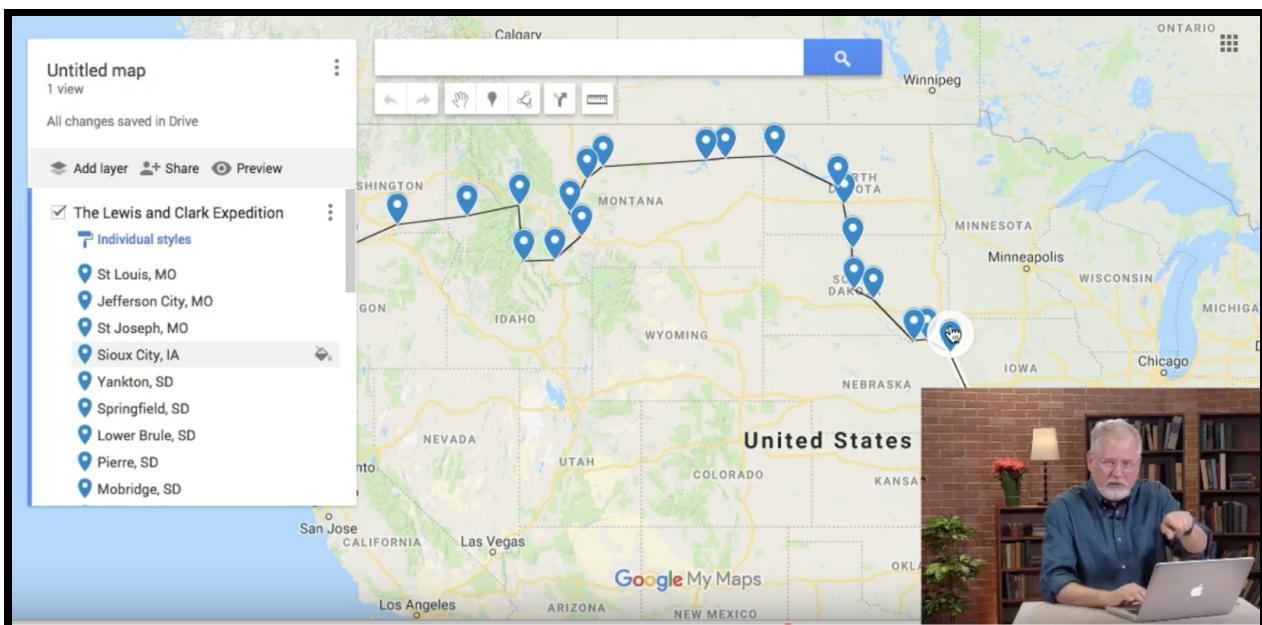
Quarries of Santa Cruz Cou... Mar 27, 2018

Tweets from Shoreline Amp... Mar 29, 2017





And then see this here I'm going to import that KML file that we just found. Select a file and I'm going to use this KML file that we discovered.



Now this is uploading all these place marks and the path and when it renders you'll see this path across North America which is all the different places they went. It's only half the expedition because they actually came back, but you get the idea. It's that the file type operator allows you to say well just give me PDFs or just give me DOCs or just give me KML files.

