

Mixing in Elixir to Build Search

Friday, 16 March

Code BEAM SF





Adrian

Software Engineer

Search & Personalization

Building all things search at Teachers Pay Teachers
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- Tools for Common Core
- Math
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GRADES

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- 1 - 2
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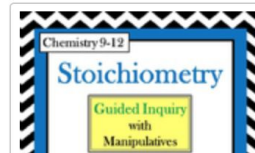
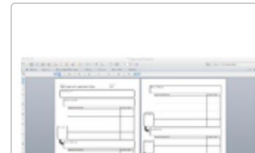
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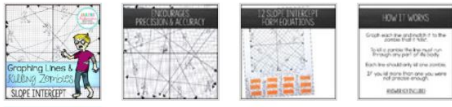
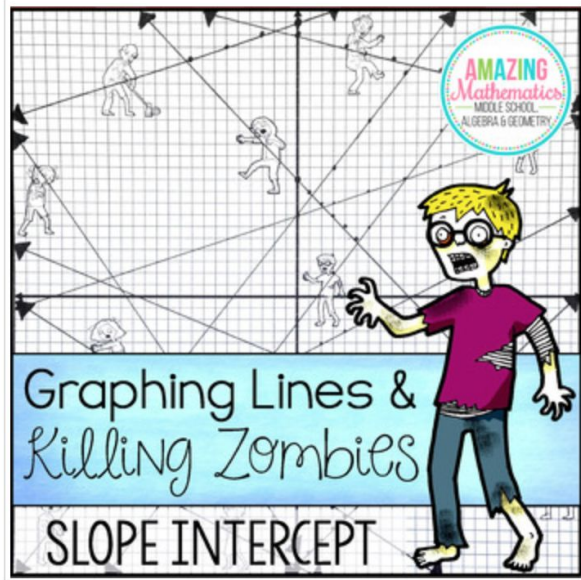
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Graphing Lines & Zombies ~ Slope Intercept Form



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Product Description

This zombie themed graphing activity will strengthen your students' skills in graphing lines in slope intercept form.

Subject

Algebra, Graphing, Halloween

Grade Levels

7th, 8th, 9th, 10th

Resource Type

Worksheets, Activities, Printables

Product Rating

★★★★ 4.0 • 1,091 ratings

File Type

PDF (Acrobat) Document File

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1 MB | Includes Graph Page (with and without numbers), Equations, and Answer Key

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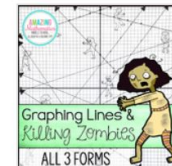
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Mixing in Elixir

—

What does that mean?

Mixing in Elixir

What does that mean?

Breaking the monolith...

Mixing in Elixir

What does that mean?

Breaking the monolith...by porting pages piecemeal

Let's talk about search

—

Let's talk about search



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- st patricks day
- reading comprehension passages and questions
- fractions
- spring
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FEATURED

Videos
Winter
Spring
Women's History Month
St. Patrick's Day
Easter

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to receive:

Let's start searching...

—



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math

FEATURED

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- Tools for Common Core
- Math
- Free Downloads
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GRADES

