

# Beginner's Guide to Google Dorking: How to Search Smarter



Practical OSINT

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A practical overview of 23 Google dorks to boost your everyday search skills.

Google ext:pdf "email" AND "contact" site:tesla.com

About 214 results (0.44 seconds)

**BASICS OF GOOGLE DORKING**

Tesla Return to Work Playbook

18-May-2020 — Please don't hesitate to contact me or the EHS team (EHS-User@tesla.com) with any HR-related questions, you can email me at marco@chongchi.com.hk

Tesla - Recruitment Privacy Notice Europe

"Personal Data" means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person. • Contact Information such as name, address, email address, ...

2 pages

https://www.tesla.com › sites › files › pdfs › en\_HK.pdf

Recommended Charging Installation Partners - Tesla

Email: marco@chongchi.com.hk; joanne.cheng@chongchi.com.hk... 联络人 Contact 充電

Read for FREE as a non-member!

In this article, you will learn:

- A simple and beginner-friendly guide to Google search operators, covering syntax, descriptions, and practical examples.
- Which search operators Google has removed from its documentation and are no longer functional.
- How to combine various Google search operators to enhance your investigative skills.

## What is Google Dorking

Google Dorking, also known as Google Hacking, is the practice of using **search operators** in Google to **filter down very specific information**.

The “Operators” are special characters and commands designed to refine and enhance online text searches.

Let's get started!

### 1. Quotation Marks “”

This search operator instructs Google to display results containing the exact phrase.

The screenshot shows a Google search results page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a '1' icon, the text 'Quotes “” ➔ Search for the exact phrase', and a magnifying glass icon. Below this is the Google logo and a search bar containing the query '"confidential"'. The search results list two entries:

- Merriam-Webster**  
https://www.merriam-webster.com › dictionary › confid...  
[Confidential Definition & Meaning](#)  
The meaning of **CONFIDENTIAL** is intended for or restricted to the use of a particular group, or class : private, secret. How to use **confidential** in a ...
- Cambridge Dictionary**  
https://dictionary.cambridge.org › dictionary › confide...  
[CONFIDENTIAL | English meaning - Cambridge Dictionary](#)

### 2. AND

Search for the results that include the specified keywords or

entire given phrase.

2 AND ➔ Search for the results that include the entire specified phrase or keywords

The screenshot shows a Google search results page. The search query is "'OSINT' AND 'certificate' AND 'Free'". The results include a link from "Class Central" to "OSINT (Open Source Intelligence) Courses and Certifications", which mentions "Free Video, Open-Source Intelligence - Full Course - Learn OSINT. Cyber Mentor ... Harvard's CS50 Free Certificate Guide · How Open University Works · Free ...". Another result is a link from "Reddit" to "r/OSINT", with the note "10+ comments · 2 years ago". The interface includes standard Google search controls like "All", "Images", "Videos", "News", "Web", "Books", "Finance", "Tools", and filters for "Download", "Online courses", "Telegram", and "Reddit".

## 3. OR

Searches for either one keyword, phrase or the other.

3 OR ➔ Search for the results that include either one term or the other

The screenshot shows a Google search results page. The search query is "'Elon Musk' OR 'Tesla.com' OR 'SpaceX'". The results include a link from "Tesla" to "Tesla: Electric Cars, Solar & Clean Energy", which describes Tesla's mission to accelerate the world's transition to sustainable energy. Another result is a link to "Elon Musk", which notes his role in co-founding and leading Tesla, SpaceX, Neuralink, and others. The interface includes standard Google search controls like "All", "News", "Images", "Videos", "Web", "Books", "Finance", "Tools", and filters for "Download", "Online courses", "Telegram", and "Reddit".

## 4. Site

This search operator is used to get results from the mentioned website.

4

Site ➔ Search for results from the mentioned website

Google search results for "site:tesla.com budget". The search bar shows the query. Below it, a row of filters: All, Images, News, Videos, Web, Books, Finance. A horizontal line of buttons includes Meaning, Types, Today, GTA 6, Air, Dune 2, and The Goat Life. The first result is from Tesla, linking to https://www.tesla.com/findus/location/charger. The result title is "Ibis Budget Langres" and the snippet describes a destination charging point in Langres, France.

## 5. Minus Sign (-)

This search operator (-) allows you to exclude a specific word, phrase or website from the search results.

