SciCat Search UI Core Release

By Igor Khokhriakov@DESY





Search UI Release Focus:

- Enhanced User Experience: Develop an intuitive and configurable interface for efficient dataset management and navigation.
- **Personalized Settings**: Implement a robust backend to support user-specific settings for facets, columns, and search preferences.
- **Interactive Search Interface**: Provide a prominent full-text search bar, dynamic filter tags, and an interactive display of search results, requiring user action to load data.
- **User-Centric Design**: Ensure the interface caters to individual user needs, with the ability to save configurations and reset to defaults, enhancing overall usability and satisfaction.

Enhanced User Experience (#614)

- Pre-populate the configuration view with metadata from accessible datasets, offering a smart starting point for user interaction.
- Guess data types for scientific metadata to streamline user configuration processes.
- Merge high-level field configurations with metadata keys for a unified configuration approach.
- Facilitate decisions on whether front-end or back-end should handle configuration merging, enhancing system efficiency.
- Determine admin capabilities for overwriting default configurations, ensuring flexibility and control in data presentation.

Personalized Settings (#604)

- Expand the userSettings endpoint to include user-specific configurations for columns, filters, and metadata sections.
- Introduce an admin-accessible endpoint for default settings, providing a foundation for anonymous users and initial user setups.
- Enable users to store their preferences for visible columns and filter facets within the main Scicat database.
- Ensure that personal settings are dynamically applied across sessions, offering a consistent and tailored user experience.
- Develop a user-friendly interface for settings adjustment, including a reset option to revert to default configurations.

Interactive Search Interface

- Design a full-text search feature that spans the entire viewport, emphasizing its importance and accessibility (#1148).
- Implement filter tags that display current search criteria, allowing users to understand and modify their search context easily (#1133Ѽ).
- Require user action to initiate the search, avoiding automatic loading of potentially irrelevant datasets (#1149).
- Integrate an 'Apply' button to trigger the search process, reinforcing user control over data retrieval (#1149).

User-Centric Design

- Ensure that UI elements like the settings icon are conveniently placed for quick access to configuration options (#1133Ѭ).
- Design modal dialogs that can be invoked from various UI locations, adapting to different user workflows (#1132ѵ).
- Implement a blank initial state for dataset lists, prompting users to actively search or filter to view data (#1149).
- Present a clear and informative message when no datasets are displayed, guiding users towards using search or filter functions (#1149).
- Optimize the metadata filter widget to accommodate various data types, providing appropriate matching options for an enhanced search experience (#1141).

Short live demo