

Censys Search Query Reference Guide

Account Setup

- Navigate to Censys.io and create free account
- Free tier: 250 queries per month
- Advanced features require paid plan

Basic Search Syntax

Port and Service Searches

```
services.port:22      # SSH services
services.port:80      # HTTP services
services.port:443     # HTTPS services
services.port:3389    # RDP services
services.service_name: SSH # SSH by service name
```

Geographic Filtering

```
location.country: "Netherlands"
location.country: "United States"
services.port:80 AND location.country: "Germany"
```

Software and Technology Detection

```
services.software: "WordPress"
services.software: "OpenSSH"
services.software.version: "7.2"
services.service_name: SSH AND services.software.version: "7.2"
```

SSL Certificate Searches

```
parsed.names: "example.com" # Certificates for domain
metadata.expired: true      # Expired certificates
parsed.issuer: "Let's Encrypt" # Certificates by issuer
```

Combined Searches

```
services.port:22 AND location.country: "Netherlands"  
services.software: "WordPress" AND location.country: "Germany"  
services.service_name: SSH AND services.software.version: "7.2"
```

Search Operators

Basic Operators

```
AND # Both conditions must be true  
OR # Either condition can be true  
NOT # Exclude results matching condition
```

Quotes for Exact Matches

```
services.software: "Apache 2.4" # Exact version match  
parsed.names: "mail.example.com" # Exact domain match
```

Useful Search Categories

Remote Access Services

```
services.port:22 # SSH  
services.port:3389 # RDP  
services.port:5900 # VNC
```

Web Services

```
services.port:80 # HTTP  
services.port:443 # HTTPS  
services.port:8080 # Alternative HTTP
```

Database Services

```
services.port:3306 # MySQL  
services.port:5432 # PostgreSQL
```

services.port:1433

MS SQL Server

Common Vulnerable Services

services.software: "OpenSSH 7.2" # Known vulnerable version

services.software: "Apache 2.2" # Outdated web server

metadata.expired: true # Expired certificates

Export and Analysis

- Click "Export" button for CSV/JSON download
- Use exported data for offline analysis
- Combine with other reconnaissance tools

Ethical Guidelines

- Use only for authorized security research
- Do not attempt to access discovered systems
- Focus on defensive security applications
- Report vulnerabilities through proper channels