- PreK - K
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 8

Suggestions

- st patricks day math
- math
- math games
- math centers
- math worksheets

Sellers

- Math Mojo
- Literacy and Math Ideas

Resources

- Math Centers

See all results for **math**

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Suggestions

st patricks day math

math

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Literacy and Math Ideas

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Math Centers

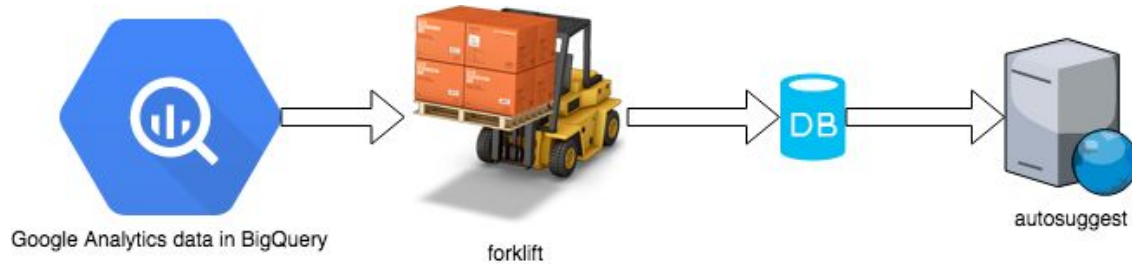
See all results for **math**

Resource suggestions

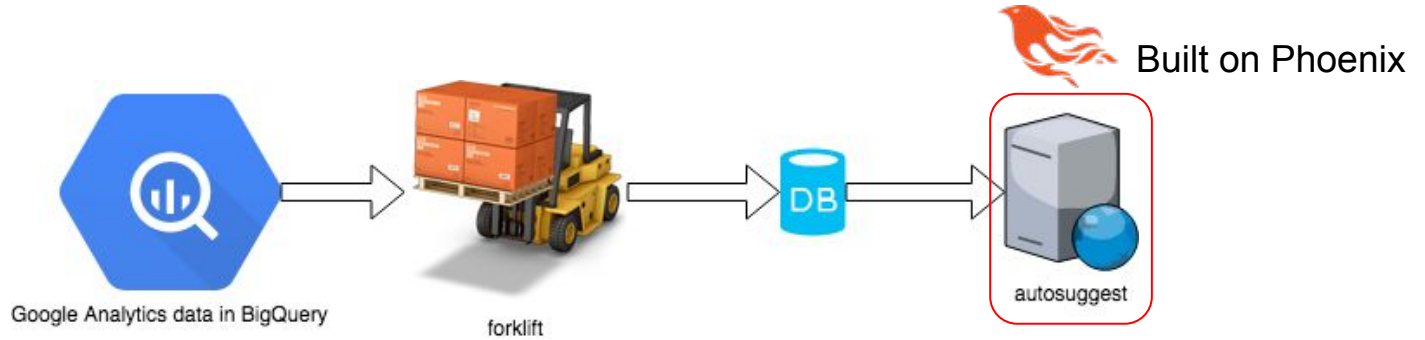
JSON returned from autosuggest

```
{
  "sellers": {
    "1": {
      "url": "/Store/Math-Mojo",
      "thumb_url": "https://ecdn.teacherspayteachers.com/thumbuserthumb/Math-Mojo-1520640523/460017.jpg",
      "text": "Math Mojo"
    },
    "2": {
      "url": "/Store/Math-Tech-Connections",
      "thumb_url": "https://ecdn.teacherspayteachers.com/thumbuserthumb/Math-Tech-Connections-1520628976/359717.jpg",
      "text": "Math Tech Connections"
    }
  },
  "resourcetypes": {
    "132": {
      "url": "/Browse/Type-of-Resource/Math-Centers",
      "name": "Math Centers"
    }
  },
  "list": [
    "st patricks day math",
    "math",
    "math games",
    "math centers",
    "math worksheets"
  ]
}
```


Process to power autosuggest



Process to power autosuggest



autosuggest

—

A standalone service built as a proof-of-concept for Elixir adoption at TPT

autosuggest

A standalone service built as a
proof-of-concept for Elixir adoption at
TPT

Thanks to Samira for owning this project



Now the information retrieval

—

The search part

previous way to serve search (simplified)

