



# Tech Info Library

## AppleSearch Searching Tips (9/93)

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Security: Everyone

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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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