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# Data Retrieval

Retrieval of data in **AwareIM** is achieved by means of a *data query* (or simply a *query*). A query goes through all data in the system and compares it against some criteria. The data that matches the criteria is retrieved. Since data in **AwareIM** is encapsulated in business objects (see [Business Objects as Carriers of Data](#)) a query looks for the instances of a business object that match the criteria of the query.

Data may be retrieved not only explicitly by a user but also by processes and business rules. This is achieved by executing the [FIND](#), [PICK FROM](#) or [DISPLAY](#) actions of the Rule Language. Executing this action is equivalent to running a query – in fact, almost any query (other than very specific queries in SQL form) may be represented as a [FIND](#) action.

See also:

- [Configuring Queries](#)
- [Queries that Require User Input](#)
- [Running Queries in the Operation Mode](#)
- [Building Queries in the Operation Mode](#)
- [Searching for Data using Forms](#)

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Last update: **2025/06/12 02:33**

