

## [MS-FQL2]:

# Fast Query Language Version 2 Protocol

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# 1 Introduction

The Fast Query Language (FQL) structure specifies a language for expressing search criteria.

Sections 1.7 and 2 of this specification are normative. All other sections and examples in this specification are informative.

## 1.1 Glossary

This document uses the following terms:

**Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF):** A modified version of Backus-Naur Form (BNF), commonly used by Internet specifications. ABNF notation balances compactness and simplicity with reasonable representational power. ABNF differs from standard BNF in its definitions and uses of naming rules, repetition, alternatives, order-independence, and value ranges. For more information, see [\[RFC5234\]](#).

**Coordinated Universal Time (UTC):** A high-precision atomic time standard that approximately tracks Universal Time (UT). It is the basis for legal, civil time all over the Earth. Time zones around the world are expressed as positive and negative offsets from UTC. In this role, it is also referred to as Zulu time (Z) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). In these specifications, all references to UTC refer to the time at UTC-0 (or GMT).

**default index:** The full-text index field that is used to evaluate search queries that do not specify a managed property or full-text index field.

**dynamic rank:** A rank component that indicates how well query text matches an indexed item. See also static rank.

**dynamic teaser:** See hit highlighted summary.

**internal property:** A predefined, searchable field that can appear in query results and cannot be modified by changing the configuration settings for managed properties.

**managed property:** A specific property that is part of a metadata schema. It can be exposed for use in search queries that are executed from the user interface.

**query processing:** In a search service application, a series of operations, such as applying synonym and stemming expansion rules to the query text, that are performed before a search query is executed against a search index.

**result set:** A list of records that results from running a stored procedure or query, or applying a filter. The structure and content of the data in a result set varies according to the implementation.

**search service application:** A shared service application that provides indexing and querying capabilities.

**stemming:** A type of query expansion that factors relationships between words by reducing inflected words to their stem form or expanding stems to their inflected forms. For example, the words "swimming" and "swam" can be associated with the stem "swim."

**token:** A word in an item or a search query that translates into a meaningful word or number in written text. A token is the smallest textual unit that can be matched in a search query. Examples include "cat", "AB14", or "42".

**UTF-8:** A byte-oriented standard for encoding Unicode characters, defined in the Unicode standard. Unless specified otherwise, this term refers to the UTF-8 encoding form specified in [\[UNICODE5.0.0/2007\]](#) section 3.9.

**MAY, SHOULD, MUST, SHOULD NOT, MUST NOT:** These terms (in all caps) are used as defined in [\[RFC2119\]](#). All statements of optional behavior use either MAY, SHOULD, or SHOULD NOT.

## 1.2 References

Links to a document in the Microsoft Open Specifications library point to the correct section in the most recently published version of the referenced document. However, because individual documents in the library are not updated at the same time, the section numbers in the documents may not match. You can confirm the correct section numbering by checking the [Errata](#).

### 1.2.1 Normative References

We conduct frequent surveys of the normative references to assure their continued availability. If you have any issue with finding a normative reference, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com). We will assist you in finding the relevant information.

[RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>

[RFC5234] Crocker, D., Ed., and Overell, P., "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF", STD 68, RFC 5234, January 2008, <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc5234.txt>

### 1.2.2 Informative References

[MS-KQL] Microsoft Corporation, "[Keyword Query Language Structure Protocol](#)".

[MS-SEARCH] Microsoft Corporation, "[Search Protocol](#)".

## 1.3 Overview

Application implementers use FQL to express criteria for searching. A typical scenario for using FQL is an application that enables users to search for items and browse results.

An FQL expression consists of search **tokens** and operators. A search token consists of a value or range of values to search for, and an operator specifies how to include, exclude, and rank the search results. Examples of operators include **and**, **andnot**, **or**, **not**, and **near**.

The **and** operator applies when the user wants items that match all operands.

A search query that uses the **andnot** operator returns items that match only the first operand, and it excludes items that match subsequent operands.

An **or** operator expression returns items that match any of the operands.

The **not** operator excludes items that match the operand.

The **near** operator matches items based on the proximity of indexed tokens that match the operands.

An FQL expression can just consist of either a single search token or a single operator expression. Many operators can also accept FQL expressions as operands, which permits FQL expressions to be nested.

## 1.4 Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures

The Search Protocol uses FQL as described in [\[MS-SEARCH\]](#).

An FQL string token supports a Keyword Query Language (KQL) mode as described in [\[MS-KQL\]](#).

## **1.5 Applicability Statement**

Application implementers use FQL for searches when they use the Search Protocol (as described in [\[MS-SEARCH\]](#)) if the Keyword Query Language (as described in [\[MS-KQL\]](#)) does not provide the capabilities that they need. FQL is not a search language for end users.

## **1.6 Versioning and Localization**

None.

## **1.7 Vendor-Extensible Fields**

None.

## 2 Structures

An FQL expression consists of search tokens and operators. A search token consists of a value or a range of values to search for, and an operator specifies how to include, exclude, or rank the search results.

The **query processing** component evaluates each token according to its type, which is expressed either implicitly or explicitly.

An operator **MUST** precede its operands. The operands **MUST** be comma-delimited and contained within parentheses. Where noted in the following subsections, operands can have named parameters that consist of a name and value separated by an equal sign.

