

# Trust Your JQL Searches and take EMPTY in account

Recently, I hit a weirdness in a JIRA filter that did not return all issues I expected. After some testing and dialog with Atlassian - in short - a bug report was created and shortly closed by Atlassian with the comment:



Hello all,

This kind of behaviour is present for multiple JQL cases e.g. custom fields, labels, projects and is an expected, designed behaviour hence this issue will not be considered a bug.

Cheers,

Pawel, Jira Developer

In short, this is regarding customfields (etc) that can be empty (as having a null value in the database) - typically represented as "none" is a select field or blank in a string.

To sum up, if You are searching a project and Your JQL has some "not in" or "!=" operation, be sure to add a phrase for EMPTY:

```
PROJECT = CUSTOMER1
```

will return all issues, where as

```
PROJECT = CUSTOMER1 AND Classification not in ("Patch Management")
```

needs to be written as

```
PROJECT = CUSTOMER1 AND (Classification not in ("Patch Management") OR classification is empty)
```

to actually show all issues.

So It seems for every negation on fields and labels etc in Your JQL, EMPTY need to be taken in account also.