Code Search

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Forgejo supports code search through an indexer and `git-grep` as a fallback when `REPO_INDEXER_ENABLED` is disabled.

Basic (git-grep)

Code search results page using git-grep

When `REPO_INDEXER_ENABLED` is set to `false`, code search is restricted to a single repository, utilizing the `git-grep` command.

Supported Options

The following options are currently available for code search while using `git-grep`.

- **Exact**: Perform an exact match on the provided expression.
- **Union**: Conduct a union match, returning results that contain at least one of the specified keywords. For example, a search query containing `hello world` will yield results with either `hello` or `world`.
- **RegExp**: Utilize the provided regular expression to perform a pattern-based match (matches will not be highlighted).

Scope

Since `git-grep` is performed on the fly, it can be executed on any valid branch or tag. The currently active branch/tag is displayed as the default value in the dropdown menu above the search bar, allowing users to easily switch between branches and tags.

Searching within a specific directory (or file) executes `git-grep` using a literal pathspec for the given path. If `REPO_INDEXER_INCLUDE` has been set by the administrator, the filter is added if and only if it matches one of the globs.

Example

Performing a search for `foo` at `/{user}/{repo}/src/branch/main?path=src` returns results that belong to the branch `main` inside the directory `/src`.

```
main
├── docs -> [...]
└── src
    └── main.go
    └── utils.go
```

In the above figure, the search would match results for `foo` in `main.go` and `utils.go`, but not from `docs/*`.

Indexer

Code search results page using indexer

For complex searches or cross-repository queries across an entire organization or instance, `REPO_INDEXER_ENABLED` must be set to `true`. This enables code search via the selected indexer (`REPO_INDEXER_TYPE`).

Supported Options

The following options are currently available for code search while using an indexer.

- **Exact**: Perform an exact match on the provided expression.
- **Union**: Conduct a union match, returning results that contain at least one of the specified keywords. For example, a search query containing `hello world` will yield results with either `hello` or `world`.
- **Fuzzy** (*if enabled by the administrator*): Conduct a fuzzy search, returning results that contain the keyword within a maximum edit distance of 2. For example, a search query containing `hello` will yield results with:
  - **edit distance of 0**: `hello`

- **edit distance of 1**: For example, `hllo` (delete), `helloo` (add), `hallo` (modify).

> Fuzzy search requires the admin to set `REPO_INDEXER_FUZZY_ENABLED`.

Scope

Please note that when using the repository indexer, search results are limited to the contents of the default branch of each repository.

Similar to basic search, searching within a directory (or file) is also possible for advanced search. However, unlike basic search, the search is more granular as it applies the filter but selectively includes/excludes files depending on `REPO_INDEXER_INCLUDE` / `REPO_INDEXER_EXCLUDE`.

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