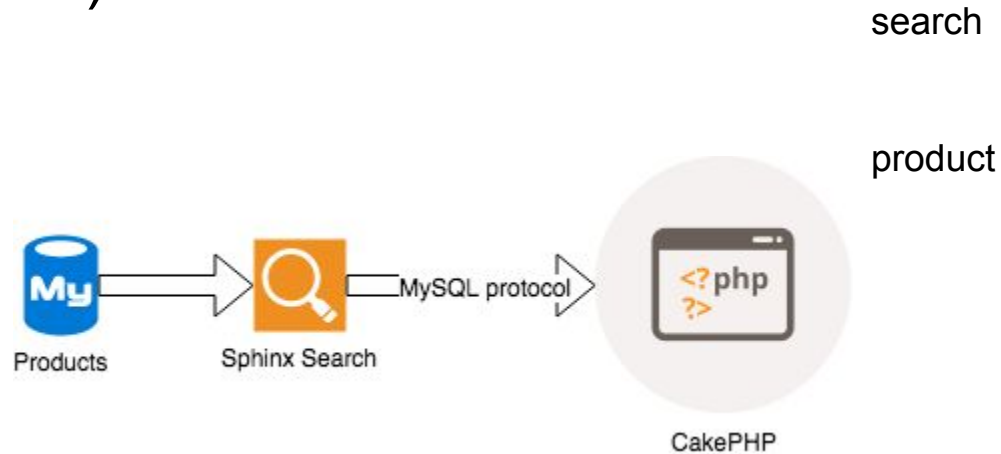


previous way to serve search (simplified)

search

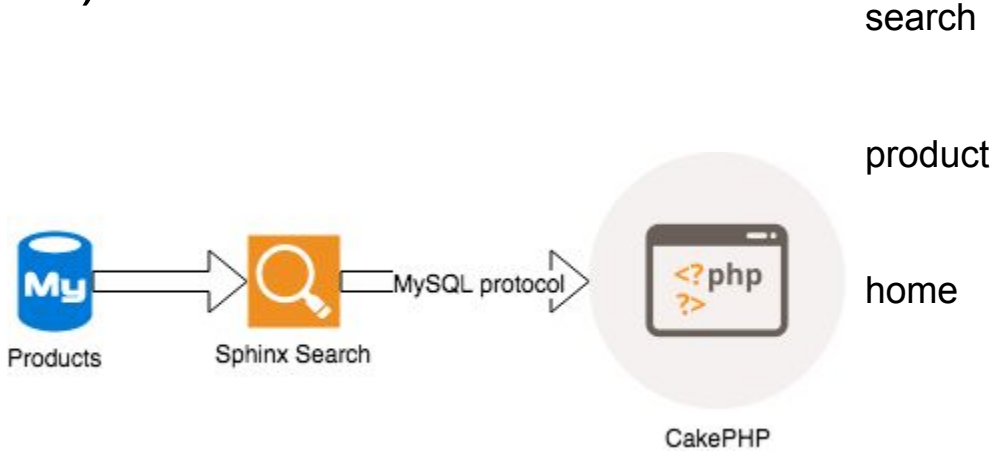


previous way to serve search (simplified)

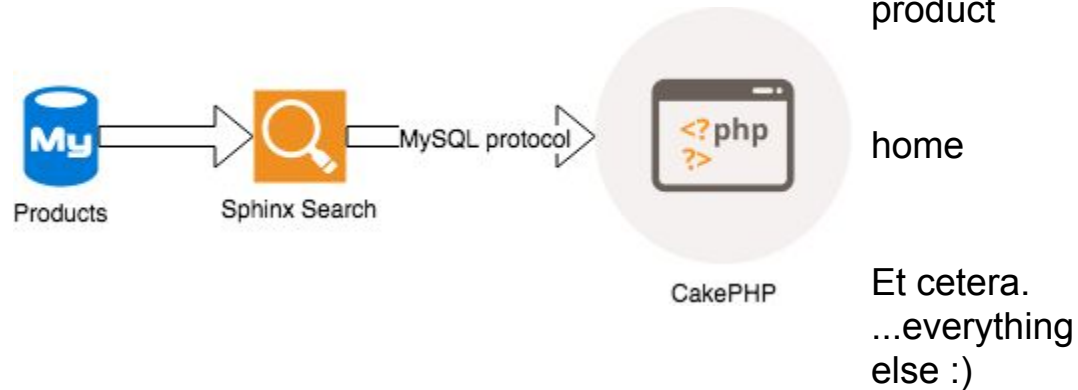


previous way to serve search

(simplified)



previous way to serve search (simplified)

