[MS-KQL]:

Keyword Query Language Structure Protocol

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Table of Contents

1 Introduction

This document specifies the structure of the Keyword Query Language (KQL). KQL is 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].

Boolean: An operation or expression that can be evaluated only as either true or false.

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).

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

item: A unit of content that can be indexed and searched by a search application.

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.

metadata schema: A schema that is used to manage information about an item.

query text: The textual, string portion of a query.

rank: An integer that represents the relevance of a specific item for a search query. It can be a combination of static rank and dynamic rank. See also static rank and **dynamic rank**.

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.

time zone: A geographical area that observes the same local time. The local time has a positive, zero, or negative offset from **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)**. The offset can be different during standard time and daylight saving time.

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".

Unicode: A character encoding standard developed by the Unicode Consortium that represents almost all of the written languages of the world. The **Unicode** standard [UNICODE5.0.0/2007] provides three forms (UTF-8, UTF-16, and UTF-32) and seven schemes (UTF-8, UTF-16, UTF-16 BE, UTF-16 LE, UTF-32, UTF-32 LE, and UTF-32 BE).

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. 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-FQL2] Microsoft Corporation, "Fast Query Language Version 2 Protocol".

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

1.3   Overview

Application implementers and end users use KQL to express criteria for searching. A typical scenario for using KQL is an application that enables users to search for **item**s and browse through results.

KQL specifies a syntax for search queries that enables users and application implementers to formulate search queries in a structure that resembles natural language and at the same time allows the specification of **Boolean** matching rules on text and properties of the searched items.

A KQL expression consists of search **token**s, operators, and property restrictions. A search token consists of a value or a range of values to search for, and an operator specifies how to include, exclude, and **rank** the search results. Examples of operators include **AND**, **OR**, **NOT**, **NEAR**, and **XRANK**. A property restriction specifies a Boolean predicate on one property of the searched items.

1.4   Relationship to Protocols and Other Structures

The Search Protocol uses KQL as described in [MS-SEARCH].

An FQL string token supports a KQL mode, FQL is described in [MS-FQL2].

1.5   Applicability Statement

KQL is intended for both application implementers and end users. Application implementers use KQL for searches when they use the Search protocol as described in [MS-SEARCH]. End users typically use KQL for entering search criteria in a search input field in an application.

1.6   Versioning and Localization

None.

1.7   Vendor-Extensible Fields

None.

2 Structures

A KQL expression consists of search tokens, operators, and property restrictions. A search token consists of a value or a range of values to search for, and an operator specifies how to include, exclude, and rank the search results. A property restriction specifies a Boolean predicate on one property of the searched items.

KQL operators are case sensitive, and operators use uppercase. Some operators are placed between operands, and other operators are placed before operands. Where noted in the following subsections, operators can have parameters that are placed after the operator in parentheses.

The following words are operators:

- **ALL**

- **AND**

- **ANY**

- **NEAR**

- **NONE**

- **NOT**

- **ONEAR**

- **OR**

- **WORDS**

- **XRANK**

A special class of operators, property operators, is used for property restrictions. The following are property operators:

