REST API / Reference / Search
Free, Pro, & Team

Search

The GitHub Search API lets you to search for the specific item efficiently.

1 of 7 10/16/2021, 3:00 PM The Search API helps you search for the specific item you want to find. For example, you can find a user or a specific file in a repository. Think of it the way you think of performing a search on Google. It's designed to help you find the one result you're looking for (or maybe the see a few pages of search results so that you can find the item that best meets your needs. To satisfy that need, the Githlub Search API provides up to 1,000 results for each search.

You can narrow your search using queries. To learn more about the search query syntax see "Constructing a search query."

Ranking search results

Unless another sort option is provided as a query parameter, results are sorted by best match in descending order. Multiple factors are combined to boost the most relevant item to the top of the result list.

The Search API has a custom rate limit. For requests using Basic Authentication OAuth, or client ID and secret, you can make up to 30 requests per minute. For unauthenticated requests, the rate limit allows you to make up to 10 requests per minute.

See the rate limit documentation for details on determining your current rate limit status.

Constructing a search query

Each endpoint in the Search API uses query parameters to perform searches on GitHub. See the individual endpoint in the Search API for an example that includes the endpoint and query parameters.

A query can contain any combination of search qualifiers supported on GitHub. The format of the search query is:

SEARCH KEYWORD 1 SEARCH KEYWORD N QUALIFIER 1 QUALIFIER N

For example, if you wanted to search for all repositories owned by serues: that contained the word status and octoos in the README file, you would use the following query with the search repositories endpoints

Note: Be sure to use your language's preferred HTML-encoder to construct your query strings. For example:

// JavaScript const queryString = 'q=' + encodeURIComponent('GitHub Octocat in:readme user:defunkt');

See "Searching on GitHub" for a complete list of available qualifiers, their format, and an example of how to use them. For information about how to use operators to match specific quantities, dates, or to exclude results, see "Unden

- . have more than five AND . OR . or NOT operators.

These search queries will return a "Validation failed" error message.

To keep the Search API fast for everyone, we limit how long any individual query can run. For queries that exceed the time limit, the API returns the matches that were already found prior to the timeout, and the response has the incomplete_results property set to true

Reaching a timeout does not necessarily mean that search results are incomplete. More results might have been found, but also might not,

Access errors or missing search results

You need to successfully authenticate and have access to the repositories in your search queries, otherwise, you'll see a 422 Upprocessible Entry error with a "Validation Failed" message. For example, your search will fall if your query includes repositories in your search will fall if your query includes repositories. When your search query requests multiple resources, the response will only contain the resources that you have access to and will not provide an error message listing the resources that were not returned.

For example, if your search query searches for the octocat/test and codertocat/test repositories, but you only have access to octocat/test, your response will show search results for octocat/test and nothing for codertocat/test. This behavior mimics how search work

Search code

Searches for query terms inside of a file. This method returns up to 100 results per page.

When searching for code, you can get text match metadata for the file content and file both fields when you pass the text-match media type. For more details about how to receive highlighted search results, see Text match metadata.

For example, if you want to find the definition of the addClass function inside jQuery repository, your query would look something like this:

q=addClass+in:file+language:js+repo:jquery/jquery

This query searches for the keyword eddClass within a file's contents. The query limits the search to files where the language is JavaScript in the Equery/Equery repository.

Considerations for code search

Due to the complexity of searching code, there are a few restrictions on how searches are performed:

- Only the default branch is considered. In most cases, this will be the master branch.
 Only files smaller than 384 KB are searchable.
 You must always include at least one search term when searching source code. For example, searching for language.go is not valid, while making language.go is.

Name	Type	In	Description
accept	string	header	Setting to application/voic_ptoub-vis-joson is recommended.
q	string	query	The query contains one or more search keywords and qualifiers. Qualifiers allow you to limit your search to specific areas of Gif-bub. The REST API supports the same qualifiers as Gif-bub.com. To learn more about the format of the query, see Constructing a search query.
sort	string	query	Sorts the results of your query. Can only be Lankwed , which indicates how recently a file has been indexed by the GitHub search infrastructure. Defaults best match
order	string	query	Determines whether the first search result returned is the highest number of matches (as c) or lowest number of matches (as c). This parameter is ignored unless you provide sort . Default: desc
per_page	integer	query	Results per page (max 100) Default: 10
page	integer	query	Page number of the results to fetch. Default: 1

```
curl \
  -H "Accept: application/vnd.github.v3+json" \
  https://api.github.com/search/code
```

```
await octokit.request('GET /search/code', {
    q: 'q'
})
```

```
Status: 200 CK
```

```
Companie, "classes.js",
"class
```

Status: 304 Not Modified

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