

Demystifying Inventory Queries

Description

Inventory queries are fundamental, both for reporting and Fileset deployment. For basic details for queries, please take a look at [Creating and Editing a query](#)

However, if the query isn't correct, then you could end up with incorrect reports or worse still incorrect Fileset deployments or removals.

Information

So as well as the above section of the guide, additionally there are some example queries built into the Admin console: [What are Sample Queries?](#)

Sometimes though, you need something that is a little more complex or you can't quite get the right results. Some considerations when making queries:

- Do you need the query
- Does the criteria match the desired expectation
- What Main Component should be used
- What Fields do you need present

Following are some examples to demonstrate this.

1. Devices that do not have an application installed
2. Unexpected Entries
3. None and Not

1) Devices that do not have an application installed

Do you need the query?

This seems like an odd question, but why is this required? If Filesets are associated they should be installed, if not already, at the next check-in from the device. If the software has failed, then this is already available through the Report window. Perhaps they aren't in the right groups to be associated though or maybe the device hasn't checked in for a long time. Creating a Smart Group based upon an application that is not installed though, will not change the installation status if there is already an association and the App has failed to install.

Does the criteria match the desired expectation?

In this case, we want the devices that do not have an application installed. Using Firefox on macOS as an Example.

Drag in 'Application' > 'Name' to the criteria and set the following:

- Application/Name
- Is
- Firefox.App

Note we have 'Is' selected. Selecting 'Is Not', 'Does Not Contain', etc will not yield the desired results. Selecting 'Is Not' for instance, will list all devices that have any application on those devices that are not called Firefox.app. In essence, this will be all devices, those with and those without Firefox. Instead, we tick the Not box.

By using the Not box, it gives the reverse of the query. List all the devices that have Firefox and then give the opposite result (based on the Main Component, which will be covered next).

Since this is a MacOS query, then additionally the OS Type can be added:

- OS Type
- Is
- macOS

QueryBuilder - Firefox Missing

Name: Firefox Missing Main Component: macOS/Windows Device

☐ Include Archived Clients

Criteria Fields

All of these expressions must be true

☒ Not Application / Name is Firefox.app

☐ Not Operating System / OS Type is macOS

+ - Add Group Move up Move down Move in next group Move before parent

Cancel Save

What Main Component should be used?

The main component is the key ingredient that the criteria will be based upon. Imagine two fields: FileWave Client Name and Application > Name

With the main component set to Application, the query will be:

- Show all Applications that are not Firefox.app

A query set up this way will therefore show all devices, as any App that is not Firefox.app will be a successful hit on this search

QueryBuilder - Firefox Missing

Name: Firefox Missing Main Component: Application

☐ Include Archived Clients

Criteria Fields

Drop here the fields you want to see in the query report ; change column order by moving column header.

FileWave Client Name	Name	Version
10.11VM	50onPaletteServer.app	
10.11VM	ABAssistantService.app	
10.11VM	Activity Monitor.app	10.11
10.11VM	AddPrinter.app	
10.11VM	AddressBookManager.app	
10.11VM	AddressBookSourceSync.app	
10.11VM	AddressBookSync.app	
10.11VM	AddressBookUrlForwarder.app	
10.11VM	AinulM.app	
10.11VM	AirPlayUIAgent.app	
10.11VM	AirPort Base Station Agent.app	
10.11VM	AirPort Utility.app	6.3.6
10.11VM	AirScanLegacyDiscovery.app	
10.11VM	AirScanScanner.app	
10.11VM	AOSAlertManager.app	
10.11VM	AOSAlertManager.app	