- **:**

- **=**

- **<>**

- **>**

- **>=**

- **<**

- **<=**

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

```
kql-expression = (operator-expression / expression-list)

expression-list = (operator-expression operator-expression)
    / (expression-list operator-expression)

operator-expression = (all / and / any / near / none / not / onear
    / or / words / xrank / basic-expression / paren-expression)

paren-expression = "(" kql-expression ")"
```

```
    basic-expression = ([qualification] unquoted-string-value)
        / ([qualification] quoted-string-value)
        / property-restriction

    ; Operator expressions
    all = "ALL" "(" 1*string-value ")"
    and = operator-expression "AND" operator-expression
    any = "ANY" "(" 1*string-value ")"
    none = "NONE" "(" 1*string-value ")"
    not = "NOT" operator-expression
    or = operator-expression "OR" operator-expression

    near = operator-expression "NEAR" [proximity-param] operator-expression
    onear = operator-expression "ONEAR" [proximity-param] operator-expression
    proximity-param = "(" [["N" "="] integer-value] ")"

    words = "WORDS" "(" words-param-list ")"
    words-param-list = words-param *([","] words-param)
    words-param = [qualification] string-value

    xrank = operator-expression "XRANK" "(" xrank-param-list ")" operator-expression
    xrank-param-list = 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)

    ; Property restriction
    property-restriction = [qualification]
        property-name property-operator property-value
    property-name = property-token / quoted-string-value
    property-token = 1*(%x30-39 / %x41-5a / %x5f / %x61-7a / %xaa / %xb5 / %xba
        / %xc0-d6 / %xe0-ffffffff)
    property-value = property-typed-value
        / unquoted-property-token
        / quoted-string-value
    property-operator = ":" / "=" / "<>" / ">" / ">="/ "<" / "<="
    unquoted-property-token = 1*(%x01-08 / %x0b-0c / %x0e-1f / %x21 / %x23-27
        / %x2a-3b / %x3d / %x3f-ffffffff)
    property-typed-value = boolean-value / %x22 boolean-value %x22
        / float-value [".." float-value]
        / %x22 float-value [".." float-value] %x22
        / integer-value [".." integer-value]
        / %x22 integer-value [".." integer-value] %x22
        / date-named
        / date-value-no-ws [".." date-value-no-ws]
        / %x22 date-value [".." date-value] %x22
    date-named = "today" / %x22 "today" %x22
        / "yesterday" / %x22 "yesterday" %x22
        / %x22 "this week" %x22
        / %x22 "this month" %x22
        / %x22 "last month" %x22
        / %x22 "this year" %x22
        / %x22 "last year" %x22

    ; Tokens
    boolean-value = "true" / "false"

    ; The following are culture dependent and are not specified here:
    ; float-value, integer-value, date-value, date-value-no-ws

    string-value = quoted-string-value / unquoted-string-value

    ; <quoted-string-value> can contain any characters, but a double quotation
    ; mark within the quoted string MUST be represented by two double quotation marks.
```

```
quoted-string-value = DQUOTE 1*(%x00-21 / DQUOTE DQUOTE / %x23-ffffffff) DQUOTE

; <unquoted-string-value> cannot contain white space,
; double quotation mark, and parentheses.
; <unquoted-string-value> can contain property-chars in the beginning or at
; the end, but not in the middle
unquoted-string-value = *property-chars
    *(%x01-08 / %x0b-0c / %x0e-1f / %x21 / %x23-27 / %x2a-39 / %x3b
    / %x3f-ffffffff)
    *property-chars
property-chars = ":" / "=" / ">" / "<"

; General syntax element
qualification = "+" / "-"
```

For readability, the preceding rules assume that no extra white space exists in the KQL expression. However, with the exception of **property-operator** (no white space before and after), **qualification** (no white space after), ".." in ranges (no white space before and after), and parameter assignment (no white space before and after **=**), KQL does permit white space to immediately precede and follow parentheses, commas, operators, tokens, and property restrictions.

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

2.1   Operators

2.1.1   ALL Operator

The **ALL** operator MUST specify one or more token operands separated by white space. To be returned as a match, an item MUST contain all the operands.

2.1.2   AND Operator

The **AND** operator MUST specify two KQL expression operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match both operands.

2.1.3   ANY Operator

The **ANY** operator MUST specify one or more token operands separated by white space. To be returned as a match, an item MUST contain at least one of the operands.

2.1.4   NEAR Operator

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

If it is specified, the *N* named parameter specifies the maximum number of interspersed, unmatched, indexed tokens. If *N* is not specified, the maximum number is set to 8.

To match the operands of the **NEAR** operator, the item MUST match both 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 (section 2.3.1) (quoted or unquoted)

- **ANY** operator (section 2.1.3) expression

- **OR** operator (section 2.1.8) expression

- **NEAR** operator expression

- **WORDS** operator (section 2.1.9) expression

Other expressions MUST NOT be accepted as legal operands.

