

Basic Search

Learn the basics of effective content searches.

Document generated 07/07/2025

[PDF VERSION](#)

Tags | [Search](#) |

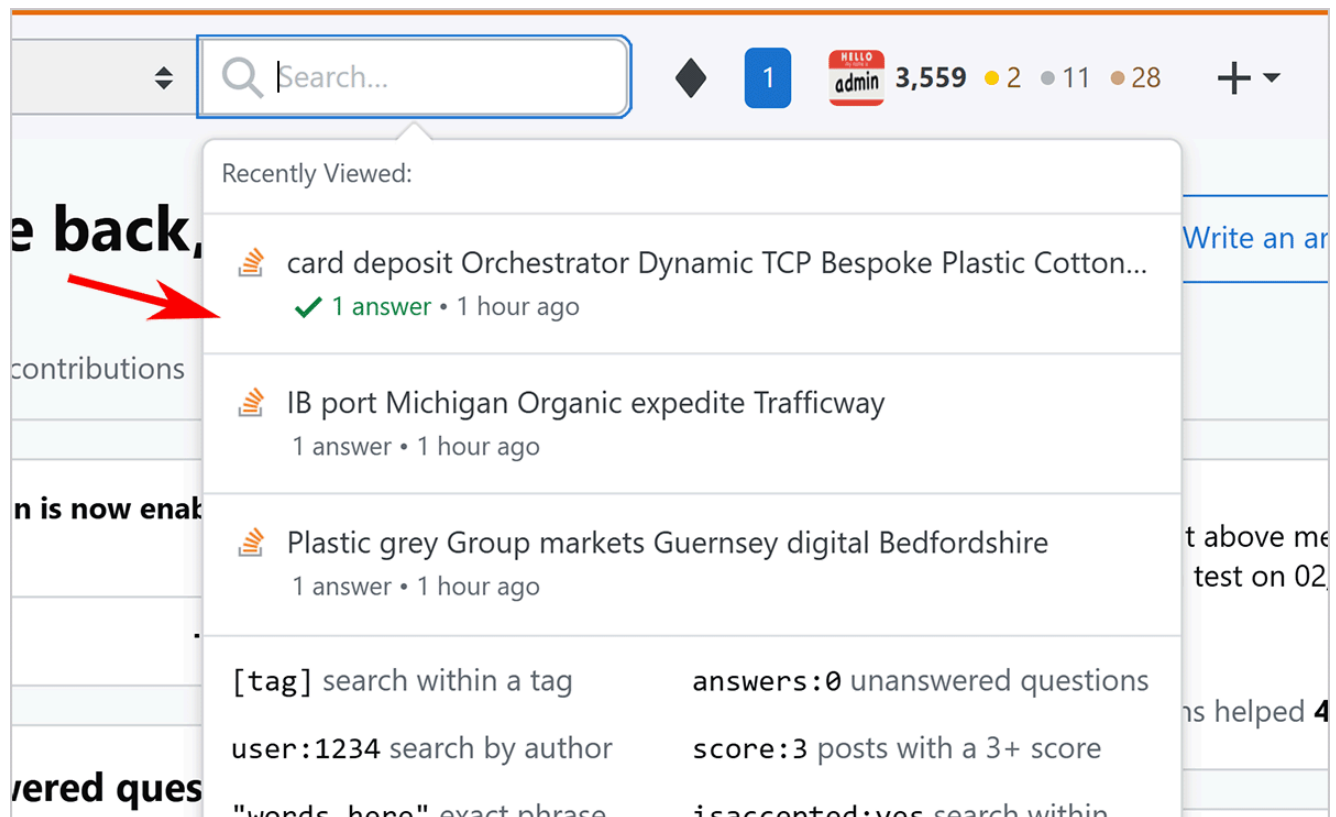
Applies to: [Free, Basic, Business](#) [Enterprise](#)

Overview

Stack Overflow for Teams offers a powerful search feature to help you quickly locate content on your site.