5

Minus Sign (-) ➔ Exclude a specific word, phrase or website

Google search results for "\"budget report\" -site:tesla.com". The search bar shows the query. Below it, a row of filters: All, Images, News, Videos, Web, Books, Finance, Tools. A horizontal line of buttons includes Template, Example, 2024, Pdf, 2021, Utilization, Damage, and Execution. The first result is from ProjectManager, linking to https://www.projectmanager.com/blog/budget-reports. The result title is "What Is a Budget Report? Purpose, Components & Benefits" and the snippet describes a budget report as a financial picture of a business or project over a specific time period.

## 6. Filetype or Ext

Filetype or ext allows you to search for specific file types like PDF, DOC, DOCX, etc.

6

filetype, ext ➔ Search for specific file types like pdf doc etc.

Google search results for "\"climate change\" ext:doc OR filetype:pdf". The search bar shows the query. Below it, a row of filters: All, Images, News, Videos, Web, Books, Finance. The first result is from UNFCCC, linking to https://unfccc.int/application/pdf/conveng. The result title is "united nations framework convention on climate change ..." and the snippet describes "Climate change" as a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and ...

You can use **vertical bar (pipe)** as a logical “OR” operator to search a specific keyword or phrase in different file types, as shown below.

“climate change” ext:xlsx | ext:doc | ext:docx | ext:odt | ext:pdf | ext:rtf | ext:sxw | ext:psw | ext:ppt | ext:pptx | ext:pps | ext:csv

A screenshot of a Google search results page. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "filetype, ext" followed by a yellow arrow icon and the placeholder "Search for specific file types like pdf doc etc.". Below the search bar, the Google logo is visible. A tooltip-like box appears over the search bar containing the search query: "climate change" ext:xlsx | ext:doc | ext:docx | ext:odt | ext:pdf | ext:rtf | ext:sxw | ext:psw | ext:ppt | ext:pptx | ext:pps | ext:csv". The main search results list includes:

- International Technological University (https://ftp.wtvq.com) - Chicago Climate Exchange California Air Resources Board (PDF)
- BMC Public Health (https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com) - Construction of Climate Change. Understanding and Analysis: The ... (PDF)

## 7. Before

Find results published before a specified date.

A screenshot of a Google search results page. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "before:" followed by a yellow arrow icon and the placeholder "Find results published earlier than a specified date". Below the search bar, the Google logo is visible. The search query in the bar is "'Russia' AND 'NATO' before:1997". The main search results list includes:

- NATO - Homepage (https://www.nato.int) - NATO Speech 20 March 1996 (speech)
- NATO - Homepage (https://www.nato.int/acad/conf/future95/rodman)

## 8. After:

Find results published after a specified date.

8

after:

Find results published later than a specified date



"Russia" AND "NATO" after:2014



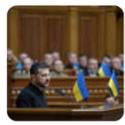
All News Images Videos Web Books Finance

Tools

### Top stories :

Al Jazeera

Zelenskyy says 'victory plan' to end Russia war includes NATO membership



1 day ago

Al Jazeera

Kremlin says Ukraine plan may lead to conflict between Russia and NATO



12 hours ago

## 9. Intext:

This operator tells Google to search for pages where the specified keyword or phrase appears anywhere in the text of a webpage.

9 intext:

Searches for the specified keyword or phrase anywhere in a webpage's text.



intext:confidential budget report



All Images News Videos Web Books Finance



Washington State Auditor (.gov)

https://sao.wa.gov › accounting › expenditures › confide... :

[Confidential Funds \(Drug Buy Money, Investigative Funds\)](#)

Each agent or officer in charge must prepare a quarterly **report** showing status and reconciliation of the imprest fund and itemizing each payment, name used by ...

## 10. Allintext:

Find pages that include all the mentioned keywords or phrase in the body text of a webpage.

Google search results for "allintext:Facebook leaks 2021".

- Forbes**: Personal Data Of 533 Million Facebook Users Leaks Online - 03-Apr-2021. Description: The personally identifying information of more than half a billion Facebook users leaked online Saturday, made available for free on a hacking forum Saturday.
- Firewall Times**: Facebook Data Breaches: Full Timeline Through 2023 - 03-Apr-2021. Description: The most recent Facebook data breach happened in April 2021, when personal data pertaining to 533 million Facebook users was made public on an online forum.

## 11. Intitle:

Search for pages that have specific keyword or phrase **anywhere in the title of the page**.

Google search results for "intitle:civil war in sudan".