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

2.1.5 NONE Operator

The **NONE** operator MUST specify one or more token operands separated by white space. To be returned as a match, an item MUST NOT contain any of the operands.

2.1.6 NOT Operator

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

2.1.7 ONEAR Operator

The **ONEAR** (ordered near) operator functions in the same way that the **NEAR** operator does (as specified in section 2.1.4) except that the operands MUST match the searched items in the specified order.

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

2.1.8 OR Operator

The **OR** operator MUST specify two KQL expression operands. To be returned as a match, an item MUST match any or both operands.

2.1.9 WORDS Operator

The definition of synonyms in a query string that uses the **WORDS** operator MUST be supported. The **WORDS** operator MUST specify one or more token operands separated by white space or comma. To be returned as a match, an item MUST contain one or more of the operands.

The trailing asterisk character MUST be ignored in an operand that is a string token prefix.

The preceding plus or minus character in an operand that is a qualified token MUST be ignored.

2.1.10 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 that match the query.

An **XRANK** expression MUST contain one expression operand that MUST be matched (the preceding operand, called match expression), and one expression operand (the subsequent operand, called rank expression) that contributes only to dynamic rank and MUST NOT affect which items are returned as matches. The matching rank expression will add a boost value to the item's total rank.

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

Named parameter	Default value	Description
cb	0	Specifies the constant boost, corresponds to *a* in the XRANK formula (see section 2.1.10.1).
rb	0	Specifies the range boost, corresponds to *b* in the XRANK formula. This factor is multiplied with the range of rank values in the **result set**.
pb	0	Specifies the percentage boost, corresponds to *c* in the XRANK formula. This factor is multiplied with the item's own rank compared to the minimum value in the result set.
avgb	0	Specifies the average boost, corresponds to *d* in the XRANK formula. This factor is multiplied with the average rank value of the result set.
stdb	0	Standard deviation boost, corresponds to *e* in the XRANK formula. This factor is multiplied with the standard deviation of the rank values of the result set.
nb	0	Normalized boost, corresponds to *f* in the XRANK formula. This factor is multiplied with the product of the variance and average score of the rank values of the result set.
n	0	Number of results to compute statistics from. 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.

At least one of the parameters *cb*, *rb*, *pb*, *avgb*, *stdb*, or *nb* MUST be specified.

2.1.10.1   XRANK Formula

The following formula is used for calculating rank values:

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

where r_i is the rank value of the ith hit,

$max\ (min)$ is the $max\ (min)$ rank value of all hits,

$\bar{x}$ is the average rank value of the hits,

σ is the $sqrt(variance)$ of the rank values,

$\overline{x^2}$ is the average of the square of the rank values of the hits

a, b, c, d, e and f are the XRANK parameters

2.1.11 Implicit Operator

The KQL syntax supports a sequence of expressions (the **expression-list** element) without any operator between the expressions. In this case, there is an implicit operator between the expressions. The implicit operator is either **AND** (section 2.1.2) or **OR** (section 2.1.8). Setting the implicit operator is outside the KQL syntax; it is set through the [MS-SEARCH] protocol.

If the query contains any non-property operator (**ALL** (section 2.1.1), **AND** (section 2.1.2), **NOT** (section 2.1.6), **XRANK** (section 2.1.10), and so forth), the query MUST be evaluated as if the implicit operator is **AND** (section 2.1.2).

There are other special cases regarding the use of the implicit operator. See section 2.3.1.1 for the use of the implicit operator in combination with qualified string tokens, and section 2.2.4 for the use of the implicit operator in combination with property restrictions.

2.1.12 Parentheses

Parentheses are used to group subexpressions to change the evaluation order or to make the expression more readable. Parentheses can be nested and are evaluated from inner to outer.

2.1.13 Operator Precedence and Associativity

Operators follow a precedence that defines the evaluation order of expressions containing these operators.

Operators associate with either the expression on their left or the expression on their right; this is called associativity.

The following table shows the precedence and associativity of operators from highest to lowest precedence.