Although FQL keywords are not case sensitive, lowercase is suggested for future compatibility. To be interpreted as a search token, a keyword **MUST** be contained within double quotation marks. Any word that is not a keyword **MUST** be interpreted as a search token.

The following list contains the FQL operators and keywords:

- **:**
- **and**
- **andnot**
- **any**
- **count**
- **datetime**
- **decimal**
- **ends-with**
- **equals**
- **filter**
- **float**
- **int**
- **max**
- **min**
- **near**
- **not**
- **onear**
- **or**
- **phrase**
- **range**
- **rank**
- **starts-with**



- **string**
- **words**
- **xrank**

Unless an FQL expression is qualified with the **:** operator as specified in section [2.1.1](#), the **search service application** MUST search the **default index**.

The structure of an FQL expression corresponds to the following rules, which themselves conform to **Augmented Backus-Naur Form (ABNF)** as specified in [\[RFC5234\]](#).

```
fql-expression = (operator-expression / paren-expression / token)

operator-expression = [in-expression] (and / andnot / any / or / words
    / rank / xrank / near / onear / not / equals / filter / starts-with
    / ends-with / count)

paren-expression = [in-expression] "(" fql-expression ")"

token = [in-expression] (datetime-token / decimal-token / float-token
    / int-token / phrase-token / range-token / string-token)

; Operator expressions
and = "and" "(" multiple-fql-params ")"
andnot = "andnot" "(" multiple-fql-params ")"
any = "any" "(" multiple-fql-params ")"
or = "or" "(" multiple-fql-params ")"
words = "words" "(" multiple-fql-params ")"

rank = "rank" "(" rank-param *("," rank-param) ")"
rank-param = fql-expression

xrank = "xrank" "(" xrank-param *("," xrank-param) ")"
xrank-param = ("pb" "=" float-value)
    / ("rb" "=" float-value)
    / ("cb" "=" float-value)
    / ("avgb" "=" float-value)
    / ("stdb" "=" float-value)
    / ("nb" "=" float-value)
    / ("n" "=" integer-value)
    / ("boost" "=" integer-value)
    / ("boostall" "=" yesno-value)
    / fql-expression

near = "near" "(" near-param *("," near-param) ")"
near-param = ("N" "=" token-distance) / fql-expression

onear = "onear" "(" onear-param *("," onear-param) ")"
onear-param = ("N" "=" token-distance) / fql-expression

not = "not" "(" fql-expression ")"

count = "count" "(" token
    1*("," ("from" "=" int-token) / ("to" "=" int-token)) ")"

equals = "equals" "("
    [in-expression] (string-token / phrase-token) ")"
starts-with = "starts-with" "("
    [in-expression] (string-token / phrase-token) ")"
ends-with = "ends-with" "("
    [in-expression] (string-token / phrase-token) ")"
filter = "filter" "(" fql-expression ")"

; Token operator expressions
phrase-token = "phrase" "(" phrase-token-param
    *("," phrase-token-param) ")"
phrase-token-param = ("weight" "=" unsigned-integer-value)
```

```

    / ("linguistics" "=" onoff-value)
    / ("wildcard" "=" onoff-value)
    / token

string-token = explicit-string-token / implicit-string-token
explicit-string-token = "string" "(" string-token-param
    *(", " string-token-param) ")"
string-token-param = ("mode" "=" mode-value)
    / ("N" "=" token-distance)
    / ("weight" "=" integer-value)
    / ("linguistics" "=" onoff-value)
    / ("wildcard" "=" onoff-value)
    / token
implicit-string-token = string-value

float-token = explicit-float-token / implicit-float-token
explicit-float-token = "float" "(" (float-value
    / (DQUOTE float-value DQUOTE) / "min" / "max") ")"
implicit-float-token = float-value

int-token = explicit-int-token / implicit-int-token
explicit-int-token = "int" "(" (integer-value
    / (DQUOTE integer-value DQUOTE) / "min" / "max"
    / (DQUOTE integer-value *(SP integer-value) DQUOTE ", " numeric-or-mode)
    / (numeric-or-mode ", " DQUOTE integer-value *(SP integer-value) DQUOTE)
    ")"
implicit-int-token = integer-value

datetime-token = explicit-datetime-token / implicit-datetime-token
explicit-datetime-token = "datetime" "(" (datetime-value
    / (DQUOTE datetime-value DQUOTE) / "min" / "max") ")"
implicit-datetime-token = datetime-value

decimal-token = explicit-decimal-token / implicit-decimal-token
explicit-decimal-token = "decimal" "(" (decimal-value
    / (DQUOTE decimal-value DQUOTE) / "min" / "max") ")"
implicit-decimal-token = decimal-value

range-token = "range" "(" range-token-param *(", " range-token-param)
    ")"
range-token-param = ("from" "=" from-condition)
    / ("to" "=" to-condition)
    / range-limit
range-limit = datetime-token / float-token / int-token
    / "min" / "max"
from-condition = unquoted-from-condition
    / (DQUOTE unquoted-from-condition DQUOTE)
unquoted-from-condition = "GE" / "GT"
to-condition = unquoted-to-condition
    / (DQUOTE unquoted-to-condition DQUOTE)
unquoted-to-condition = "LE" / "LT"

; Data types
string-value = quoted-string-value / unquoted-string-value

; <quoted-string-value> can contain any characters
; (including wide characters) that are not control
; characters, except for backslash and double quotation marks
quoted-string-value = DQUOTE 1*(quoted-escaped-character
    / %x20-21 / %x23-5b / %x5d-ffffff) DQUOTE
quoted-escaped-character =
    quoted-escaped-backslash
    / quoted-escaped-newline
    / quoted-escaped-carriage-return
    / quoted-escaped-tab
    / quoted-escaped-backspace
    / quoted-escaped-form-feed
    / quoted-escaped-double-quote
    / quoted-escaped-single-quote