## Pattern to know...

Google

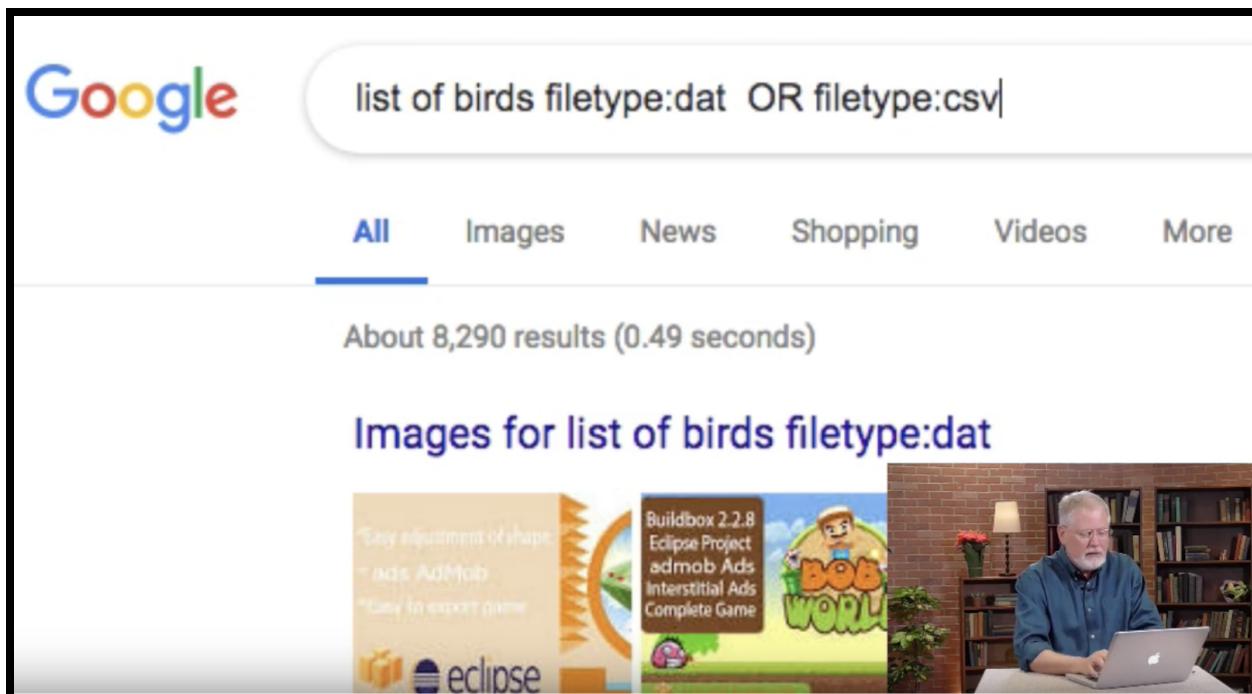
[ *query terms filetype:pdf* ]

Google search results for "california condor filetype:pdf". The results page shows two PDF links: one from Defenders.org about conservation efforts and another from the US Fish & Wildlife Service about California Condors. A sidebar titled "People also ask" lists questions like "How many California condors are left?", "Why is the California condor going extinct?", "What does the California condor do?", and "Why is the California condor important to the environment?". To the right, there's a detailed card for the California condor with a photo, its scientific name (Gymnogyps californianus), and a note that it's a New World vulture, the largest North American land bird.

And then see this here I'm going to import that KML file that we just found. Select a file and I'm going to use this KML file that we discovered. That's the pattern, you say, query terms file type colon whatever.