- House of Lords Library**: Civil war in Sudan: Is there a path to peace? - 06-Sept-2024. Description: Sudan's civil war is now into its second year. The conflict, driven by a power struggle between the Sudanese armed forces (SAF) led by General ...
- The Hindu**: The status of the civil war in Sudan | Explained - 07-Oct-2024. Description: Civil war in Sudan intensifies as SAF and RSF clash, leading to humanitarian crisis and failed peace talks.

## 12. Allintitle:

Search for the web pages that contain the mentioned keyword or phrase **exactly in the title and with the exact order specified**.

However, the **allintitle:** operator ensures that all the specified words are present in the title, but it generally doesn't guarantee they will appear in the exact order provided.

Google search results for "allintitle:"OSINT Ethics"":

- insiteriskmanagement.com**  
https://www.insiteriskmanagement.com › post › pov-on... · POV on OSINT Ethics | InsiteRiskManagement  
19-Jun-2023 — Insite uses the best journalistic standards as ethical touchstones for OSINT gathering: Privacy, Intent and Education.
- dfrlab.org**  
https://dfrlab.org › event › osint-ethics-2 · OSINT Ethics - DFRLab

I would suggest to use the **intitle:**, when you want to find the webpages having the specified term anywhere in the title, *regardless of the order*.

## 13. Related:

Find websites that similar to a specific URL.

***Google has removed the “related:” operator from its documentation, and it is no longer functional.***

← Post

**Barry Schwartz** @rustybrick · Jul 19, 2023

Google has removed the related: search operator from its search docs; it still seems to work but I wonder if that means it is going away - can you confirm @JohnMu @searchliaison @okaylizzi ? seroundtable.com/google-removes...

ig table contains the search operators that you can use to inspect different aspects of your pages

cache:	Find the cached version of a page. For example:
cache:https://www.google.com/	cache:https://www.google.com/
filetype:	Find search results in a specific file type as defined by the content-type HTTP header extension. For example, you can search for RTF files and URLs ending in .rtf whose content contains the term "galaxy".
filetype:rtf galaxy	filetype:rtf galaxy
imagesize:	Find pages that contain images of a specific dimension. This search operator only works on Google Images. For example:
imagesize:1000x800	imagesize:1000x800
related:	Find pages that are related to a specific URL. For example:
related:https://www.google.com/	related:https://www.google.com/
site:	Google determines the relationship of URLs by comparing multiple factors, such as the entities mentioned on the page and the general category of the page.
site:https://www.example.com/	The lack of URLs showing up in a related: query is not an indicator of the quality of your pages, nor any other search signal. The relatedness of URLs is generally only used for ranking purposes. If you are looking for URLs that are most similar to the URLs you provide as related:, query operator is not informed real time, so recent popular URLs will not show up as related URLs in the RELATED search operator.
src:	Find search results from a particular domain, URL, or URL prefix. For example:
src:https://www.example.com/images/peanut-butter.png	src:https://www.example.com/images/peanut-butter.png

2 18 49 12K

**Google SearchLiaison** @searchliaison

It's going away. It hasn't really worked that well for some time, as in some cases, the information was dated. It's also rarely used. Potentially we might revisit another way to show this type of info in the future.

7:51 PM · Jul 19, 2023 · 11.2K Views

2 9 33 3

***The output below indicates that the “related:” operator is no***

*longer working.*

13 related: ➔ Find similar websites/ discover sites with similar content or topics

Google related:cnn.com X |

CNN https://edition.cnn.com ...

**CNN: Breaking News, Latest News and Videos**

View the latest news and breaking news today for U.S., world, weather, entertainment, politics and health at CNN.com.

Watch CNN Fast · Politics · World · US

The output doesn't match our request.  
"related:" operator is no longer functional

CNN https://edition.cnn.com › 2024/10/19 › pol

Here's how Trump, Harris and their allies have altered ...

3 hours ago — Here's how Trump, Harris and their allies have altered their ad spending strategies in October · Pro-Trump campaign ads · Pro-Harris campaign ads.

## 14. Cache

Look up the cached version of the specified website.  
*Unfortunately, this operator is no longer available.*

 Moxie Digital @webmoxiedigital ...

Google removed the official cache: search operator documentation, a reminder that search always changes and so does SEO. Learn more.



Google Removes Cache: Search Operator Documentation

From searchenginejournal.com  
9:00 PM · Oct 11, 2024 · 4 Views

The output below demonstrates that the “cache:” operator is no longer effective.

14 cache ➔ Look up the cached version of the specified website.