Operator	Associativity
NOT	Right to left
ONEAR	Left to right
NEAR	Left to right
XRANK	Right to left
AND	Left to right
OR	Left to right
Implicit	Left to right

2.2 Property Restrictions

A property restriction specifies a Boolean predicate on one property of the searched items. A sequence of characters MUST be recognized as a property restriction if it starts with a property name, followed by one of the property operators, followed by a value, without additional characters between name, operator, and value.

If the property name is found as a **managed property** in the **metadata schema**, the type of the value MUST match the type of the managed property. If the property name is not found in the metadata schema, the sequence MUST NOT be interpreted as a property restriction, but instead MUST be interpreted as a sequence of text tokens. The property restriction MUST match the item if the value provided in the query matches the value of the item's property according to the operator.

The operator MUST be one of the following:

Operator	Description
:	The property of the item contains the specified value. If the type of the property is string and the value ends with an asterisk character, "*", the "*" MUST be evaluated as a wildcard (section 2.3.1.2).

Operator	Description
=	The property of the item is equal to the specified value. If the type of the property is string and the value ends with an asterisk character, "*", the property MUST start with the value. (Unlike wildcard search (section 2.3.1.2) the specified value MUST match a complete string token or, if a quoted value is given, complete string tokens.)
<>	The property of the item is not equal to the specified value.
>	The property of the item is greater than the specified value.
>=	The property of the item is greater than or equal to the specified value.
<	The property of the item is less than the specified value.
<=	The property of the item is less than or equal to the specified value.

2.2.1 Property Values

The following types of values: string, Boolean, float, integer, and date MUST be supported. Both quoted and unquoted forms of values MUST be accepted.

2.2.2 Property Ranges

Ranges MUST be supported for float, integer, and date values. By interpreting range A..B as the set of values from A to B where both A and B are inclusive. For date ranges this means from the beginning of day A to the end of day B.

2.2.3 Property Qualification

If a property restriction (section 2.2) is preceded by a minus character, it MUST be evaluated the same way as if it was preceded by the **NOT** (section 2.1.6) operator.

If a property restriction is preceded by a plus character, the plus character MUST be ignored.

2.2.4 Implicit Operator for Property Restrictions

In a sequence of expressions without any operators between the expressions (the **expression-list** element in the ABNF grammar), the following MUST be followed for property restrictions (section 2.2) in the sequence.

Generally, the property restrictions (section 2.2) MUST be interpreted as if **AND** (section 2.1.2) is present between the property restrictions. The following are equivalent:

```
name1:value1 name2:value2
name1:value1 AND name2:value2
```

If the sequence contains two or more property restrictions with the same property name, the property restrictions with the same name MUST be interpreted as if **OR** (section 2.1.8) is present between the property restrictions. The following are equivalent:

```
name1:value1 name1:value2
name1:value1 OR name1:value2
```

An implicit operator used between a property restriction and an expression that is not a property restriction MUST be evaluated as if the **AND** operator is present. The following are equivalent:

```
token1 name1:value1
token1 AND name1:value1
```

2.3   Tokens

2.3.1   String Tokens

A **quoted-string-value** introduces text phrases, which are string values enclosed in double quotes. Any **Unicode** character is allowed, but a double quote within the double quotes MUST be entered as two double quotes. An item MUST match a phrase if it contains all tokens that appear between the quotes, uninterrupted, and in the exact order in which they are specified.

An **unquoted-string-value** introduces unquoted string values. It cannot contain white space characters, double quotes, or parentheses. Also it cannot contain characters that are used for property operators (:, <, >, =) except at the beginning and at the end of the value.

The **unquoted-property-token** used in property restrictions (section 2.2) is similar to an **unquoted-string-value**. The **unquoted-property-token** can contain characters (:, =).

2.3.1.1   Qualified String Tokens

The **quoted-string-value** and **unquoted-string-value** elements can be qualified by a minus or a plus character.

- "+" denotes tokens that MUST be present in an item for a match. These are token inclusions.

