

# RSH RACF TIPS - ANSWER

For Administrators, Auditors, and Analysts

Volume 3  
Issue 3

July  
2009

## SEARCH Command Mystery

One SEARCH gave the following results:

ABC.\*  
ABC.\*.\*\*  
ABC.\*\*

Another SEARCH gave these results:

ABC.\*.\*\*  
ABC.\*  
ABC.\*\*

Why are they different? For the answer, visit the RACF Center page on our website, find this newsletter topic, and click on the link [Answer](#).

---

## Answer

The SEARCH command executed was:

```
SEARCH MASK(ABC.) CLASS(class)
```

For starters, an asterisk \* is always considered to be more specific than a double asterisk \*\*. Hence, ABC.\*\* always appears last.

The first SEARCH was for CLASS(DATASET) on a z/OS system with SETROPTS Enhanced Generic Naming (EGN) active. With EGN, a single asterisk \* only matches one qualifier; whereas, a double asterisk \*\* matches zero or more qualifiers. Conceivably, either the ABC.\* or ABC.\*.\*\* could cover a dataset whose name has just one more qualifier (e.g., ABC.XYZ). However, the ABC.\* would only apply to datasets whose names have exactly one more qualifier and nothing more; whereas, the ABC.\*.\*\* profile could apply to datasets whose

names have additional qualifiers. Hence, ABC.\* is considered to be more specific.

The second SEARCH command was for CLASS(FACILITY); although, the results would apply to any general resource class. Contrary to the DATASET class, a single asterisk \* in a general resource profile matches one or more qualifiers. A double asterisk \*\* behaves the same by matching zero or more qualifiers. Either profile could in theory cover the same set of resources. But the ABC.\*.\*\* profile has more qualifiers specified - two as opposed to just one - and is therefore considered to be more specific than just ABC.\*.

RACF is a Trademark of the International Business Machines Corporation

**RSH CONSULTING, INC.**

RACF & ENDEVOR Specialists

www.rshconsulting.com ■ 617-969-9050

29 Caroline Park, Newton, Massachusetts 02468

SECURITY

SUPPORT

SOLUTIONS