AppleSearch Searching Tips (9/93)

Article Created: 20 September 1993

TOPIC ---

This article presents Boolean operators that help you refine search
requests in AppleSearch. The name Boolean is a mathematical term, used
here to describe document-searching and sorting logic. Boolean queries
use special qualifying words, called Boolean operators, to expand or
narrow the scope of your search. AppleSearch supports the full range
of Boolean operators: or, and, not, wild characters, and proximity
connectors. This article summarizes them.

DISCUSSION --

Please note that a search request is evaluated from left to right.
Here's a list of operators you can use in AppleSearch:

• The and operator
  This searches for articles that contain both search words separated
  by the operator "and".

• The or operator
  This searches for articles that contain either one or combinations of
  the search words. The "or" operator is the default operator between
  search words.

• The not operator
  This searches for articles that contain the search words preceding,
  "not". It ignores articles containing the search words following
  "not".

• The "*" (wild string) operator
  Wild string searching allows you to generate other possible search
  words by substituting the "*" with 0 or more text characters in order
  to form new words. You can insert the "*" anywhere in the search
  word to find articles that contain variations of the word with the
  "*". Example: Searching on Victor* will find words such as victor,
  victorian, victoria and victory.

• The "?" character
  Use the question mark to search for words that can be formed by
  substituting the question mark (?) with a letter. Example: Poe?s

finds poets or poems.

- Proximity (or adjacency) operators
  Proximity searching allows you to find important search terms when
  they are next to each other. You can use any of these operators:
  (-), (.), (,), ('), (adj). The "adj" operator requires spaces
  between the words.

  For example, the search string:

    AppleTalk adj Remote adj Access

  will give you all occurrences of AppleTalk Remote Access and won't
  return articles that contain only "appletalk" or "remote" or
  "access".

  You can further adjust the proximity of the search by specifying how
  close the search terms need to be to each other. To adjust the
  proximity of your search, use the W/n Boolean operator, where W means
  within and n equals the number of terms that exist between your
  search words. For example, the search string:

    Apple w/3 router

  finds a good selection of AppleTalk Internet Router articles.

- The "!" (word expansion) operator
  Word expansion allows you to search for words that frequently occur
  with your search word. By inserting the exclamation mark (!) after
  your search word, you instruct AppleSearch to find articles that
  contain the words that occur most often with the search word (the
  word preceding the exclamation mark). For example, the search:

    SCSI!

  will find articles containing words like device, SC, Small Computer
  Systems Interface, and so on.

- The () operator
  Enclosing a phrase in parentheses instructs AppleSearch to process
  the enclosed search words before evaluating those outside
  parentheses. It designates the precedence of searching as the phrase
  is evaluated from left to right.
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Keywords: SUPT

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19960215 11:05:19.00

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