```

```

quoted-escaped-backslash = "\\\"
quoted-escaped-newline = "\n\"
quoted-escaped-carriage-return = "\r\"
quoted-escaped-tab = "\t\"
quoted-escaped-backspace = "\b\"
quoted-escaped-form-feed = "\f\"
quoted-escaped-double-quote = "\" DQUOTE
quoted-escaped-single-quote = "'"

; <unquoted-string-value> can contain any characters (including wide
; characters) that are not control characters, except for spaces, commas,
; double quotation marks, parentheses, colons, and equals signs.
unquoted-string-value =
    1*(%x21 / %x23-27 / %x2a-2b / %x2d-39 / %x3b-3c / %x3e-ffffff)
integer-value = ["-" / "+"] 1*DIGIT
unsigned-integer-value = 1*DIGIT
float-value = ["-" / "+"] (*DIGIT "." 1*DIGIT) / 1*DIGIT
decimal-value = float-value ["m" / "M"]

datetime-value = year "-" month "-" day
    ["T" hour ":" minute ":" second [ "." fraction] ["Z"]]
year = 4DIGIT ; four-digit year
month = ("0" DIGIT) ; two-digit month (00-09)
    / ("1" %x30-32) ; two digit month (10-12)
day = (%x30-32 DIGIT) ; two-digit day (00-29)
    / ("3" %x30-31) ; two-digit day (30-31)
hour = (%x30-31 DIGIT) ; two-digit hour (00-19)
    / ("2" %x30-33) ; two-digit hour (20-23)
minute = (%x30-35 DIGIT) ; two-digit minute (00-59)
second = (%x30-35 DIGIT) ; two-digit second (00-59)
fraction = 1*7DIGIT ; 1-7 digit second fractions

yesno-value = quoted-yesno-value / unquoted-yesno-value
quoted-yesno-value = DQUOTE unquoted-yesno-value DQUOTE
unquoted-yesno-value = "YES" / "NO"

onoff-value = quoted-onoff-value / unquoted-onoff-value
quoted-onoff-value = DQUOTE unquoted-onoff-value DQUOTE
unquoted-onoff-value = "ON" / "OFF"

; <mode-value> MUST be inside double quotation marks.
mode-value = DQUOTE ("PHRASE" / "AND" / "OR" / "ANY" / "NEAR"
    / "ONEAR" / "SIMPLEANY" / "SIMPLEALL" / "KQL") DQUOTE

; General syntax elements
in-expression = ((internal-property-name / property-name) ":")
    / (DQUOTE (internal-property-name / property-name) DQUOTE ":")
numeric-or-mode = "mode" "=" DQUOTE "OR" DQUOTE
token-distance = unsigned-integer-value
internal-property-name = property-name "." property-name
property-name = 1*(ALPHA / DIGIT)
multiple-fql-params = fql-expression 1*( "," fql-expression)

```

For readability, the preceding rules assume that no extra white space exists in the FQL expression. However, FQL does permit white space to immediately precede and follow parentheses, commas, operators, keywords, and tokens.

Also, although ABNF [RFC5234] does not explicitly support any encoding other than US-ASCII, the **quoted-string-value** and **unquoted-string-value** elements support wide character values that have **UTF-8** encoding.

## 2.1 Operators

### 2.1.1 : Operator

The **:** operator functions as an "in" operator. The name of a **managed property** or an **internal property** MUST precede the **:** operator, and an operator expression, a **token**, or a parenthetical expression MUST follow the **:** operator. The **:** operator specifies that the subsequent operator expression, token, or parenthetical expression MUST match the specified managed property or internal property (unless another **:** operator overrides that **:** operator). An **:"** operator is overridden if one of the subsequent operators is another **:"** operator with a different managed property or internal property preceding the **:"** operator.

### 2.1.2 and Operator

The **and** operator MUST specify two or more FQL expression operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match all of the operands.

### 2.1.3 andnot Operator

The **andnot** operator MUST specify two or more FQL expression operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match the first operand but MUST NOT match any of the subsequent operands.

### 2.1.4 any Operator

The **any** operator is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is not recommended for use. Use the **words** (section [2.1.15](#)) operator instead. The **any** operator MUST be mapped to the **or** operator.

The **any** operator MUST specify two or more FQL expression operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match at least one of the operands.

### 2.1.5 count Operator

The **count** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a string **token** or phrase token to be matched. In addition, one or both of the named parameters *from* and *to* MUST be specified.

The value of the *from* named parameter MUST be a positive integer that specifies the inclusive minimum number of times that the specified string token or phrase token MUST be matched. If the *from* parameter is not specified, no lower limit will exist.