- "-" denotes tokens that MUST NOT be present in an item for a match. These are token exclusions.

The exact semantics of inclusions and exclusions depend on whether the implicit operator (see section 2.1.11 for details) is **AND** or **OR**, as specified in sections 2.3.1.1.1 and 2.3.1.1.2.

2.3.1.1.1 Implicit AND operator

The following rules cover the case when the implicit operator is **AND** (section 2.1.2):

- "+" MUST be equivalent to using the **AND** (section 2.1.2) operator.

- "-" MUST be equivalent to using the **AND** and **NOT** (section 2.1.6) operators.

2.3.1.1.2 Implicit OR operator

The following rules cover the case when the implicit operator is **OR** (section 2.1.8):

1. If the query contains any non-property operators (**ALL** (section 2.1.1), **AND** (section 2.1.2), **XRANK** (section 2.1.10), and so on), the query MUST be evaluated as if the implicit operator is **AND (**section 2.3.1.1.1).

2. Otherwise, the evaluation depends on the presence of inclusions.

    1. If there are no inclusions specified, then at least one of the non-qualified tokens MUST match:

        1. (exclusions) **AND** (non-qualified tokens)

    2. If there is at least one inclusion specified, then a match on the non-qualified tokens is not required:

1. (exclusions) **AND** ((inclusions) **OR** ((inclusions) **AND** (non-qualified tokens)))

2.3.1.2 String Token Prefix

A string token prefix is a string token that ends with an asterisk character, "*". The "*" MUST be evaluated as a wildcard, that is it matches zero or more characters.

The wildcard evaluation MUST be supported for the elements **quoted-string-value**, **unquoted-string-value**, and **unquoted-property-token**.

2.3.2 Boolean Tokens

Boolean tokens represent logical values and MUST be either "true" or "false".

Boolean tokens MUST be recognized in the following syntactic element:

▪ Property values where the property name is found as a managed property in the metadata schema of type Boolean or a corresponding type.

In other places Boolean tokens MUST be handled as string tokens.

2.3.3 Integer Tokens

The non-terminal symbol **integer-value** introduces integer values. The culture in which the **query text** was formulated SHOULD be taken into account and the string representation of the integer specific to it needs to be recognized.

Integer tokens MUST be recognized in the following syntactic elements:

▪ Property values where the property name is found as a managed property in the metadata schema of type integer or a corresponding type.

▪ Parameter values to operators where the parameter is of type integer or a type that can be assigned an integer value.

In other places integer tokens MUST be handled as string tokens.

2.3.4 Float Tokens

The non-terminal symbol **float-value** introduces floating point values. The culture in which the query text was formulated SHOULD be taken into account and the string representation of the floating point values specific to that culture SHOULD be recognized.

Float tokens MUST be recognized in the following syntactic elements:

▪ Property values where the property name is found as a managed property in the metadata schema of type **float** or a corresponding type.

▪ Parameter values to operators where the parameter is of type **float** or a type that can be assigned a **float** value.

In other places float tokens MUST be handled as string tokens.

2.3.5 Date Tokens

A date token represents a specific date or a date interval. A time part to be present with the date SHOULD be allowed. If a time part is present, it MUST be ignored.

For all date values, the date SHOULD be interpreted as being specified in a given **time zone**, typically the time zone of the user. Time zone is set through the [MS-SEARCH] protocol. If the time zone is not set or not available, **Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)** SHOULD be assumed.

Date tokens MUST be recognized in the following syntactic element:

- Property values where the property name is found as a managed property in the metadata schema of type date or a corresponding type.

In other places date tokens MUST be handled as string tokens.

The non-terminal symbol **date-value-no-ws** introduces a date token that MUST not contain any white space characters. The culture in which the query text was formulated SHOULD be taken into account and the string representation of dates specific to that culture SHOULD be recognized.

The non-terminal symbol **date-value** introduces a date token that MAY contain white space characters. The culture in which the query text was formulated SHOULD be taken into account and the string representation of dates specific to that culture SHOULD be recognized.