The image shows two separate Google search results side-by-side. Both searches use the 'cache' operator followed by a URL. The first search is for 'cache:twitter.com' and the second is for 'cache:bbc.com'. Both results show a message stating that the search did not find any documents and provides suggestions to check spelling or try different keywords. A central black box with yellow text states: "The 'cache' operator is no longer operational."

cache:twitter.com

Your search - **cache:twitter.com** - did not match any documents.

Suggestions:

- Make sure that all words are spelled correctly.
- Try different keywords.
- Try more general keywords.

cache:bbc.com

Your search - **cache:bbc.com** - did not match any documents.

Suggestions:

- Make sure that all words are spelled correctly.
- Try different keywords.
- Try more general keywords.

The "cache" operator is no longer operational.

## 15. Define:

Provides the definition of a word or term

15 define: ➔ Definition of a word or term

The image shows a Google search result for the query 'define:SOCMINT'. The top result is from 'Maltego' with a link to 'Everything About Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT) ...'. Below it is a result from 'SEON' with a link to 'SOCMINT (Social Media Intelligence)'. A snippet of text explains that SOCMINT refers to the collection and analysis of data from social media by one or more organizations.

define:SOCMINT

Maltego

https://www.maltego.com › blog › everything-about-so... ::

Everything About Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT) ...

Dhu'l-H. 12, 1445 AH — SOCMINT can be defined as the techniques, technologies, and tools that allow for the collection and analysis of information from social media platforms.

SEON

https://seon.io › Dictionary ::

[SOCMINT \(Social Media Intelligence\)](#)

What Is SOCMINT? Social media intelligence is a broad term that refers to one or more organizations' collection and analysis of data from social media.

## 16. Info:

Search operator used to retrieve information about a specific URL.

16 info: ➔ Information about a specific URL

The image shows a Google search result for the query 'info:socnetv.org'. The top result is for 'Social Network Visualizer' with a link to 'SocNetV - Social Network Analysis and Visualization Software'. A snippet of text describes SocNetV as a cross-platform, user-friendly free software application for social network analysis and visualization. Below it is another result for 'Social Network Visualizer' with a link to 'Social Network Visualizer: SocNetV Manual'. A snippet of text describes SocNetV as a cross-platform, user-friendly free software application for social network analysis and visualization.

info:socnetv.org

Social Network Visualizer

https://socnetv.org ::

SocNetV - Social Network Analysis and Visualization Software

Social Network Visualizer ([SocNetV](#)) is a cross-platform, user-friendly free software application for social network analysis and visualization.

[Downloads](#) · [SocNetV Manual](#) · [News](#) · [Bugs](#)

Social Network Visualizer

https://socnetv.org › docs ::

**Social Network Visualizer: SocNetV Manual**

Social Network Visualizer ([SocNetV](#)) is a cross-platform, user-friendly free software application for social network analysis and visualization.

## 17. Loc:

This search operator return results for content tied to an exact address or specific geographic location.

It typically gives more precise results focused on the specified address, as shown below.

17 loc: ➔ It narrows search results associated to an exact address

Google search results for "loc:1 Hebdon Rd, London SW17 7NR, UK". The results show two entries: "Premier Inn London Tooting hotel" and "Premier Inn London Tooting Hotel". Both entries include a snippet of text and a small image. The "Premier Inn London Tooting hotel" entry includes a link to the Premier Inn website.

## 18. Location:

This search operator find general information related to a geographic area.

18 location: ➔ Broader searches related to a city, region or country

Google search results for "location:london cybersecurity". The results show one main entry: "London - GCHQ.GOV.UK". Below the main entry, there is a "People also ask" section with two questions: "What is the Centre for Cybersecurity UK?" and "Where is the UK National Cyber Security Centre?".

## 19. Link:

This operator search for pages that link to a specific URL, which could include blog posts, news articles, or other web pages.

## 19 link: ➔ Find web pages that link to a specific URL

Google search results for "link:zoom.com". The results show two links from the official Zoom website:

- Zoom** (<https://www.zoom.com>)  
Zoom helps consolidate communications, **connect** people, and collaborate better together in the boardroom, classroom, operating room, and everywhere in between.
- Sign In** (<https://zoom.us/signin>)  
Sign in to your **Zoom** account to join a meeting, update your profile, change your settings, and more!

## 20. Wildcard \*

This operator (\*) works like “fill-in-the-blank” tool, allowing Google to match any word to complete a phrase or sentence. Means you are asking Google for help to fill the missing parts of a phrase when you are uncertain about a specific words.

Let me clarify it with an example.