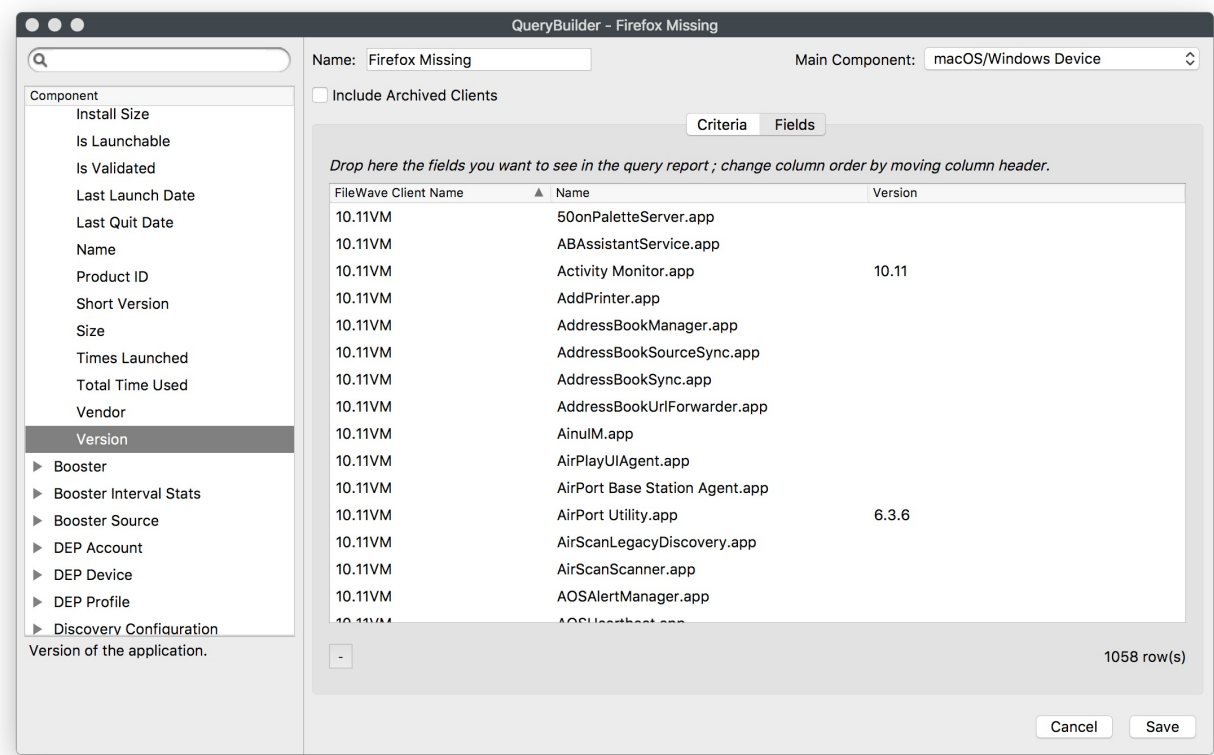
2324 row(s)

Cancel Save

With the main component set to macOS/Windows Device, then the query will be:

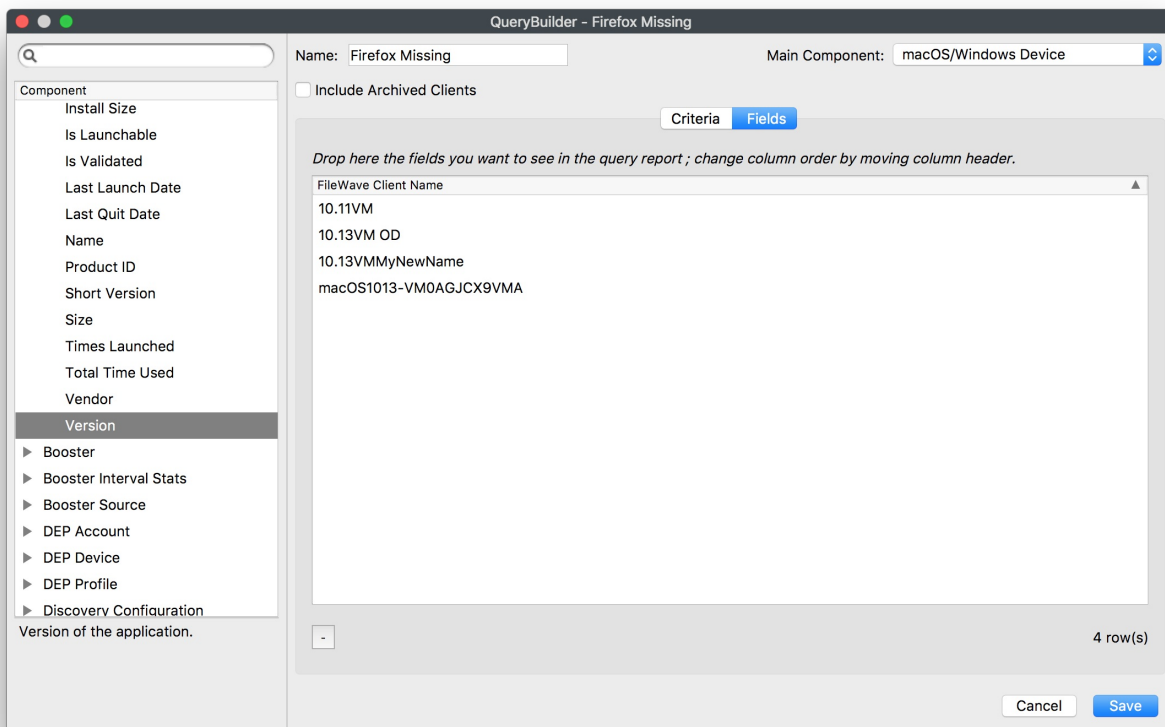
- Show all devices that do not have Firefox.app