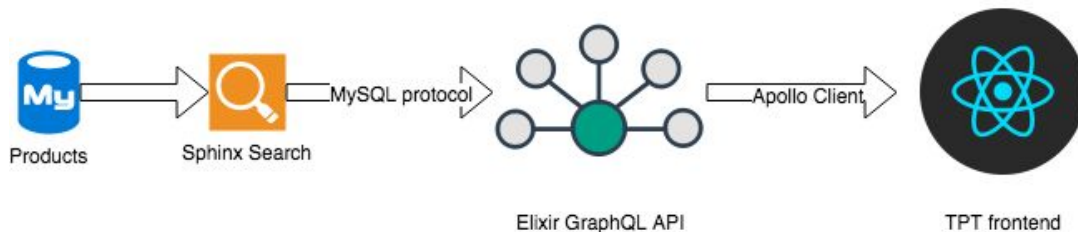


Implementing more elixir

—

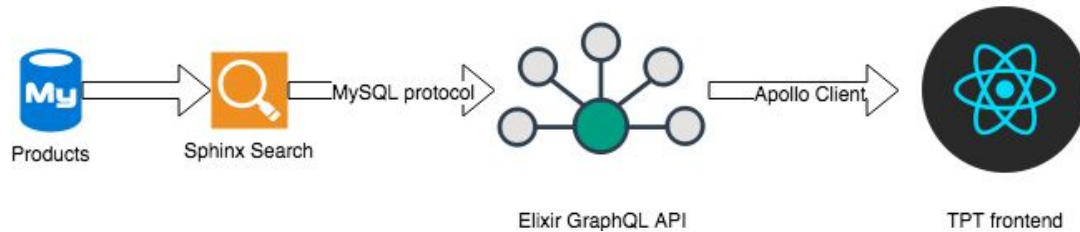
A GraphQL API

Mixing in GraphQL



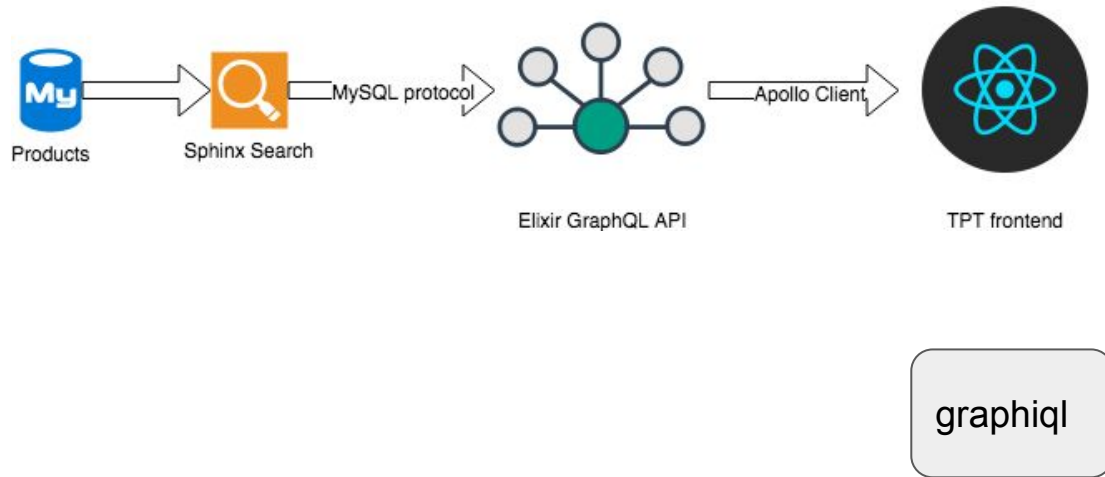
Mixing in GraphQL

And then this gave us more tools to debug and analyze search