The value of the *to* named parameter MUST be a positive integer that specifies the non-inclusive maximum number of times that the specified string token or phrase token MUST be matched. For example, a *to* value of 11 specifies 10 times or fewer. If the *to* parameter is not specified, no upper limit will exist.

### 2.1.6 ends-with Operator

The **ends-with** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a string **token** or a phrase token. The **ends-with** operator MUST match only **managed properties** that end with the specified string token or phrase token.

### 2.1.7 equals Operator

The **equals** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a string **token** or a phrase token. The **equals** operator MUST match only **managed properties** that contain the specified string token or phrase token and that do not contain any extra indexed tokens.

### 2.1.8 filter Operator

The **filter** operator MUST specify exactly one operand. The **filter** operator is for querying metadata or other structured data.

When a query processing component evaluates the **filter** operator, the following applies for the **filter** operand (but not any part of the query outside the **filter** operator):

- The linguistic features MUST be off by default.
- Ranking MUST be disabled.
- Highlighting MUST NOT be applied to the **dynamic teaser**.

Linguistic features can be explicitly enabled for tokens in a **filter** operand, see the *linguistics* named parameter specified in section [2.1.17.5](#) and section [2.1.17.7](#). Linguistic features are features used to improve search relevancy, like lemmatization, synonyms, and spell checking.

### 2.1.9 near Operator

The **near** operator MUST specify two or more operands, which in turn MUST each specify an expression to be matched.

If the *N* named parameter is specified, it specifies the maximum number of interspersed, unmatched, indexed tokens. If *N* is not specified, the maximum number is set to 4.

To match the operands of the **near** operator, the **managed property** MUST match all of the specified expressions, with no more than the specified number of interspersed, unmatched, indexed **tokens**.

The following MUST be accepted as legal operands of the **near** operator:

- **string** token operator (section [2.1.17.7](#)) expression
- **phrase** token operator (section [2.1.17.5](#)) expression
- **any** operator (section [2.1.4](#)) expression
- **or** operator (section [2.1.12](#)) expression
- **near** operator (section 2.1.9) expression
- **words** operator (section [2.1.15](#)) expression

Other expressions MUST NOT be accepted as legal operands.

If two operands match the same indexed token, the matches MUST be considered near each other.

### 2.1.10 not Operator

The **not** operator MUST specify exactly one FQL expression operand. To be returned as a match, an item MUST NOT match the operand.

### 2.1.11 onear Operator

The **onear** (ordered near) operator functions in the same way that the **near** operator does (as specified in section [2.1.9](#)), except that each operand MUST match the searched items in the specified order.

For example, an **onear** operation on the string **tokens** "string1" and "string2" with the parameter *N* (token distance) set to 1 matches "string1 string2", but does not match "string2 string1".

### 2.1.12 or Operator

The **or** operator MUST specify two or more FQL expression operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match at least one of the operands. Each matching operand SHOULD increase the item's **dynamic rank**. The degree of increase is implementation-specific.

### 2.1.13 rank Operator

The **rank** operator is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is not recommended for use. Use the **xrank** (section [2.1.16](#)) operator instead. The rank operator MUST be ignored.

### 2.1.14 starts-with Operator

The **starts-with** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a string **token** or phrase token to be matched. The **starts-with** operator MUST match only **managed properties** that start with the specified string token or phrase token.

### 2.1.15 words Operator

The **words** operator MUST specify two or more string or phrase **token** operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match at least one of the operands. The **words** operator differs from the **or** (section [2.1.12](#)) operator in the way results are ranked, and for **words** the operands are treated as synonyms.

### 2.1.16 xrank Operator

The **xrank** operator allows dynamic control over ranking. It boosts the **dynamic rank** of items based on certain term occurrences without changing which items match the query.

An **xrank** expression MUST contain one expression operand to be matched (called the match expression), and zero or more expression operands (called rank expressions) that contribute only to dynamic rank and MUST NOT affect which items are returned as matches. Each matching rank expression will add a boost value to the item's total rank. If no rank expression is explicitly provided, then the match expression will implicitly be used as the rank expression.

The named parameters in the following table are valid with the **xrank** operator:

Named parameter	Default value	Description
<i>cb</i>	0	Specifies the constant boost, corresponds to <i>a</i> in the <b>xrank</b> formula (see section <a href="#">2.1.16.1</a> ).
<i>rb</i>	0	Specifies the range boost, which corresponds to <i>b</i> in the <b>xrank</b> formula. This factor is multiplied with the range of rank values in the <b>result set</b> .

Named parameter	Default value	Description
<i>pb</i>	0	Specifies the percentage boost, which corresponds to <i>c</i> in the <b>xrank</b> formula. This factor is multiplied with the item's own rank compared to the minimum value in the result set.
<i>avgb</i>	0	Specifies the average boost, which corresponds to <i>d</i> in the <b>xrank</b> formula. This factor is multiplied with the average rank value of the result set.
<i>stdb</i>	0	Standard deviation boost, which corresponds to <i>e</i> in the <b>xrank</b> formula. This factor is multiplied with the standard deviation of the rank values of the result set.
<i>nb</i>	0	Normalized boost, which corresponds to <i>f</i> in the <b>xrank</b> formula. This factor is multiplied with the product of the variance and average score of the rank values of the result set.
<i>n</i>	0	Number of results from which to compute statistics. This parameter does not affect the number of results to which the xrank contributes; it is just a means to exclude "irrelevant" documents from the statistics calculations.

