Google's advanced search operators enable security professionals to conduct reconnaissance and to locate otherwise hard to find information.

"exact match" – surrounding phrases in quotation marks returns exact matches.

cat AND collar – returns results that match both keywords

cat OR dog -- returns results that match either keyword

(ipad OR iphone) AND apple - grouping terms in brackets defines the order of operations

900..912 – returns a range between the two numbers

after: 2010 – returns results after the specified year

before: 2020 - returns results before the specified year

apple -fruit – excludes specified term from search results

site:reddit.com – returns results from specified domain

inurl:bananas -- returns urls that contain the keyword

allinurl: banana fruit -- returns urls that contain all the keywords.

inanchor:breaking - returns sites that link specified terms

allinanchor: top vulnerabilities – returns sites that link all terms

**intext:usernames** – returns sites that contain term in body text

allintext: username password – returns sites that contain all terms in body text

intitle:ip camera - returns sites with titles that match terms

allintitle: ip camera dvr -- returns sites with titles that match all terms

cache:example.com – returns a cached version of a site

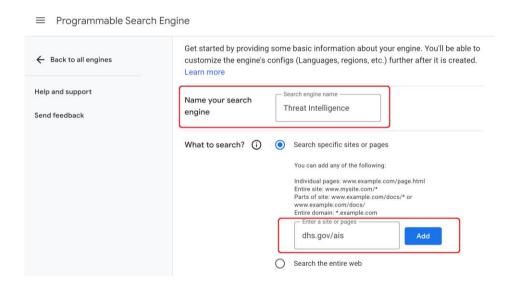
define confidentiality - returns a definition of term

filetype:log – filters results by file type

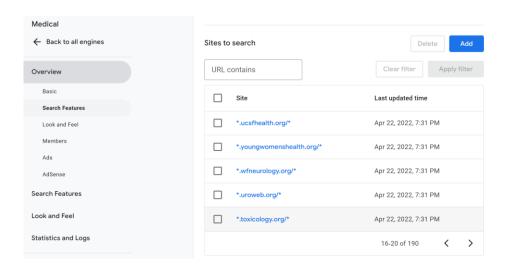
record AROUND(7) world – matches sites where first term is within specified distance from second term

Google's Programmable Search Engine permits users to create their own custom search engine. This is especially useful when making topic-specific searches.

Set up is very easy. Go to <a href="https://programmablesearchengine.google.com/controlpanel/create">https://programmablesearchengine.google.com/controlpanel/create</a>, provide a Title to the search engine, and specify at least one site to get started.

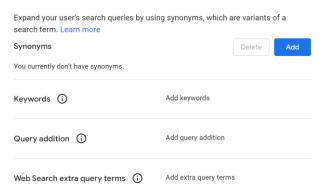


In the example below I created a search engine consisting of a curated list of 190 websites that provide authoritative medical information. Wildcards (\*) can be used to include subdomains.



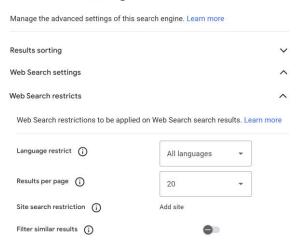
The query enhancement pane allows users to modify search parameters. A useful option is the ability to define synonyms for user-defined terms.

## Query Enhancement



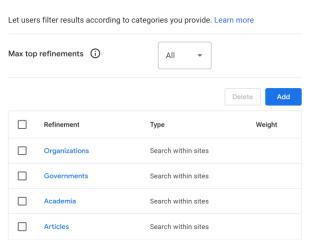
The Advanced Settings pane allows users to configure the number of results per page; results sorting; and search language.

## Advanced Settings



The Refinements option is particularly useful to organize results by site categories defined by the user:

## Refinements



**Google.com/alerts** is another very useful service which delivers real-time updates to user-specified search queries. Alerts can be filtered by source, including: News, Web, Books, and Discussions. Alerts can be sent via email or to an RSS feed.

