The CMSSearchDialog control allows users to enter search expressions. Users can optionally specify the search scope (where to search) and search mode (how to search). To display the results of the search, you need to connect a CMSSearchResults control. The CMSSearchDialog control is not connected to a data source — it only communicates with users. The controls use the SQL search engine, which utilizes standard queries to find results in the Kentico database.

The control passes the search expression through the page's URL using the **searchtext** query string parameter.

> ⚠️ **Note**: Current versions of Kentico provide an index-based smart search engine. The smart search has significantly better performance than the SQL search.

> ℹ️ **Web part equivalent (portal engine)**: SQL Search dialog

Getting started

The following tutorial shows how to create a search dialog using the CMSSearchDialog and CMSSearchResults controls:

1. Create a new **Web form** somewhere in your web project.
2. Drag the **CMSSearchDialog** and **CMSSearchResults** controls onto the form.
3. Set the **CMSSearchDialogID** property of the *CMSSearchResults* control to match the ID of the CMSSearchDialog control (*CMSSearchDialog1* by default).

```
<cms:CMSSearchDialog ID="CMSSearchDialog1" runat="server" />

<cms:CMSSearchResults ID="CMSSearchResults1" runat="server" CMSSearchDialogID="CMSSearchDialog1" />
```

4. Save the web form.
5. Right-click the web form in the Solution explorer and select **View in Browser**.

The resulting page contains a functional search dialog that allows you to search the website's pages.

Search for: Office   Go

Web Designer
Path: /Company/Careers/Web Designer
Web Developer
Path: /Company/Careers/Web Developer
Offices
Path: /Company/Offices
Offices
Path: /Examples/Webparts/Listings and viewers/Universal viewer/Offices
New York Office
Path: /Company/Offices/New York Office
London Office
Path: /Company/Offices/London Office
Prague office
Path: /Examples/Webparts/Listings and viewers/Universal viewer/Offices/Prague office
Sydney office
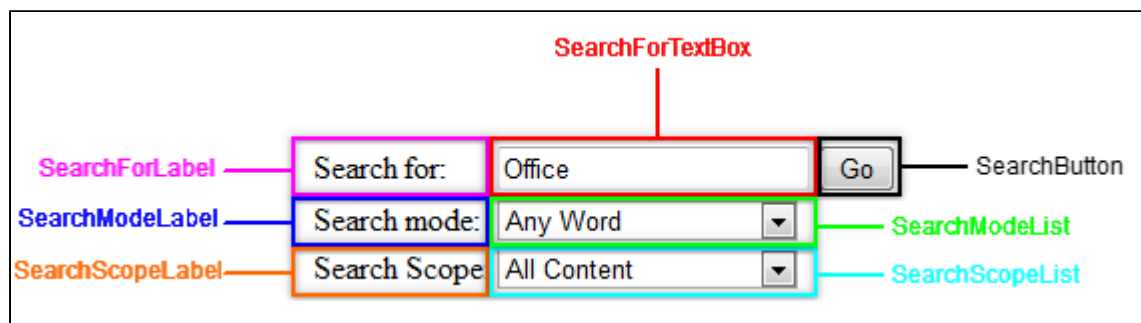Path: /Examples/Webparts/Listings and viewers/Universal viewer/Offices/Sydney office

Configuration

You can set the following properties for the CMSSearchDialog control:

Property name	Description	Sample value
CustomQueryStringData	Allows you to add custom query string content, which the control appends to the URL after the **searchtext** parameter. Do not use the & or ? characters at the start of the custom query string.	"parameter=value"
SearchExpression	Contains the words of the entered search expression.	
SearchMode	Search mode - any word, all words or exact phrase.	"AllWords" "AnyWord" "ExactPhrase"
SearchScope	Indicates whether the control searches: • All pages on the website (*SearchAllContent*) • Only pages that are placed under the page containing the control in the content tree (*SearchCurrentSection*) Only applies if the **Path** property of the connected CMSSearchResults control is empty.	"SearchAllContent" "SearchCurrentSection"
ShowSearchMode	Indicates whether the control displays the search mode settings.	
ShowSearchScope	Indicates whether the control displays the search scope settings.	
StopProcessing	If true, the control stops all processing — does not load or display any data or other HTML output.	

The CMSSearchDialog is composed of multiple child controls, which you can access in your code through the following properties:

- SearchButton
- SearchForLabel
- SearchForTextBox
- SearchModeLabel
- SearchModeList
- SearchScopeLabel
- SearchScopeList

> ✅ **Tip**: To add custom functionality, you can handle the control's **DoSearch** event, which occurs when a user submits the dialog.

Appearance and styling

The appearance of the CMSSearchDialog control is determined by CSS classes. You can use the following CSS classes to modify the design of the control:

CSS class name	Applies to
CMSSearchDialogSearchButton	The search submit button.
CMSSearchDialogSearchForLabel	The "Search for:" label.
CMSSearchDialogSearchForTextBox	The search expression text box.
CMSSearchDialogSearchModeDropDownList	The search mode drop-down list.
CMSSearchDialogSearchModeLabel	The "Search mode:" label.
CMSSearchDialogSearchScopeDropDownList	The search scope drop-down list.
CMSSearchDialogSearchScopeLabel	The "Search Scope:" label.

The recommended place to define these classes is in a Kentico stylesheet using the **CSS stylesheets** application.

You can apply stylesheets to:

- Entire websites
- Individual pages that contain the control