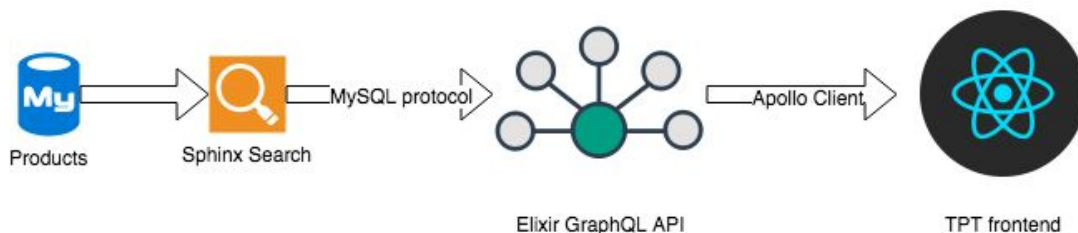
Mixing in GraphQL

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Mixing in GraphQL

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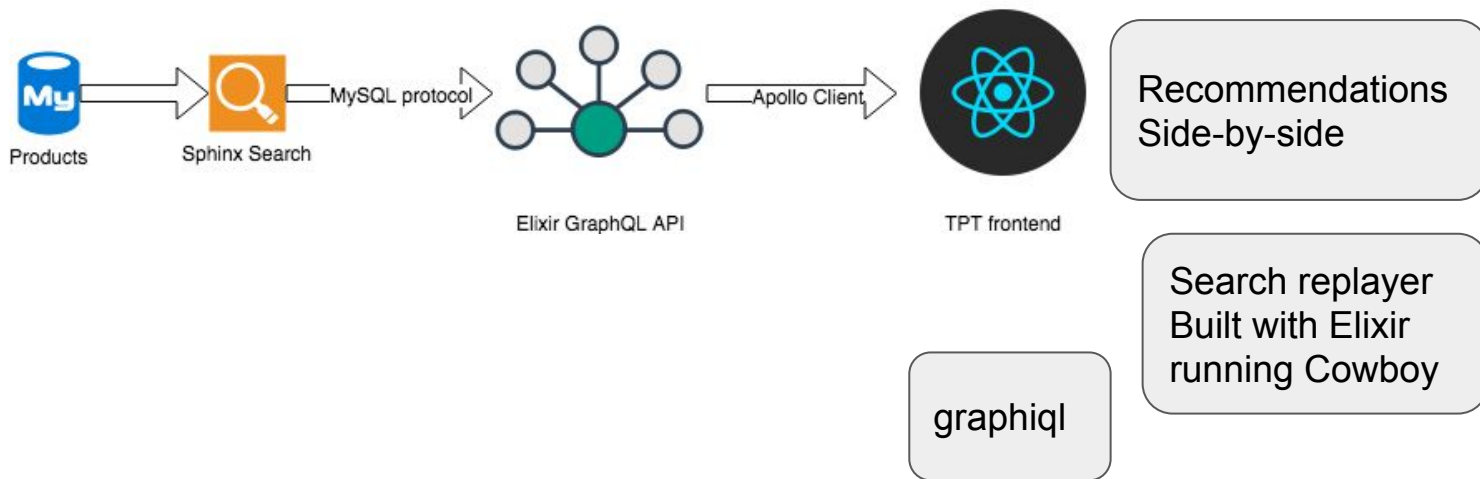


