Cheatography

Elasticsearch query string syntax Cheat Sheet

by jelle via cheatography.com/24807/cs/6261/

Field names

where "status" field contains "active"

```
status :active
```

"title" field contains "quick" or "brown". If you omit the OR operator the default operator will be used

```
title: (quick OR brown)
```

```
title: (quick brown)
```

where "author" field contains the exact phrase "john smith"

```
author :"John Smith"
```

where any of the fields "book.title", "book.content" or "book.date" contains quick or brown (note how we need to escape the "*" with a backslash

```
book.* :(quick brown)
```

where the field "title" has no value (or is missing):

```
_missi ng_ :title
```

where the field "title" has any non-null value:

```
_exist s_: title
```

Wildcards

Wildcard searches can be run on individual terms, using "?" to replace a single character, and "*" to replace zero or more characters

```
qu?ck bro*
```

note: wildcard queries can use an enormous amount of memory and perform very badly

Regular expressions

Regular expression patterns can be embedded in the query string by wrapping them in forward-slashes ("/")

```
name:/ joh ?n( ath [oa]n)/
```

Grouping

Multiple terms or clauses can be grouped together with parentheses, to form sub-queries:

```
(quick OR brown) AND fox
```

Groups can be used to target a particular field, or to boost the result of a sub-query:

```
status :(a ctive OR pending) title: (full text search )^2
```

Fuzziness

search for terms that are similar to, but not exactly like the used search terms, using the "fuzzy"' operator

```
quikc brwn foks~
```

The default edit distance is 2, but an edit distance of 1 should be sufficient to catch 80% of all human misspellings.

It can be specified as

```
quikc~1
```

Proximity searches

While a phrase query (eg "john smith") expects all of the terms in exactly the same order, a proximity query allows the specified words to be further apart or in a different order. A proximity search allows us to specify a maximum edit distance of words in a phrase:

```
"fox quick"~5
```

Ranges

Ranges can be specified for date, numeric or string fields. Inclusive ranges are specified with square brackets [min TO max] and exclusive ranges with curly brackets {min TO max}.

All days in 2012

```
date:[ 201 2-01-01 TO 2012-1 2-31]
```

Numbers 1..5

```
count:[1 TO 5]
```

Tags between alpha and omega, excluding alpha and omega

```
tag:{alpha TO omega}
```

Numbers from 10 upwards

```
count:[10 TO *]
```

Dates before 2012

```
date:{* TO 2012-0 1-01}
```

Numbers from 1 up to but not including 5

```
count:[1 TO 5}
```

Boolean operators

+ (this term must be present) and - (this term must not be present)

All other terms are optional

```
quick brown +fox -news
```

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