

## Article

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## Sneak peek at the new documentation search

At Global Summit back in April, in his keynote speech, John Paladino mentioned that improvements to our documentation search were being made. You might have wondered, since things seemed to go quiet, whether anything was really happening. Well, we had an internal demo of some of the upcoming features recently, and the new capabilities look really cool – searching documentation has been frustrating for InterSystems staff too! So, I thought it might be good to pass on a few details to give a taste of what is coming. Of course, InterSystems will be putting together much better information about all the new features and how to use them, but this post is intended to give you some idea of the work that has been done and let you know that there is hope for all of us!

One of the biggest issues in the existing search is that it has not been good at understanding the context or form of the search term. Just as an example, if I currently run a search for ‘ setting ’, I get back terms related to: MDX sets in DeepSee, the SET operation, setting SQL parameters, result sets and many other variations:

[InterSystems DeepSee](#) » [Using MDX with DeepSee](#) » [Working with Sets](#)

[Working with Sets](#) (Chapter Title)

This chapter discusses how to create and use sets. It discusses the following topics:

[Introduction to Sets](#) (Section Title)

...

[Caché Development Guides](#) » [Using Caché ObjectScript](#) » [Operators and Expressions](#)

[Parentheses and Precedence](#) (Program Listing)

```
SET TorF = ((4 + 7) > (6 + 6)) // False (0) WRITE TorF
```

[Pattern Codes](#) (Table)

...

[Caché Development Guides](#) » [Using Caché SQL](#) » [Using the SQL Shell Interface](#)

[Using the SQL Shell Interface](#) (Chapter Title)

[Setting SQL Shell configuration parameters.](#)

...

[Caché Development Guides](#) » [Using Caché SQL](#) » [Using Dynamic SQL](#)

[Using Dynamic SQL](#) (Chapter Title)

[Returning the entire result set](#)

In the new search, additional options have been added to narrow and refine the results that get returned, so this is how it will now look:

Search words

Find topics with all words ▾

Search type

Exact match (except for case) ▾

Search

Reset

Search the Web

Optionally restrict the search

all products ▾

all books and articles ▾

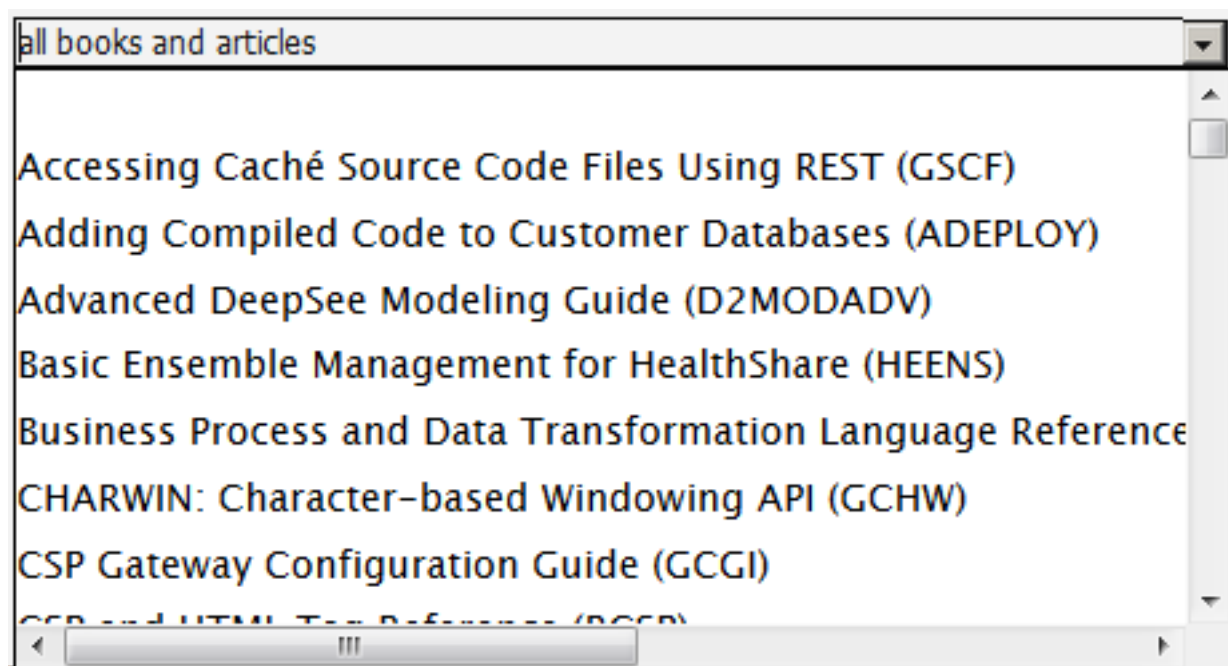
all tags ▾

First of all, if your search term contains multiple words, you can choose to match on all or any of them. More importantly, you can also include a ‘ search type ’, where you can specify if you want to run a free-text search or match your search term exactly, whether or not with case-sensitivity:

Search words		Search type			
<input type="text" value="setting"/>	<input type="button" value="Find topics with all words"/>	<input type="text" value="Exact match (except for case)"/>	<input type="button" value="Search"/>	<input type="button" value="Reset"/>	<input type="button" value="Search the Web"/>
Optionally restrict the search		<input type="text" value="Exact match (except for case)"/>			
<input type="text" value="all products"/>	<input type="text" value="all books and articles"/>	<input type="text" value="Exact match (including case)"/>			
		<input type="text" value="Free-text search"/>		<input type="text" value="tags"/>	

The exact match options are really useful when your search term contains non-alphanumeric characters, like % or ^, which were previously ignored.

One of my biggest bugbears has been that searching has always returned results across all products, when I 've been interested in one product in particular. You are now able to choose a specific product to run your search against – hurray! We also sort the results to put documents first that are more general, used by more customers or are more recent, or some combination of these factors. But, if you know there is a specific book that you wish to search, you can select one from a dropdown list:



Or, if you know your search term appears across multiple books, you can still narrow results to a particular topic area by selecting a 'tag', such as ODBC, Portal, SOAP and so on, which really helps apply context to your search and fine-tune the information returned.

The search results now get presented like this, with highlighting of the term searched for, and a link to take you directly to that spot in the documentation:

Displaying matches in text (**1081** results in **214** topics):

[Developing Ensemble Productions > Programming in Ensemble](#)

[Introduction](#)

When you create business host classes or adapter classes, you typically implement callback methods, define additional methods as needed, and add or remove **settings**. [Link](#)  
To provide new **settings** for a production, a business host, or an adapter, modify its class definition as follows: [link](#)

Add a property for each configuration setting you wish to define. [link](#)

Add a class parameter called **SETTINGS** to the class. [link](#)

Set the value of **SETTINGS** to be a comma-delimited list of the names of the properties you have just defined. For example: [link](#)

## Sneak peek at the new documentation search

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The new search functionality is introduced in 2017.1, and the Field Test should be available mid-October (precluding any last minute snags), so really not too much longer to wait.

Even after that release, more improvements are planned and work will be ongoing for some time, but I am sure you will agree that this is a big step in the right direction.

[#Documentation](#) [#Caché](#)

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