graphiql

Search replayer
Built with Elixir
running Cowboy

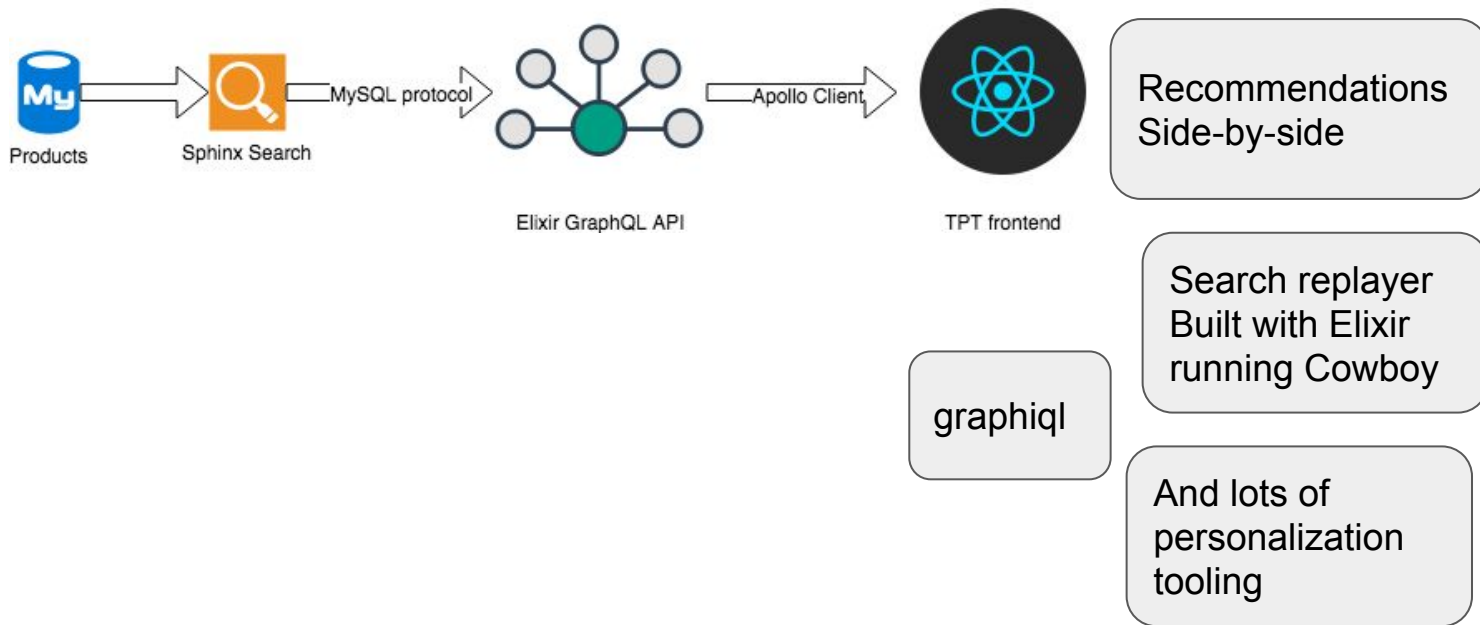
Mixing in GraphQL

And then this gave us more tools to debug and analyze search



Mixing in GraphQL

And then this gave us more tools to debug and analyze search



graphql

GraphQL



History ▾

Save

```
1 {
2   searchProducts(query:"math") {
3     results{
4       id
5       name
6     }
7   }
8 }
```

```
},
"data": {
  "searchProducts": {
    "results": [
      {
        "name": "First Grade Math Unit 1: Number Sense, Counting Forward, Ten Frames (and more!)",
        "id": "1288148"
      },
      {
        "name": "Back to School NO PREP Math and Literacy Packet (Kindergarten)",
        "id": "1334929"
      },
      {
        "name": "Spring Math and Literacy Packet NO PREP (Kindergarten)",
        "id": "1128712"
      },
      {
        "name": "Spring Math and Literacy Packet NO PREP (Kindergarten)",
        "id": "1128712"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

graphql

GraphiQL



History ▾

Save

```
1 {  
2   searchProducts(query:"math") {  
3     results{  
4       id  
5       name  
6     }  
7   }  
8 }
```

graphql query

