

RSH RACF TIPS - ANSWER

For Administrators, Auditors, and Analysts

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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.*.

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