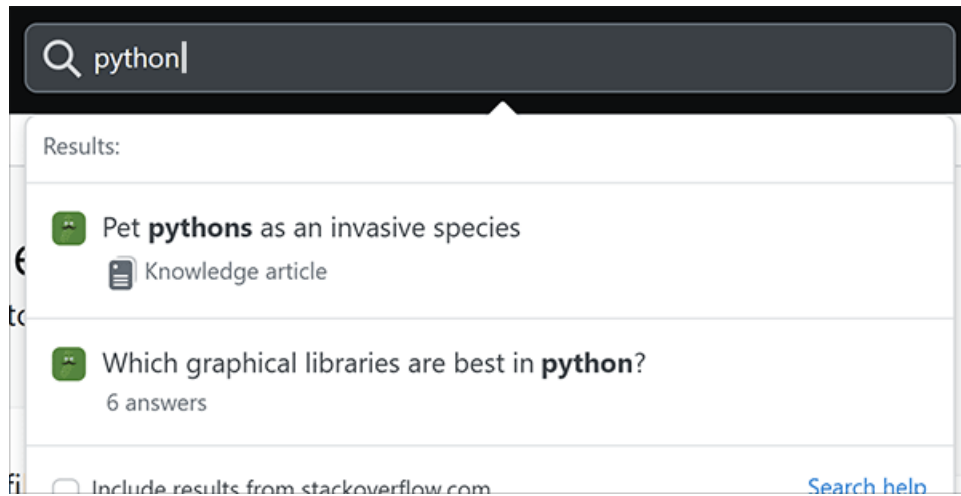
NOTE: This article covers the basics of search. For more advanced search techniques, read the [Advanced Search](#) and [Unified Search](#) articles.

When you place your cursor in the search bar at the top of the screen, Stack Overflow for Teams Enterprise shows recently viewed questions and articles. Click any of these posts to quickly return to previously viewed content.



NOTE: Only Stack Overflow for Teams Business and Enterprise display recently viewed posts.

To perform a basic search, enter a word or two into the search bar. As you type, Stack Overflow for Teams displays results (if any) in real time beneath the search bar.



The real-time search feature searches post titles only. To do a full search of titles and content, enter your search terms then press **ENTER** on your keyboard.

Search tips

When a simple keyword search doesn't return the desired results (or too many results), Stack Overflow for Teams offers many ways to refine and improve your search.

If you need to expand or narrow your search, try the following techniques.

- To find a specific phrase, enclose it in quotes.
- To search within specific tag(s), enter them in square brackets. For example: "[maintenance] seat" searches for mentions of "seat" within content tagged with the maintenance tag.
- To limit your search to just the title of a post, enter "title:" followed by the search term(s). To search the body and not the title, enter "body:" followed by the search term(s).
- To search only within code blocks, enter "code:" followed by the search term(s). For example: "code:matplotlib" searches code blocks for "matplotlib".
- To search just your posts, enter "user:me" followed by the search term(s).
- To exclude results from a tag, term, or phrase, preface it with "-" in your query. For example: "waffles -unicorns" finds posts that mention the tasty breakfast food but not the mythical creature, while "[laurel] -[hardy]" includes posts tagged only with the first half of the classic comedy couple.
- Add an asterisk ("*") anywhere in a search term to create a wildcard search. The asterisk matches any characters, and broadens your search. For example: "local*file" would find "localCreateFile()" and "localDeleteFile()".

When you first place your cursor in the empty search box, you'll see these and other helpful tips displayed under the search box.

[tag] search within a tag

user:1234 search by author

"words here" exact phrase

answers:0 unanswered questions

score:3 posts with a 3+ score

isaccepted:yes search within status

☐ Include results from stackoverflow.com

[Search help](#)

Search with the API

You can use the Stack Overflow for Teams API `/search` endpoint to search for content on your site. For more information on the API, check out our [API v3 for Teams Basic and Business](#) and [API v3 for Teams Enterprise](#) articles.

Need help? Submit an issue or question through our [support portal](#).