This will be a different set of results, as now any device that has Firefox installed will no longer show. This is the desired result.



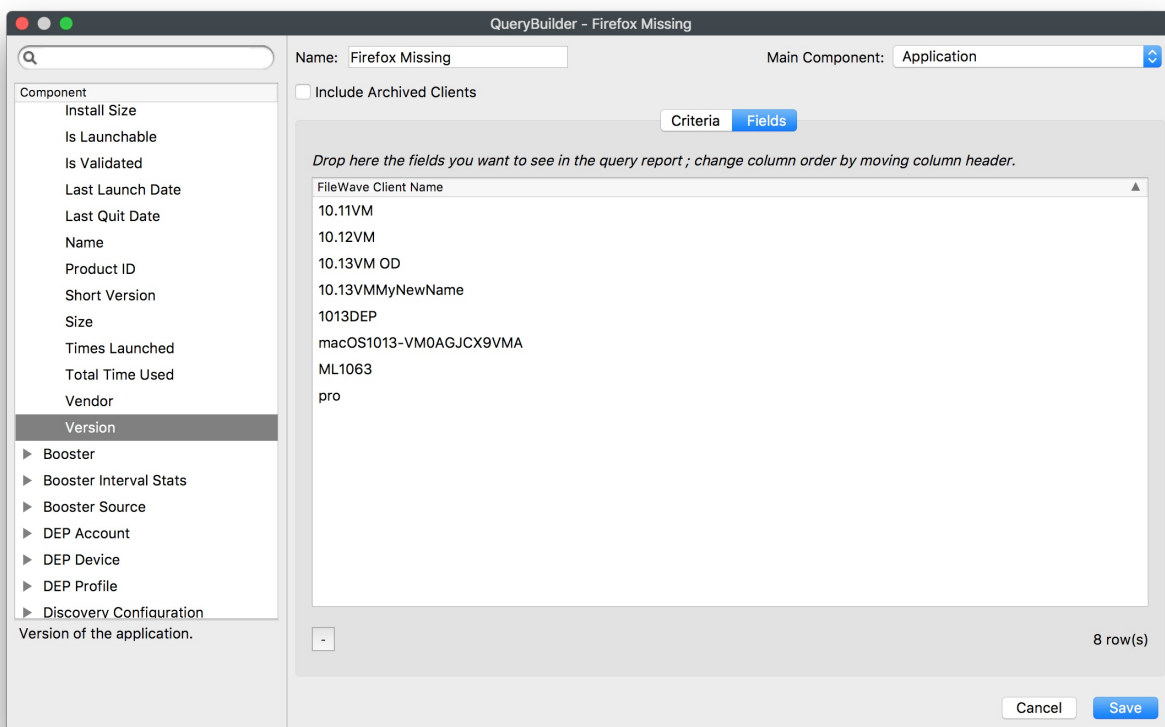
What Fields do you really need present?

The above has given the desired result, but there are multiple entries per device. From a Smart Group association point of view, strictly speaking, this should not matter. There is only one of each device in reality, but it makes it hard to read and does not work well as an Inventory Query for reporting. As such, removing any relationship that will create a 1:many relationship would be ideal, such that there is only one result per device.