If an **xrank** operator expression is using the current syntax, at least one of the parameters *cb*, *rb*, *pb*, *avgb*, *stdb*, or *nb* MUST be specified.

If an **xrank** operator expression is using the legacy syntax, the parameters *cb*, *rb*, *pb*, *avgb*, *stdb*, and *nb* MUST NOT be specified.

### 2.1.16.1 xrank Formula

The following formula is used for calculating rank values:

$$r_i = a + b \cdot (max - min) + c \cdot (r_i - min) + d \cdot \bar{x} + e \cdot \sigma + f \cdot \frac{\bar{x} \cdot \sigma^2}{x^2}$$

Where the following holds:

- $r_i$  is the rank value of the  $i^{\text{th}}$  hit
- *max* is the maximum rank value among hits
- *min* is the minimum rank value among hits
- $\bar{x}$  is the average rank value of the hits
- $\sigma$  is the square root of the variance of the rank values
- $x^2$  is the average of the squared rank values
- a, b, c, d, e and f are the XRANK parameters

### 2.1.16.2 xrank Legacy Syntax

The **xrank** operator has legacy syntax. This legacy syntax SHOULD be supported as well as the new syntax.

The named parameters in the following table are used in the legacy **xrank** syntax. They are deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is recommended to not use the legacy named parameters. These parameters MUST NOT be used in combination with the parameters for the current syntax (see the table of named parameters in section [2.1.16](#)).

Named parameter	Default value	Description
<i>boost</i>	100	This value SHOULD be directly mapped to <i>cb</i> , the constant boost. Mapping is a data type conversion from integer to float, and no normalization is applied. Normalization here means normalizing a floating-point number to a number that is expressed in exponential notation.
<i>boostall</i>	"no"	This value SHOULD be ignored.

If no named parameter is specified for the **xrank** operator, then the query SHOULD be handled as according to the legacy syntax with *boost* having the default value 100.

## 2.1.17 Token Operators

### 2.1.17.1 datetime Token Operator

The **datetime token** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a token value. The token value MUST be a valid **datetime-value** as specified by the **ABNF** rules in section [2](#).

The **datetime** token operator MUST be assumed for any valid **datetime-value** that is not enclosed in double quotation marks.

Every **datetime-value** MUST be specified according to **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)**.

### 2.1.17.2 decimal Token Operator

The **decimal token** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a token value.

The **decimal** token operator MUST be assumed for numeric text (a valid **decimal-value**) that has the "m" or "M" suffix, unless that text is enclosed in double quotation marks.

### 2.1.17.3 float Token Operator

The **float token** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a token value.

The **float** token operator MUST be assumed for numeric text (a valid **float-value**) that contains a decimal point, unless that text is enclosed in double quotation marks.

### 2.1.17.4 int Token Operator

The **int token** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a token value.

If the *mode* named parameter is specified and equals the value "OR", the token value MUST be a space-delimited list of token values that are enclosed in double quotation marks and MUST be evaluated as if the values were operands for an **or** (section [2.1.12](#)) operator.

The **int** token operator MUST be assumed for numeric text (a valid **integer-value**) that is not enclosed in double quotation marks, unless that text contains a decimal point.

### 2.1.17.5 phrase Token Operator

The **phrase token** operator MUST specify one or more string token operands.



The **phrase** operator MUST match items that contain indexed tokens that match the operands, uninterrupted and in the exact order in which they are specified.

The **phrase** operator supports the *weight*, *linguistics*, and *wildcard* named parameters as specified in section [2.1.17.7](#).

### 2.1.17.6 range Token Operator

The **range token** operator MUST specify two numeric operands of the same type (**float**, **int**, or **datetime**). The first operand specifies the range start, and the second operand specifies the range end. If the **range** operator is used to query for a **managed property** (using the **:** operator (section [2.1.1](#))), the managed property MUST be of a compatible type.

The named parameters in the following table are valid with the **range** operator.

Named parameter	Default value	Description
<i>from</i>	"GE"	Specifies the condition for evaluating the <i>start</i> operand.
<i>to</i>	"LT"	Specifies the condition for evaluating the <i>end</i> operand.

The values in the following table are valid for the *from* named parameter.

Value	Description
"GE"	Specifies that matching values MUST be greater than or equal to the value of the <i>start</i> operand.
"GT"	Specifies that matching values MUST be greater than the value of the <i>start</i> operand.

The values in the following table are valid for the *to* named parameter.

Value	Description
"LE"	Specifies that matching values MUST be less than or equal to the value of the <i>end</i> operand.
"LT"	Specifies that matching values MUST be less than the value of the <i>end</i> operand.

### 2.1.17.7 string Token Operator

The **string token** operator MUST specify exactly one operand, which in turn MUST specify a token value. The operand is case insensitive. That is, a query processing component MUST ignore case when it compares the operand to the searched items.

If the operand is numeric, it MUST be converted to a string and evaluated as such.

The **string** token operator MUST be assumed for text that is not enclosed in double quotation marks, unless that text is a keyword or contains another explicit token operator. The **string** token operator MUST be assumed for all text that is enclosed in double quotation marks.

