Understanding the search syntax

In this article

When searching GitHub Enterprise Cloud, you can construct queries that match specific numbers and words.

Note: The syntax below applies to non-code search. For more information on code search syntax, see "Understanding GitHub Code Search syntax."

Query for values greater or less than another value

You can use `>`, `>=`, `<`, and `<=` to search for values that are greater than, greater than or equal to, less than, and less than or equal to another value.

Query	Example
`>n`	**cats stars:>1000** matches repositories with the word "cats" that have more than 1000 stars.
`>=n`	**cats topics:>=5** matches repositories with the word "cats" that have 5 or more topics.
`<n`	**cats size:<10000** matches code with the word "cats" in files that are smaller than 10 KB.
`<=n`	**cats stars:<=50** matches repositories with the word "cats" that have 50 or fewer stars.

You can also use range queries to search for values that are greater than or equal to, or less than or equal to, another value.

Query	Example
`n..*`	**cats stars:10..*** is equivalent to `stars:>=10` and matches repositories with the word "cats" that have 10 or more stars.
`*..n`	**cats stars:*..10** is equivalent to `stars:<=10` and matches repositories with the word "cats" that have 10 or fewer stars.

Query for values between a range

You can use the range syntax `n..n` to search for values within a range, where the first number N is the lowest value and the second is the highest value.

Query	Example
`n..n`	**cats stars:10..50** matches repositories with the word "cats" that have between 10 and 50 stars.

Query for dates

You can search for dates that are earlier or later than another date, or that fall within a range of dates, by using `>`, `>=`, `<`, `<=`, and range queries. Date formatting must follow the ISO8601 standard, which is `YYYY-MM-DD` (year-month-day).

Query	Example
`>YYYY-MM-DD`	**cats created:>2016-04-29** matches issues with the word "cats" that were created after April 29, 2016.
`>=YYYY-MM-DD`	**cats created:>=2017-04-01** matches issues with the word "cats" that were created on or after April 1, 2017.
`<YYYY-MM-DD`	**cats pushed:<2012-07-05** matches repositories with the word "cats" that were pushed to before July 5, 2012.
`<=YYYY-MM-DD`	**cats created:<=2012-07-04** matches issues with the word "cats" that were created on or before July 4, 2012.
`YYYY-MM-DD..YYYY-MM-DD`	**cats pushed:2016-04-30..2016-07-04** matches repositories with the word "cats" that were pushed to between the end of April and July of 2016.
`YYYY-MM-DD..*`	**cats created:2012-04-30..*** matches issues created after April 30th, 2012 containing the word "cats."
`*..YYYY-MM-DD`	**cats created:*..2012-07-04** matches issues created before July 4th, 2012 containing the word "cats."

You can also add optional time information `THH:MM:SS+00:00` after the date, to search by the hour, minute, and second. That's `T`, followed by `HH:MM:SS` (hour-minutes-seconds), and a UTC offset (`+00:00`).

Query	Example
`YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SS+00:00`	**cats created:2017-01-01T01:00:00+07:00..2017-03-01T15:30:15+07:00** matches issues created between January 1, 2017 at 1 a.m. with a UTC offset of `07:00` and March 1, 2017 at 3 p.m.

offset of `07:00` and March 1, 2017 at 3 p.m. with a UTC offset of `07:00`.

YYYY-MM-DDTHH:MM:SSZ	**cats created:2016-03-21T14:11:00Z..2016-04-07T20:45:00Z** matches issues created between March 21, 2016 at 2:11pm and April 7, 2016 at 8:45pm.

Exclude results that match a qualifier

You can narrow down search results by excluding one or more subsets. To exclude all results that are matched by a qualifier, prefix the search qualifier with a hyphen (`-`).

Query	Example
-QUALIFIER	`cats stars:>10 -language:javascript` matches repositories with the word "cats" that have more than 10 stars but are not written in JavaScript.
-QUALIFIER	`mentions:defunkt -org:github` matches issues mentioning @defunkt that are not in repositories in the GitHub organization.

Exclude results with specific keywords

You can exclude results containing a certain word, using the `NOT` syntax. The `NOT` operator can only be used for string keywords. It does not work for numerals or dates.

Query	Example
`NOT`	**hello NOT world** matches repositories that have the word "hello" but not the word "world."

Use quotation marks for queries with whitespace

If your search query contains whitespace, you will need to surround it with quotation marks. For example:

- cats NOT "hello world" matches repositories with the word "cats" but not the words "hello world."
- build label:"bug fix" matches issues with the word "build" that have the label "bug fix."

Queries with usernames

If your search query contains a qualifier that requires a username, such as `user`, `actor`, or `assignee`, you can use any GitHub Enterprise Cloud username, to specify a specific person, or `@me`, to specify the current user.

Query	Example
`QUALIFIER:USERNAME`	`author:nat` matches commits authored by @nat
`QUALIFIER:@me`	`is:issue assignee:@me` matches issues assigned to the person viewing the results

You can only use `@me` with a qualifier and not as search term, such as `@me main.workflow`.