```
},  
  "data": {  
    "searchProducts": {  
      "results": [  
        {  
          "name": "First Grade Math Unit 1: Number Sense, Counting Forward, Ten Frames (and more!)",  
          "id": "1288148"  
        },  
        {  
          "name": "Back to School NO PREP Math and Literacy Packet (Kindergarten)",  
          "id": "1334929"  
        },  
        {  
          "name": "Spring Math and Literacy Packet NO PREP (Kindergarten)",  
          "id": "1128712"  
        },  
        {  
          "name": "Summer Math and Literacy Packet NO PREP (Kindergarten)",  
          "id": "1128713"  
        }  
      ]  
    }  
  }  
}
```

graphql

GraphiQL



History ▾

Save

```
1 {
2   searchProducts(query:"math") {
3     results{
4       id
5       name
6     }
7   }
8 }
```

```
},
  "data": {
    "searchProducts": {
      "results": [
        {
          "name": "First Grade Math Unit 1: Number Sense, Counting Forward, Ten Frames (and more!)",
          "id": "1288148"
        },
        {
          "name": "Back to School NO PREP Math and Literacy Packet (Kindergarten)",
          "id": "1334929"
        },
        {
          "name": "Spring Math and Literacy Packet NO PREP (Kindergarten)",
          "id": "1128712"
        }
      ]
    }
  }
}
```

results

graphiql

Just with graphiql, search became easier to debug

graphiql

Just with graphiql, search became easier to debug

And also easier to test

```
test "facet on grade group should return grades in the resultFacets" do
  query = ""
  query {
    searchProducts(query: "", limit: 5, facets: ["Grade-Level/1-2"]) {
      resultFacets {
        grades {
          id
        }
      }
    }
  }
  ""
```

```
assert {:ok, result} = Poison.Parser.parse(response.body)
assert Map.has_key?(result, "data")
assert not Map.has_key?(result, "errors")
search_results = result["data"]["searchProducts"]
obs_grades = search_results["resultFacets"]["grades"]
assert length(obs_grades) == 2
assert Enum.member?(obs_grades, %{"id" => "Grades_First"})
assert Enum.member?(obs_grades, %{"id" => "Grades_Second"})
end
```


Testing our Search terms also became easier!

Testing our Search terms also became easier!

We convert our search string into an AST (abstract syntax tree)

Typical unquoted text string

```
TptApi.SearchText.from_string("this and that")
```

```
{:ok, {:ast_and, [ast_word: 'this', ast_word: 'and', ast_word: 'that']}}
```

Quoted string

```
TptApi.SearchText.from_string(~s("this and that"))  
{:ok, {:ast_quoted, 'this and that'}}
```

Advanced negative searching

```
TptApi.SearchText.from_string("this -that")  
{:ok, {:ast_and, [ast_word: 'this', ast_not: {:ast_word, 'that'}]}}
```

We test a list of different search terms we support

```
test "successfully parse nice inputs", %{nice_inputs: inputs} do
  for {input, expected} <- inputs do
    assert {:ok, expected} == TptApi.SearchText.from_string(input)
  end
end
```

That list looks similar to the following

```
[...  
{"fractions \"cheese bananas\"", {:ast_and,  
  [ast_word: 'fractions', ast_quoted: 'cheese bananas']}},  
{"fractions -\"cheese bananas\"", {:ast_and,  
  [ast_word: 'fractions', ast_not: {:ast_quoted, 'cheese bananas'}]}}},  
{"fractions \"cheese or bananas\"", {:ast_and,  
  [{:ast_word, 'fractions'}, {:ast_quoted, 'cheese or bananas'}]}}},  
...]
```

Search analytics

—

Search is *not* easy

Search analytics


Search is *not* easy

But that's why we A/B test and look at a lot of data

Replay and SxS tool

Internal eval is important

A/B configuration

A weight expr:  B weight expr:
A rank expr: B rank expr:
A abtests: B abtests:
Grade facets:

- Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- 1st
- 2nd

Replayer Search terms / Browsers

Top 100 (overall)
Top 100 (1 word)
Top 100 (2 words)
Top 100 (3 words)

Single query SxS

Query string:

Replay and SxS tool

Internal eval is important

A/B configuration

A weight expr: B weight expr:

A rank expr: B rank expr:

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Grade facets:

- Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- 1st
- 2nd

Replayer Search terms / Browses

Top 100 (overall)

Top 100 (1 word)

Top 100 (2 words)

Top 100 (3 words)

Replay

replays Search or Browse
graphql queries and gets
aggregate data

Single query SxS

Query string: Show SxS

Replay and SxS tool

Internal eval is important

A/B configuration

A weight expr: B weight expr:

A rank expr: B rank expr:

A abtests: B abtests:

Grade facets:

- Pre-K
- Kindergarten
- 1st
- 2nd

Replayer Search terms / Browsers

Top 100 (overall)
Top 100 (1 word)
Top 100 (2 words)
Top 100 (3 words)

Replay

Single query SxS

Query string: Show SxS

*Side by Side search
comparisons for A/B tests*

Example on Replayer of Top 100 Browsers

facets

