

Configuring MediaWiki to Search for Three Letter Words

By default [MediaWiki](#) uses [MySQL](#) and the default FULLTEXT indexing uses built-in stop words and a minimum word length of four. A list of the stop words is available but are the usual thing (*the, and, one_, etc.*). You can set your own stop words by setting the **ft_stopword_file** system variable but the default stop words may be sufficient to your purposes. However, there are many three letter words which you may like to index (*_SVN, RSS, FAQ, etc.*). In order to do this you need to change the FULLTEXT indexing to a minimum word length of three. To do this edit the my.ini and add to the end of the [mysqld] section:

```
ft_min_word_len=3[ myisamchk] ft_min_word_len=3
```

Restart MySQL, and then reindex the relevant tables. The tables are `$_{mw_}searchindex` where `$_{mw_}` is the table prefix for the MediaWiki instance (there will be one searchindex table for each instance). To reindex the table, log into the server and start up [MySQL Administrator](#). Log in as root and click *Catalogs*, then *wikidb*. Select the table and click the **Maintenance** button. Select *Repair Tables* and press **Next**. Check the *Quick* option under *Repair Method* and click **Repair Tables**. Repeat for each MediaWiki instance.

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