Endeca MDEX Engine

Version 6.2.0

Release Announcement

July 2011

Table of Contents

Release Details

InFront MDEX Engine release 6.2.0 delivers a significant amount of new features, providing improved capabilities to create innovative customer experiences and streamline search and relevancy tuning. Many of the new features are highlighted in the following sections.

Locale-specific Sorting

In MDEX Engine 6.2.0, record and dimension search results within an MDEX can now be sorted based on a locale and collation preference, allowing you to sort results specific to your global consumers.

For details, see the *MDEX Engine Advanced Development Guide.*

Stemming Dictionary Changes

In addition to the default stemming dictionaries provided with the MDEX Engine, any number of custom stemming dictionaries can now be added, enabling you to better support a broader set of languages and global markets. (Custom dictionaries are not limited to the languages listed in the Stemming editor in Developer Studio.)

For details about stemming, see the *Endeca MDEX Engine Advanced Development Guide*.

Search within Dimensions

In previous releases of the MDEX Engine, standard dimension search could return results within a single dimension or within all dimensions. In 6.2.0, you can now search within a subset of dimensions using the Di parameter.

Returning all Dimension Values

Starting in 6.2.0, all of the dimension values for a dimension can be returned by specifying * (an asterisk) as the search term in the D parameter. This feature will more easily enable Page Builder cartridges such as a menu bar or site map. Wildcard search does not need to be enabled to use this feature.

For details, see "Returning all possible dimension values in a dimension search" in the *MDEX Engine Basic Development Guide*.

Returning Refinement Counts

Refinement counts can now be returned in dimension search results. This feature is enabled per query by using the new Drc parameter. As part of this change, refinement counts for navigation queries can also be enabled per query using the Nrc parameter, enabling you to turn counts on or off for specific queries without restarting the MDEX.

For details, see "Displaying refinement counts for dimension search" in the *MDEX Engine Basic Development Guide*.

Field Order Respected in Relevance Ranking Modules

The MDEX Engine 6.2.0 release introduces a new parameter, considerFieldRanks, which specifies that a relevance ranking module sorts records according to their field rank, in addition to sorting according to the module's standard behavior. This parameter is specified at query time to simplify relevance rank strategies. Being able to use the field rank to order records scored by a module gives more control over the overall order of results in relevance strategies.

Why Features

The MDEX Engine 6.2.0 release introduces a set of Why Features that provide visibility into why the MDEX is returning the results that it is. These features will streamline search, relevancy, and configuration tuning and decrease the time needed to optimize results. These features are enabled per query by specifying the new Nx parameter, and results are returned in JSON format.

Why Match: For navigation queries, Why Match provides record-level detail describing which terms matched the record and which fields in the record included a match. The response also includes which query expansion features (e.g. thesaurus, stemming, spell correction) were applied to each term. Why Match is enabled per-query by specifying Nx=whymatch and results are returned in a new DGraph.WhyMatch property.
Note that the Why Match feature is not recommended for production use.

Why Rank: For dimension and navigation queries, Why Rank provides both record-level detail and summary information describing which relevance ranking modules were evaluated during a query and how query results were ranked. Per-record information indicates which relevance ranking modules placed the record where it is in the results and indicate the number of records evaluated per relevance ranking module. Why Rank is enabled perquery by using the existing Dx parameter (Dx=whyrank), or the new Nx parameter (Nx=whyrank). Results are returned in a new Dgraph.WhyRank property and the summary results are returned in a Supplemental Object.
Note that Why Rank feature is not recommended for production use.

Why Precedence Rule Fired: The Why Precedence Rule Fired feature returns information describing which precedence rules fired and why. The information is returned in a new DGraph.WhyPrecedenceRuleFired property on root dimension values for each refinement dimension. The property includes information indicating the source dimension value of the trigger, whether the rule triggered implicitly or explicitly, and whether it was a standard or leaf precedence rule. This feature is enabled per query by specifying Nx=whyprecedencerulefired.

For details, see the *MDEX Engine Advanced Development Guide*.

Dimension Value Features in Partial Updates

You can now use partial updates to add new dimension values that also include dimension value properties (including Dgraph.Spec properties).

For details, see the *MDEX Engine Partial Updates Guide*.

Platform Support

The MDEX Engine is now supported on VMWare vSphere 4.1, Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2), and SUSE Enterprise Linux 11.

Bug Fixes

The 6.2.0 release includes many bug fixes. For the full list of fixes, see the release notes available on EDeN or in the root directory of the installation.

Packaging and Compatibility

Endeca provides InFront in four installation packages, which collectively replace the combined installation package provided for IAP release 5 and earlier. These packages include:

- The MDEX Engine package
- The Endeca Presentation API package
- The Platform Services package
- The Endeca Workbench package (Merchandising or Publishing Workbench)

Additional separate installation packages, such as Developer Studio, continue to be provided as in prior releases. Please refer to the *Endeca Getting Started Guide* and the *MDEX Engine Migration Guide* for more details.

To determine the compatibility of components in the Endeca InFront, refer to the *Endeca InFront Compatibility Matrix* available on EDeN.

Supported Platforms

To determine platform support for the Endeca MDEX Engine, refer to the *Endeca MDEX Engine Installation Guide* available on EDeN.

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