2) Unexpected Entries

Sometimes some entries seem unexpected. This is usually related to one of the query items in the last example not being set as expected. From the last example, changing the Main Component to Application will still have an undesired result, as this will be searching the criteria against Application entries in the database even though that Field is not shown. There will still only be one entry visible per device, but the search is now listing all Applications that are not Firefox, so every device.



It is possible though, that with an incorrect Main Component and certain fields added, the output can appear confusing. Start with a fresh Inventory query and by setting the following, many entries can be seen with no FileWave Client Name:

- No Criteria

- Add FileWave Client Name as a Field
- Add Operating System as a Field (by dragging this in, all sub-inventory items for Operating System will be added to the Fields view).

With the Main Component set as Operating System, there will be many entries with no FileWave Client Name.

QueryBuilder - All OS Information

Name: All OS Information Main Component: Operating System

Include Archived Clients

Criteria Fields

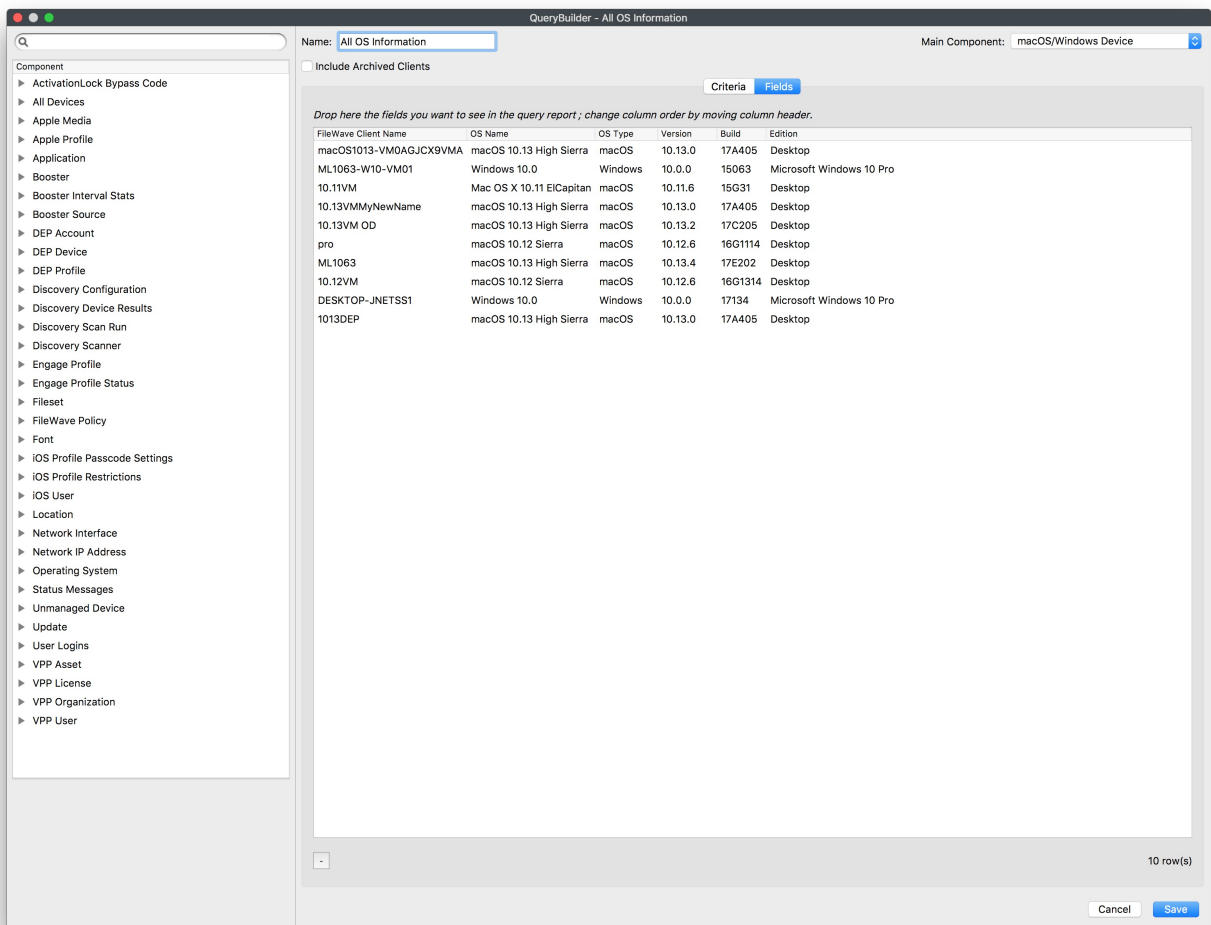
Drop here the fields you want to see in the query report ; change column order by moving column header.