The named parameters in the following table are valid with the **string** token operator.

Named parameter	Default value	Description
<i>mode</i>	"PHRASE"	Specifies how the <i>text</i> operand MUST be evaluated. The value of the <i>mode</i> named parameter MUST be enclosed within double quotation marks.
<i>N</i>	4	This parameter is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is recommended not to use it. The parameter MUST be ignored.
<i>weight</i>	100	Specifies a positive integer, which in turn specifies the relative weight of the <b>dynamic rank</b> of this string token.
<i>linguistics</i>	"ON"	Specifies whether linguistic features will be enabled when a query processing component evaluates the string.
<i>wildcard</i>	"ON"	Specifies whether to support wildcards in the string.

The values in the following table are valid for the *mode* named parameter.

Value	Description
"PHRASE"	Specifies that the text MUST be evaluated as a phrase. Using this value is equivalent to using the <b>phrase</b> (section <a href="#">2.1.17.5</a> ) operator.
"AND"	Specifies that the text MUST be evaluated as a list of tokens provided to the <b>and</b> (section <a href="#">2.1.2</a> ) operator.
"OR"	Specifies that the text MUST be evaluated as a list of tokens provided to the <b>or</b> (section <a href="#">2.1.12</a> ) operator.
"ANY"	Specifies that the text MUST be evaluated as a list of tokens provided to the <b>any</b> (section <a href="#">2.1.4</a> ) operator.
"KQL"	Specifies that the text MUST be evaluated as a query according to the KQL syntax as described in <a href="#">[MS-KQL]</a> .
"NEAR"	This mode is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is not recommended for use; use the <b>near</b> (section <a href="#">2.1.9</a> ) operator explicitly instead. This value MUST be mapped to the "AND" mode.
"ONEAR"	This mode is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is not recommended for use; use the <b>onear</b> (section <a href="#">2.1.11</a> ) operator explicitly instead. This value MUST be mapped to the "AND" mode.
"SIMPLEALL"	This mode is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is not recommended for use; use the "KQL" mode instead. This value MUST be mapped to the "KQL" mode.
"SIMPLEANY"	This mode is deprecated, and could be removed in a future version of this specification. It is not recommended for use; use the "KQL" mode instead. This value MUST be mapped to the "KQL" mode.

The values in the following table are valid for the *linguistics* named parameter.

Value	Description
"ON"	Specifies that linguistic features MUST be applied.
"OFF"	Specifies that linguistic features MUST NOT be applied.

The values in the following table are valid for the *wildcard* named parameter.

Value	Description
"ON"	Specifies that the character "*" MUST be evaluated as a wildcard. A "*" character matches zero or more characters. Prefix searching (a "*" at the end of the string token) MUST be supported, infix and suffix searching MAY be supported.
"OFF"	Specifies that the character "*" MUST NOT be evaluated as a wildcard.

The escaped strings in the following table are valid within quoted strings to represent reserved characters.

Escaped string	Hexadecimal character code	Description
\\	5C	Backslash.
\n	0A	Line feed or newline.
\r	0D	Carriage return.
\t	09	Tab.
\b	08	Backspace.
\f	0C	Form feed.
\"	22	Double quotation mark.
\'	27	Single quotation mark or apostrophe.

## 2.2 Keywords

### 2.2.1 max Keyword

When specified as a **range** operand in place of a numeric value, the **max** keyword MUST represent the maximum value for the expected type.

When specified as an operand for the **datetime** (section [2.1.17.1](#)), **decimal** (section [2.1.17.2](#)), **float** (section [2.1.17.3](#)), or **int** (section [2.1.17.4](#)) token operators, the **max** keyword MUST represent the maximum value for the given operator.

### 2.2.2 min Keyword

When specified as a **range** operand in place of a numeric value, the **min** keyword MUST represent the minimum value for the expected type.

When specified as an operand for the **datetime** (section [2.1.17.1](#)), **decimal** (section [2.1.17.2](#)), **float** (section [2.1.17.3](#)), or **int** (section [2.1.17.4](#)) token operator, the **min** keyword MUST represent the minimum value for the given operator.

## 3 Structure Examples

### 3.1 Operators

#### 3.1.1 : Operator

Each of the following expressions matches items that have both "much" and "nothing" in the title **managed property**.

```
title:and(much, nothing)
and(title:much, title:nothing)
title:string("much nothing", mode="and")
```

#### 3.1.2 and Operator

The following expression matches items for which the **default index** contains "cat", "dog", and "fox".

```
and(cat, dog, fox)
```

#### 3.1.3 andnot Operator

The following expression matches items for which the **default index** contains "cat" but not "dog".

```
andnot(cat, dog)
```

The following expression matches items for which the default index contains "dog" but neither "beagle" nor "chihuahua".

```
andnot(dog, beagle, chihuahua)
```

#### 3.1.4 any Operator

The following expression matches items for which the **default index** contains "cat" or "dog".

```
any(cat, dog)
```

#### 3.1.5 count Operator

The following expression matches at least 5 occurrences of the word "cat".

```
count(cat, from=5)
```

The following expression matches at least 5 but not 10 or more occurrences of the word "cat".

```
count(cat, from=5, to=10)
```

### 3.1.6 ends-with Operator

The following expression matches all the items for which the **title managed property** ends with "Odyssey".

```
title:ends-with("Odyssey")
```

### 3.1.7 equals Operator

The following expression matches all the items for which the **title managed property** is "The Iliad" and for which no extra indexed **tokens** exist.

```
title>equals("The Iliad")
```

### 3.1.8 filter Operator

The following expression matches items that have a **title managed property** that contains "sonata" and a **doctype** managed property that contains only the **token** "audio".

```
and(title:sonata, filter(doctype>equals("audio")))
```

For the preceding expression, no linguistic processing will be performed on "audio". And because the **filter** operator will be used to match "audio", that text will not be highlighted in the **dynamic teaser**.