```
|> Enum.map(&(Task.async(Replayer.Browse, :do_browse, [&1, cfg.a_url_params])))
```

```
|> Enum.map(&Task.await/1)
```

```
|> update_with_rank()
```

```
# Snippet of GraphQL query in RePlayer.Browse.do_browse/2
  totalCount,
  results{
    type,
    url,
    name,
    description(maxLength: 300),
    images{large},
    downloads,
    views,
    votes,
    abbreviatedGrades,
    ratings{scoreAverage, count},
    sold,
    price,
    isFree,
    author{id, name, icon{location}}
  }
# ... more code
```

Results

Wordlist	Name	Avg Price	WAD Price	Avg #Votes	Num Free	Num Paid	Unique Sellers	Avg Grades
Top 100 Browsers	page1a	9.36	9.10	2912.34	2133	3015	704	4.25
Top 100 Browsers	top5a	8.95	8.39	6090.01	206	289	129	4.71
Top 100 Browsers	top1a	6.93	6.93	9141.51	39	60	34	6.30
Top 100 Browsers	page1b	12.80	13.12	2927.67	2156	2992	693	4.32
Top 100 Browsers	top5b	15.06	13.88	6118.35	209	286	130	4.83
Top 100 Browsers	top1b	12.26	12.26	9179.24	40	59	34	6.06

*WAD: weighted average discount

Full disclosure: the data here does not represent what is in production :)

Mixing Elixir for tooling

—

Replaced PHP tooling

Mixing Elixir for tooling

Replaced PHP tooling

Also a great learning project for onboarding

Mixing Elixir for tooling

Replaced PHP tooling

Also a great learning project for onboarding

Thanks to Louis for bootstrapping this project



Related searches

—

An SEO initiative

Related searches



An SEO initiative

Built easily in the new elixir platform

(refresher)

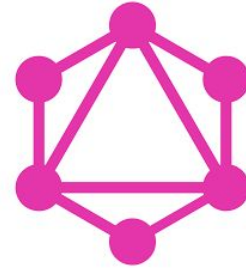


Autosuggest endpoint

(refresher)



Autosuggest endpoint



GraphQL API

```
defp run_query(path) do
```

```
  uri =
```

```
    Application.get_env(:tpt_api, :autosuggest_api_root)
```

```
    <> "/#{path}"
```

```
    |> URI.parse()
```

```
    HTTPUtil.get_json!(uri, [], [timeout: @timeout, recv_timeout:
```

```
@timeout])
```

```
end
```

Now on our Search pages in React

Related searches for *pi day*

pi day activities middle school

pi day activities

pi day activities elementary

pi day activities high school

showing 1-52 of **1,293** results

Elixir Mixed In

Elixir Mixed In

- Autosuggest helped push adoption forward

Elixir Mixed In

- Autosuggest helped push adoption forward
- GraphQL API provided great decoupling benefits

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- Autosuggest helped push adoption forward
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- Having engineers bootstrap Elixir projects provide good learning

Elixir Mixed In

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- engineering.teacherspayteachers.com

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