An implementation MUST support names that represent date intervals relative to the current date as follows:

Name of date interval	Description
today	Represents the time from the beginning of the current day until the end of the current day.
yesterday	Represents the time from the beginning of the day until the end of the day that precedes the current day.
this week	Represents the time from the beginning of the current week until the end of the current week. The culture in which the query text was formulated SHOULD be taken into account to determine the first day of the week.
this month	Represents the time from the beginning of the current month until the end of the current month.
last month	Represents the entire month that precedes the current month.
this year	Represents the time from the beginning of the current year until the end of the current year.
last year	Represents the entire year that precedes the current year.

The names of date intervals that contain a space MUST be quoted.

3 Structure Examples

3.1 Operators

3.1.1 ALL Operator

The following expression matches items that contain all of the terms "cat", "dog", and "fox".

```
ALL(cat dog fox)
```

3.1.2 AND Operator

The following expression matches items that contain both "cat" and "dog".

```
cat AND dog
```

3.1.3 ANY Operator

The following expression matches items that contain at least one of the terms "cat", "dog", and "fox".

```
ANY(cat dog fox)
```

3.1.4 NEAR Operator

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

```
cat NEAR dog
```

The following expressions match items that contain "cat" and "dog" as long as no more than five indexed tokens separate them.

```
cat NEAR(N=5) dog
cat NEAR(5) dog
```

If the operands of the **NEAR** operator match the same indexed token, they are considered near each other. For example, the following expression matches items that contain the indexed token "cat" because both operands match and are considered near each other, even though both operands match the same indexed token.

```
cat NEAR (cat OR dog)
```

3.1.5 NONE Operator

The following expression matches items that contain none of the terms "cat", "dog", and "fox".

```
NONE(cat dog fox)
```

3.1.6 NOT Operator

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

```
NOT aardvark
```

3.1.7 ONEAR Operator

The following expression matches items that contain "cat" that appear before "dog", as long as no more than eight (the default number) indexed tokens separate them.

```
cat ONEAR dog
```

The following expressions match items that contain "cat" that appear before "dog" as long as no more than five indexed tokens separate them.

```
cat ONEAR(N=5) dog
cat ONEAR(5) dog
```

3.1.8 OR Operator

The following expression matches all the items that contain either "cat" or "dog" or both.

```
cat OR dog
```

3.1.9 WORDS Operator

The following expression matches all the items that contain either "TV" or "television" or both.

```
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.

Any trailing asterisk character in operands is ignored, so the following are equivalent.

```
WORDS(word1* word2)
WORDS(word1 word2)
```

Any qualification (preceding plus and minus character) for operands is ignored, so the following are equivalent.

```
WORDS(+word1 -"word2 word3")
WORDS(word1 "word2 word3")
```

3.1.10 XRANK Operator

The following expression matches items that contain either "cat" or "dog" or both. The expression boosts the dynamic rank of those items that also contain "thoroughbred". The constant boost is set to 100.

```
(cat OR dog) XRANK(cb=100) thoroughbred
```

The following expression matches items that contain either "cat" or "dog" or both. The expression boosts the dynamic rank of those items that also contain "thoroughbred". The normalized boost is set to 1.5.

```
(cat OR dog) XRANK(nb=1.5) thoroughbred
```

3.1.11 Implicit Operator

The following expression illustrates an implicit operator. There is an implicit **AND** (section 2.1.2) or **OR** (section 2.1.8) operator between "cat" and "dog".

```
cat dog
```

The following expressions are equivalent. The first query contains a non-property operator and the query is evaluated as if the implicit operator is **AND**.

```
cat (dog OR fox)
cat AND (dog OR fox)
```

3.1.12 Parentheses

The following expression uses parentheses to change the default evaluation order. It will match items that contain "cat" or "dog", and in addition contain "fox".

```
(cat OR dog) AND fox
```

3.2 Property Restrictions

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **size** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type integer or a corresponding type. The expressions match items where the **size** property is equal to, not equal to, less than, or greater than 100, respectively.

