

Mastering the Search

An Investigator's Guide to Advanced Boolean Logic: Find the signal, eliminate the noise, and accelerate your review.

The Challenge: A Mountain of Data

Modern investigations generate millions of documents. A simple keyword search is no longer enough. Mastering advanced search logic is the key to reducing review time and costs.

90%

Reduction in non-responsive documents when using advanced operators.

5X

Faster to pinpoint critical evidence compared to basic keyword searching.

75%

Lower risk of overlooking key evidence due to overly broad search terms.

The Order of Operations

Complex searches are executed in a specific order. Understanding this hierarchy is crucial for building a precise query.

1. Proximity (W/n)

Finds terms within 'n' words. Executed first.

2. Nesting ()

Groups terms. Forces the system to evaluate the group first.

3. AND

Narrows results by requiring both terms.

4. OR

Broadens results by finding either term. Executed last.

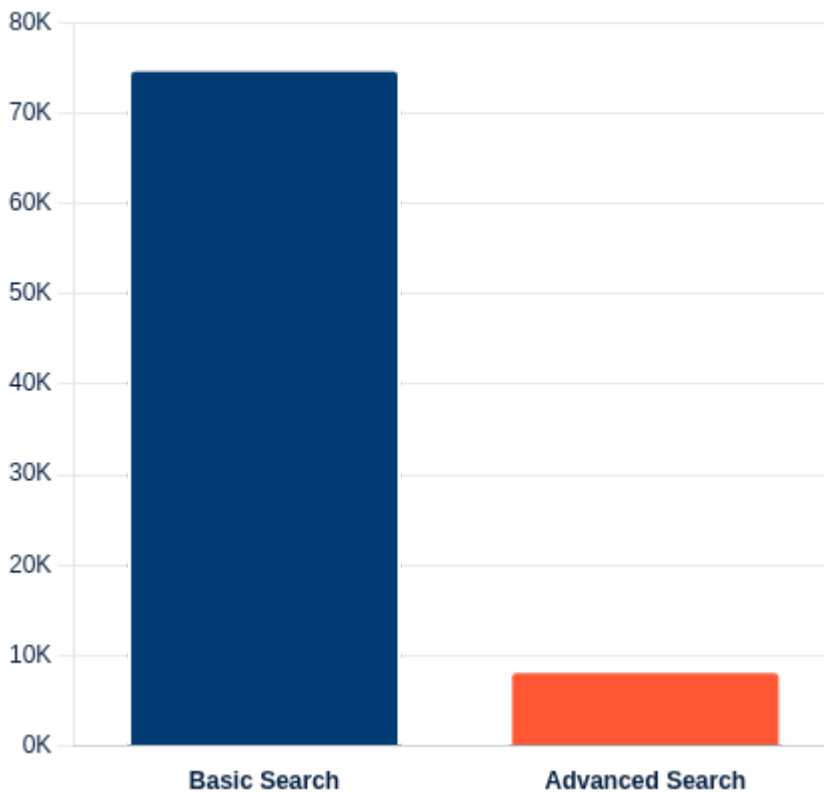
The Impact of Precision

A basic search for `fraud AND finance` might return tens of thousands of irrelevant documents. By adding nesting and proximity (`fraud OR (theft W/5 finance)`), you can drastically reduce the review set to only the most relevant files, saving time and money.

Basic Search: High volume, low relevance. Includes any document with both words, anywhere.

Advanced Search: Low volume, high relevance. Focuses on context and relationships.

Document Review Volume Comparison



Synthesizing a Complex Query

Let's break down a real-world example: finding evidence of corporate espionage related to "Project Chimera" that was not part of an official legal review.

```
(( "Project Chimera" OR Chimera W/3 design ) AND ( leak OR external W/3 transfer )) NOT ( legal OR compliance )
```

Step 1: Find Core Concepts

Find mentions of the project name or related design documents.

+

Step 2: Add Action Terms

Narrow the set to documents that also discuss leaking or external transfers.

→

Final Result: Exclude Noise

Remove all documents that are part of official legal or compliance reviews, leaving only the unauthorized communications.