### 3.1.9 near Operator

The following expression matches strings that contain both "cat" and "dog" as long as no more than four (the default number) indexed **tokens** separate them.

```
near(cat, dog)
```

The following expression matches strings that contain "cat", "dog", "fox", and "wolf" as long as no more than four indexed tokens separate them.

```
near(cat, dog, fox, wolf)
```

The following table contains examples of **managed property** string values and states whether they match the preceding expression.

Match?	Text
Yes	The picture shows a cat, a dog, a fox, and a wolf.
Yes (with <b>stemming</b> )	Dogs, foxes, and wolves are canines, but cats are felines.
No	The picture shows a cat with a dog, a fox, and a wolf.

The following expression matches all the strings in the preceding table.

```
near(cat, dog, fox, wolf, N=5)
```

If multiple operands of the **near** operator match the same indexed token, they are considered near each other. For example, the following expression matches a managed property that contains only the indexed token "clarinet" because both "cl\*" and "clarinet" match and are considered near each other, even though both search tokens match the same indexed token. The search token "cl\*" is evaluated through wildcards as specified in section [2.1.17.7](#).

```
near("cl*", "clarinet")
```

### 3.1.10 not Operator

The following expression matches items that do not contain "aardvark".

```
not(aardvark)
```

### 3.1.11 onear Operator

The following expression matches every occurrence of the word "cat" that appears before the word "dog", as long as no more than four (the default number) indexed **tokens** separate them.

```
onear(cat, dog)
```

The following expression matches all the occurrences of the words "cat", "dog", "fox", and "wolf" that appear in order, as long as no more than four indexed tokens separate them.

```
onear(cat, dog, fox, wolf)
```

The following table contains examples of **managed property** string values and states whether they match the preceding expression.

Match?	Text
Yes	The picture shows a cat, a dog, a fox, and a wolf.
No	Dogs, foxes, and wolves are canines, but cats are felines.
No	The picture shows a cat with a dog, a fox, and a wolf.

The following expression matches (with **stemming**) the text in the second row of the preceding table.

```
onear(dog, fox, wolf, cat, N=5)
```

The following expression matches the text in the first and third rows of the preceding table.

```
onear(cat, dog, fox, wolf, N=5)
```

### 3.1.12 or Operator

The following expression matches all the items for which the **default index** contains either "cat" or "dog".

```
or(cat, dog)
```

If an item's default index contains both "cat" and "dog", it will match and have a higher **dynamic rank** than it would if it contained only one of the **tokens**.

### 3.1.13 rank Operator

The **rank** operator is deprecated. The following expression and any other **rank** expressions will be ignored.

```
rank(dog, cat)  
)
```

### 3.1.14 starts-with Operator

The following expression matches items for which the **title managed property** begins with "Yet another".

```
title:starts-with("Yet another")
```

### 3.1.15 words Operator

The following expression matches all the items for which the **default index** contains either "TV" or "television".

```
words(TV, television)
```

When using the **words** operator, the terms "TV" and "television" are treated as synonyms instead of separate terms. Therefore, instances of either term are ranked as if they were the same term.

### 3.1.16 xrank Operator

The following expression matches items for which the **default index** contains "cat" or "dog". The expression boosts the **dynamic rank** of those items that also contains "thoroughbred". The constant boost is set to 100.

```
xrank(or(cat, dog), thoroughbred, cb=100)
```

The following expression matches items for which the default index contains "cat" or "dog". The expression boosts the dynamic rank of those items that also contains "thoroughbred". The normalized boost is set to 1.5.

```
xrank(or(cat, dog), thoroughbred, nb=1.5)
```

#### 3.1.16.1 xrank Legacy Syntax

The following expression matches items for which the **default index** contains "cat" or "dog". The expression boosts the **dynamic rank** of those items that also contains "thoroughbred". The constant boost is set to 100.

```
xrank(or(cat, dog), thoroughbred)
```

The following expression matches items for which the default index contains "cat" or "dog". The expression boosts the dynamic rank of those items that contain "thoroughbred" by setting constant boost to 500. The named parameter *boostall* is ignored.

```
xrank(or(cat, dog), thoroughbred, boost=500, boostall=yes)
```

### 3.1.17 Token Operator

#### 3.1.17.1 datetime Token Operator

Each of the following expressions consists of an implicit **datetime token**.

```
2008-01-29
2008-01-29T03:37:19
2008-01-29T03:37:19Z
2008-01-29T03:37:19.1Z
2008-01-29T03:37:19.1234567Z
```

Each of the following expressions consists of an explicit **datetime** token.

```
datetime(2008-01-29)
datetime("2008-01-29T03:37:19")
datetime(2008-01-29T03:37:19Z)
```