```
size=100
size<>100
size<100
size>100
```

3.2.1 Property Range

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **size** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type integer. The expression matches items where the **size** property is in the range [100,200].

```
size:100..200
```

3.2.2 Property Qualification

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **size** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type integer.

The following are equivalent and match items where the **size** property is not equal to 100:

```
-size=100
NOT size=100
size<>100
```

The following are equivalent and match items where the size property is equal to 100:

```
size=100
+size=100
```

3.2.3 Implicit Operator for Property Restriction

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **author** and **filetype** are managed properties found in the metadata schema of type string.

The following are equivalent:

```
author:"John Smith" filetype:docx
author:"John Smith" AND filetype:docx
```

The following are equivalent:

```
author:"John Smith" author:"Jane Smith"
author:"John Smith" OR author:"Jane Smith"
```

The following are equivalent:

```
cat filetype:docx
cat AND filetype:docx
```

3.3   Tokens

3.3.1 String Tokens

Each of the following expressions consists of a single string token.

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

The following expression is a property restriction (section 2.2) containing a string token as value. Here it is assumed that filetype is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type string.

```
filetype:docx
```

3.3.1.1 Qualified String Tokens

See section 3.3.1.1.1 and section 3.3.1.1.2 for examples where the implicit operator is **AND** (section 2.3.1.1.1) and **OR** (section 2.3.1.1.2), respectively.

3.3.1.1.1 Implicit AND Operator

The following queries match the same items:

```
cat +dog
cat AND dog
```

The following queries match the same items:

```
cat -dog
cat AND NOT dog
```

The following queries match the same items:

```
cat +dog -fox
cat AND dog AND NOT fox
```

3.3.1.1.2 Implicit OR Operator

The following queries match the same items:

```
cat dog +fox
fox OR (fox AND (cat OR dog))
```

The following queries match the same items:

```
cat dog -fox
(NOT fox) AND (cat OR dog)
```

The following queries match the same items:

```
cat +dog -fox
(NOT fox) AND (dog OR (dog AND cat))
```

3.3.1.2 String Token Prefix

The following string token matches "cat", "calculator", "calendar", and any other indexed token that begins with "ca" because the "*" character at the end of the string value is evaluated as a wildcard as specified in section 2.3.1.2.

```
ca*
```

3.3.2 Boolean Tokens

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **IsDocument** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type Boolean or a corresponding type.

```
IsDocument:true
IsDocument:false
IsDocument:"true"
IsDocument:"false"
```

3.3.3 Integer Tokens

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **Boost** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type integer or a corresponding type. US English is assumed as the user culture (other cultures can use a different format for integer values).

```
Boost:360
Boost:-25
Boost:"360"
Boost:"-25"
```

The **NEAR** (section 2.1.4) operator accepts an integer value for the parameter *N*.

```
cat NEAR(N=5) dog
```

3.3.4 Float Tokens

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **Factor** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type float or a corresponding type. US English is assumed as the user culture (other cultures can use a different format for float values).

```
Factor:2.71828182846
Factor:-5.3
Factor:"2.71828182846"
Factor:"-5.3"
```

The **XRANK** (section 2.1.10) operator accepts a float value for the parameter *cb*.

```
cat XRANK(cb=1.5) dog
```

3.3.5 Date Tokens

In the following expressions, it is assumed that **Modified** is a managed property found in the metadata schema of type date or a corresponding type. US English is assumed as the user culture (other cultures can use a different format for date values).

```
Modified:2008-01-29
Modified:"2008-01-29"
Modified:today
```

```
Modified:"this week"
```

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 released service packs.

▪ Microsoft SharePoint Server 2013

▪ Microsoft SharePoint Server 2016

Exceptions, if any, are noted below. If a service pack or Quick Fix Engineering (QFE) number appears with the product version, behavior changed in that service pack or QFE. The new behavior also applies to subsequent service packs of the product 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

No table of changes is available. The document is either new or has had no changes since its last release.

7 Index