FileWave Client Name	OS Name	OS Type	Version	Build	Edition
	IOS 11.2.5	IOS	11.2.5		
	IOS 11.2.6	IOS	11.2.6		
	IOS 7.0	IOS	7.0		
Apple TV	IOS 8	IOS	8.4.2	12H606	
iPad	IOS 9	IOS	9.3.5	13G36	
	IOS 9.0	IOS	9.0		
	IOS 9.3.2	IOS	9.3.2		
	IOS 9.3.5	IOS	9.3.5		
10.11VM	Mac OS X 10.11 ElCapitan	macOS	10.11.6	15G31	Desktop
10.12VM	macOS 10.12 Sierra	macOS	10.12.6	16G1314	Desktop
pro	macOS 10.12 Sierra	macOS	10.12.6	16G1114	Desktop
	macOS 10.12 Sierra	macOS	10.12.1	16B2657	Desktop
	macOS 10.12 Sierra	macOS	10.12.6	16G29	Desktop
10.13VM OD	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.2	17C205	Desktop
10.13VMMMyNewName	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.0	17A405	Desktop
1013DEP	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.0	17A405	Desktop
macOS1013-VM0AGJCX9VMA	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.0	17A405	Desktop
ML1063	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.4	17E202	Desktop
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.1	17B1003	Desktop
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.1	17B48	Desktop
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.2	17C88	Desktop
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.3	17D2047	Desktop
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.3	17D47	Desktop
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.4	17E199	Desktop
	OSX 10.11	macOS	10.11		
	OSX 10.11.6	macOS	10.11.6		
	OSX 10.12.1	macOS	10.12.1		
	OSX 10.12.6	macOS	10.12.6		
	OSX 10.13	macOS	10.13		
	OSX 10.13.2	macOS	10.13.2		
	OSX 10.13.4	macOS	10.13.4		
	OSX 5.0	macOS	5.0		
	tvOS 10.2	tvOS	10.2		
DESKTOP-JNETSS1	Windows 10.0	Windows	10.0.0	17134	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
ML1063-W10-VM01	Windows 10.0	Windows	10.0.0	15063	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
	Windows 10.0	Windows	10.0.0	10240	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro
	Windows 10.0	Windows	10.0.0	16299	Microsoft Windows 10 Pro

49 row(s)

Cancel Save

This will be because entries have been made into the database from machines running these OS versions that are no longer appropriate for any of the active devices. Changing the Main Component can provide a true representation of the current installed OS versions.



Saving the above with the Main Component set as Operating System these entries can be seen to have no client. Right-click on an entry. As well as Copy, is there the option to Reveal Client:

Inventory Queries		All OS Information (49)		
FileWave Client Name	OS Name	OS Type	Version	
	iOS 10.0	iOS	10.0	
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.1	
DESKTOP-JNETSS1	Windows 10.0	Windows	10.0.0	
	iOS 7.0	iOS	7.0	
	OSX 10.11	macOS	10.11	
1013DEP	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.0	

Reveal Client

Copy ⌘C

Inventory Queries		All OS Information (49)	
FileWave Client Name	OS Name	OS Type	Version
	iOS 10.0	iOS	10.0
	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.1
DESKTOP-JN	Windows 10.0	Windows	10.0.0
	iOS 7.0	iOS	7.0
	OSX 10.11	macOS	10.11
1013DEP	macOS 10.13 High Sierra	macOS	10.13.0

If there is no Client to Reveal, then there is no representable entry in the database. If you have a FileWave Client Name that shows but does not have the option to Reveal Client, it may be an old static record that will require manual removal. In this instance, you could contact support and they would be able to assist in tidying this up.