#### 3.1.17.2 decimal Token Operator

Each of the following expressions consists of an implicit **decimal token**.

```
5m
6.0398m
```

Each of the following expressions consists of an explicit **decimal** token.

```
decimal(5)
decimal(6.0398)
```

#### 3.1.17.3 float Token Operator

The following expression consists of an implicit **float token**.

```
2.718281
```

The following expression consists of an explicit **float** token.

```
float("3.14159265358979")
```



### 3.1.17.4 int Token Operator

Each of the following expressions consists of an implicit **int token**.

```
360
-25
```

Each of the following expressions consists of an explicit **int** token.

```
int(360)
int(-25)
```

The following expression matches items that have an **authorid managed property** of type integer equal to 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

```
authorid:int("1 3 5 7 9", mode="OR")
```

### 3.1.17.5 phrase Token Operator

The following expression matches items that contain the phrase "to sleep perchance to dream".

```
phrase(to, sleep, perchance, to, dream)
```

### 3.1.17.6 range Token Operator

The following expression matches items for which the **size managed property** is greater than or equal to 0 and less than 100 (note that a value of 100 will not match).

```
size:range(0, 100)
```

The following expression matches items for which the **size** managed property is greater than 0 and less than or equal to 25 (note that a value of 0 will not match).

```
size:range(0, 25, from="GT", to="LE")
```

The following expression matches items for which the **size** managed property is less than 500.

```
size:range(min, 500, to="LT")
```

### 3.1.17.7 string Token Operator

Each of the following expressions consists of an implicit string **token**.

```
potato
"to be or not to be"
"and"
"100"
"3.14159265358979"
"2005-12-31"
```

The following expression consists of an explicit string token.

```
string("sigh no more")
```

Because the default *mode* value is "PHRASE", each of the following expressions yields the same results.

```
"what light through yonder window breaks"  
string("what light through yonder window breaks")  
string("what light through yonder window breaks", mode="phrase")  
phrase(what, light, through, yonder, window, breaks)
```

The following string token expression and **and** operator expression yield the same results.

```
string("cat dog fox", mode="and")  
and(cat, dog, fox)
```

The following string token expression and **or** operator expression yield the same results.

```
string("coyote saguaro", mode="or")  
or(coyote, saguaro)
```

The following string token expression matches "cat", "calculator", "calendar", and any other indexed token that begins with "ca" because the "\*" character at the end of the token is evaluated as a wildcard as specified in section [2.1.17.7](#).

```
string("ca*")
```

The following string token expression matches "ca\*" without the evaluation of "\*" as a wildcard character.

```
string("ca*", wildcard="off")
```

The following string token expression matches the word "nobler" with linguistic features disabled, so other forms of the word (such as "ennobling") are not matched by means of **stemming**.

```
string("nobler", linguistics="off")
```

The following expression matches items that contain "cat" or "dog", but the expression increases the **dynamic rank** of items that contain "dog" more than items that contain "cat".

```
or(string("cat", weight=200), string("dog", weight=500))
```

## 3.2 Keywords

### 3.2.1 max Keyword

The following expression matches items for which the **size managed property** is greater than or equal to 100 but less than the maximum value.

```
size:range(100, max)
```

The following expression represents the maximum integer value.

```
int(max)
```

### 3.2.2 min Keyword

The following expression matches items for which the **size managed property** is less than 10.

```
size:range(min, 10)
```

The following expression represents the minimum integer value.

```
int(min)
```

## **4 Security**

### **4.1 Security Considerations for Implementers**

None.

### **4.2 Index of Security Fields**

None.

## 5 Appendix A: Product Behavior

The information in this specification is applicable to the following Microsoft products or supplemental software. References to product versions include updates to those products.

- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2013
- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2016
- Microsoft SharePoint Server 2019
- Microsoft SharePoint Server Subscription Edition

Exceptions, if any, are noted in this section. If an update version, service pack or Knowledge Base (KB) number appears with a product name, the behavior changed in that update. The new behavior also applies to subsequent updates unless otherwise specified. If a product edition appears with the product version, behavior is different in that product edition.

Unless otherwise specified, any statement of optional behavior in this specification that is prescribed using the terms "SHOULD" or "SHOULD NOT" implies product behavior in accordance with the SHOULD or SHOULD NOT prescription. Unless otherwise specified, the term "MAY" implies that the product does not follow the prescription.

## 6 Change Tracking

This section identifies changes that were made to this document since the last release. Changes are classified as Major, Minor, or None.

The revision class **Major** means that the technical content in the document was significantly revised. Major changes affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of major changes are:

- A document revision that incorporates changes to interoperability requirements.
- A document revision that captures changes to protocol functionality.

The revision class **Minor** means that the meaning of the technical content was clarified. Minor changes do not affect protocol interoperability or implementation. Examples of minor changes are updates to clarify ambiguity at the sentence, paragraph, or table level.

The revision class **None** means that no new technical changes were introduced. Minor editorial and formatting changes may have been made, but the relevant technical content is identical to the last released version.

The changes made to this document are listed in the following table. For more information, please contact [dochelp@microsoft.com](mailto:dochelp@microsoft.com).

Section	Description	Revision class
<a href="#">5</a> Appendix A: Product Behavior	Updated list of supported products.	Major

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