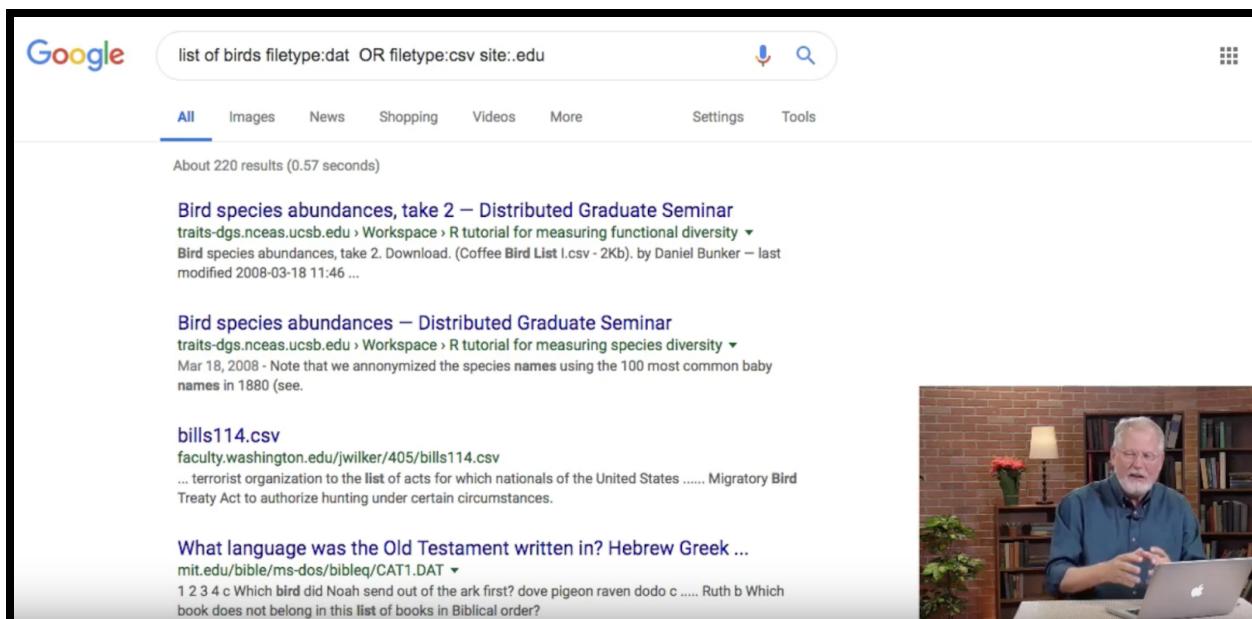
Google search results for "list of birds filetype:dat". The search bar shows the query. Below the search bar are "Google Search" and "I'm Feeling Lucky" buttons. To the right, there's a small image of a man sitting at a desk with a laptop, possibly representing a user or a search interface.

In this example here, we're saying just search for California condor PDF files. Let me show you one more example to submit this. I can go to Google and say I want to find a list of birds in California or wherever. I can say [list of birds filetype:DAT], that's one kind of search that you'll see lots of different lists of birds that are called DAT files.



A screenshot of a Google search results page. The search query in the bar is "list of birds filetype:dat OR filetype:csv". Below the search bar, there are tabs for All, Images, News, Shopping, Videos, and More, with "All" being the selected tab. The text "About 8,290 results (0.49 seconds)" is displayed. A heading "Images for list of birds filetype:dat" is followed by three thumbnail images: one for Eclipse showing its interface, one for Buildbox 2.2.8 showing a game development interface, and one for "BOB WORLD" showing a man sitting at a desk with a laptop.

Suppose I want to say [dat OR] I use the capital OR here because lowercase doesn't work. Capital OR file type or CSV or comma separated variables (this is another data file type). Now I've got a longer set of results which are either CSV or DAT files. They're all filtered boiled down by this file type operator and of course you can combine this with a site: operator if you wanted to.



A screenshot of a Google search results page. The search query in the bar is "list of birds filetype:dat OR filetype:csv site:.edu". Below the search bar, there are tabs for All, Images, News, Shopping, Videos, More, Settings, and Tools, with "All" being the selected tab. The text "About 220 results (0.57 seconds)" is displayed. The results list includes links such as "Bird species abundances, take 2 – Distributed Graduate Seminar" (traits-dgs.ceas.ucsb.edu), "Bird species abundances – Distributed Graduate Seminar" (traits-dgs.ceas.ucsb.edu), and "bills114.csv" (faculty.washington.edu). To the right of the search results, there is a video player showing a man with a beard and glasses sitting at a desk with a laptop, likely the speaker from the previous video.

For example, I could add site:.edu, now this will find only CSVs or DAT files at an edu site and now here you go you've honed in exactly on the kind of results you want. This is a great trick to know, it allows you to specify the kind you want and if you want to combine it with a site operator, where you want the result to come from. It's a fabulously powerful trick it's probably the most used operator, well at least in my experience between site and file type that's 99% of what I use. Hope you enjoy it. Go ahead and click on the next activity and see what you can do.