Inventory Only and Archived Clients

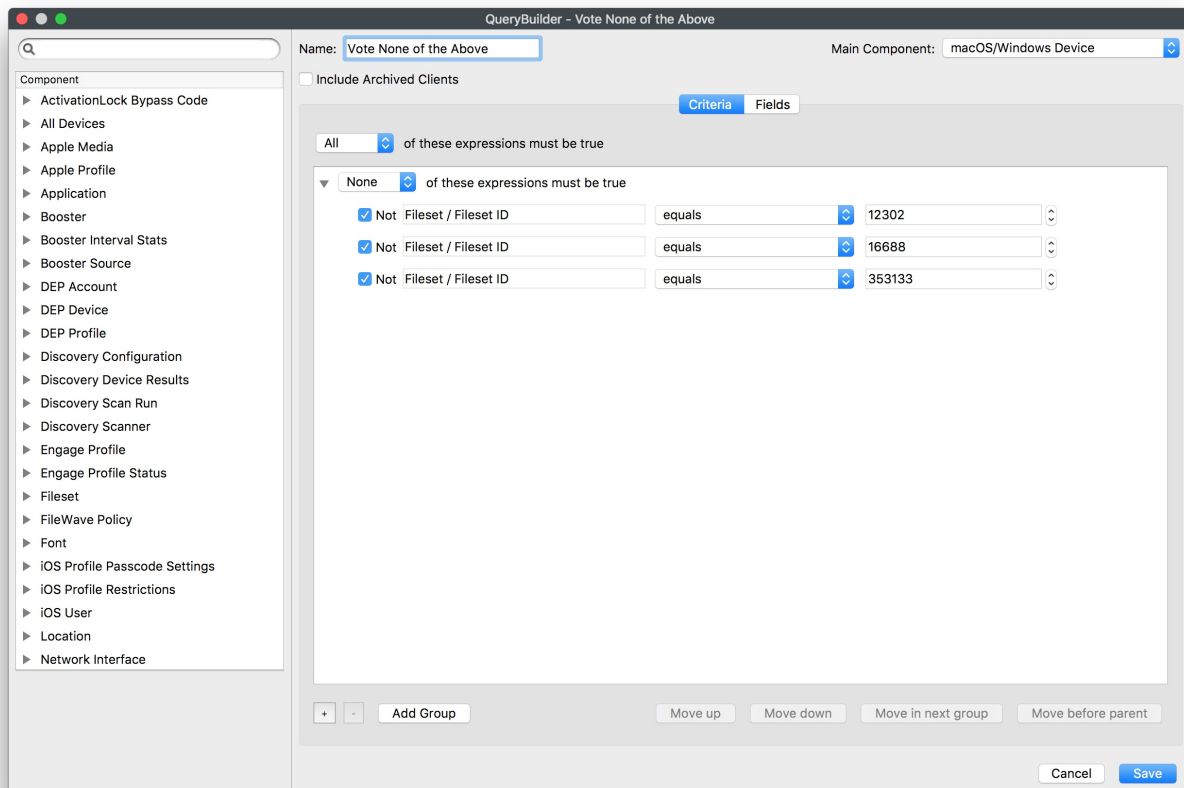
- When attempting to Reveal Clients, if the client is either Inventory Only or Archived, the relevant option to view these would need to be set through the contextual Menu Item

3) None and Not

Not can in many instances be more useful. A question was posed:

"We would like an Inventory query to show devices that have multiple specific Filesets installed. The issue I am seeing is that if you try to enter multiple Fileset IDs to an inventory query it will show no results because I am guessing it is trying to look for every Fileset to have multiple IDs. So basically I want to find a device that has Fileset 1, 2, and 3, installed and they must have all 3 to go into the query."

Taking from the information above, the negative logic will be seen to be the approach. Trying to search for each of these using positive logic will again not yield the correct results. Instead, Not can be used with desired results when mixed with None.



Take some time to think about how this works. Understanding this will make Inventory Query building in general more successful and ensure you don't have unexpected results.

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