**Google query:** filetype:pdf “confidential \* report”

**Query explanation:** In this search query we ask Google to fill the gap between “confidential” and “report” with any word, returning PDF files that match this pattern.

## 20 Wildcard(\*) ➔ Fill in the blank with the appropriate word

Google search results for "filetype:pdf \"confidential \* report\"". The results show two PDF files:

- American International School in Egypt** ([https://www.aisegypt.com/How\\_to\\_Apply/Con...](https://www.aisegypt.com/How_to_Apply/Con...))  
CONFIDENTIAL SCHOOL REPORT. FOR STUDENTS APPLYING TO AISE. Dear Parents:  
Please complete PART I and PART II of this Confidential School Report.  
6 pages
- website-files.com** (<https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/...>)  
16 October - Accel 2024 Euroscape  
4 days ago — This document is the property of Accel and is addressed to its recipients exclusively and confidentially for their personal use.  
55 pages

## 21. Map:

Display map results related to a specific location.

Google map:Kassala

ReliefWeb https://reliefweb.int/map/sudan-kassala-administrativ... Sudan: Kassala administrative map (June 2021) 28-Jun-2021 — Sudan: Kassala administrative map (June 2021) Preview of Kassala\_Administrative\_map\_A4\_June\_2021.pdf Download Map (PDF | 1.43 MB)

Wikipedia https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Locator\_map\_S... File:Locator map Sudan Kassala.png Description Locator map Sudan Kassala.png, Locator map. Date, 26 June 2010. Source, Self-made based on the work of Nordnordwest File:Sudan location map.svg.

ReliefWeb https://reliefweb.int/map/sudan-kassala-reference-m... Sudan: Kassala Reference Map (As of May 2021) 16-May-2021 — Sudan: Kassala Reference Map (As of May 2021) Preview of Kassala\_State\_Reference\_map\_A1\_16\_May\_2021.pdf Download Map (PDF | 2.02 MB)

# Combination of Google Advance Search Operators

At this point, you now understand the basics of Google Dorking. Let's take a step forward and explore how to combine multiple search operators for specific investigative scenarios.

## 22. Quotation Marks, AND, Site, Minus Sign, and Filetype

**Objective:** Find “data breach reports” in PDF files from government websites, excluding results from Facebook and Instagram.

**Google Query:** site:.gov “data breach” AND “reports” -site:facebook.com -site:instagram.com

22

## Quotation Marks, AND, Site, Minus Sign, and Filetype

The screenshot shows a Google search results page. The search query is: site:.gov "data breach" AND "reports" -site:facebook.com -site:instagram.com. The results include links from the Federal Trade Commission (.gov) and Mass.gov, both titled "Data Breach Response: A Guide for Business". Below these, there is a link to "Data Breach Notification Reports" from Mass.gov.

## 23. Before, Site and Quotation Marks

**Objective:** I want to find out in which year the BBC.com published the phrase “climate change” on their website.

**Google Query:** site:bbc.com “climate change” before:1999

The screenshot shows a Google search results page. The search query is: site:bbc.com "climate change" before:1999. The results section displays a red box stating "No results found for site:bbc.com \"climate change\" before:1999." Below this, it says "Results for site:bbc.com climate change before:1999 (without quotes):". A result from BBC is listed, titled "The earthquake in Santa Cruz, California in 1989 - Global ...".

I didn't get the desired results, so lets modify the Google query slightly.

**Refined Query:** site:bbc.com “climate change” before:2000

The screenshot shows a Google search results page with the query "site:bbc.com \"climate change\" before:2000". The results are filtered by the "Effects" category. The first result is a link to "BBC World Service - One Planet, Climate Change" dated 26-Jan-1999. The second result is a link to "BBC Radio 4 - In Our Time, Time" dated 30-Dec-1999.

**Outcome.** Now this is impressive! We got only two results from Google, indicating that BBC.com first published the phrase “climate change” on 26 Jan 1999, as shown in the figure above.

You can further combine these Google dorks to align with your specific objectives.

## The Road Ahead

Practice, practice and practice.

To gain expertise in Google Dorking, hands-on practice is essential.

These operators can significantly enhance your online searches, allowing you to uncover specific information efficiently.

Stay tuned for my upcoming articles, where i will demonstrate advanced Google Dorking techniques specifically tailored for journalists and researchers.

Furthermore, I will share insights on how to use AI tools like ChatGPT for advanced Google Dorking, empowering you to enhance your search skills to the next level.

**Happy searching!**

Google Dork

Osint

Osint Investigation

Google Advanced Search

Cybersecurity

