New Search Capabilities in Vanessa

2018.12.03.ET

Introduction

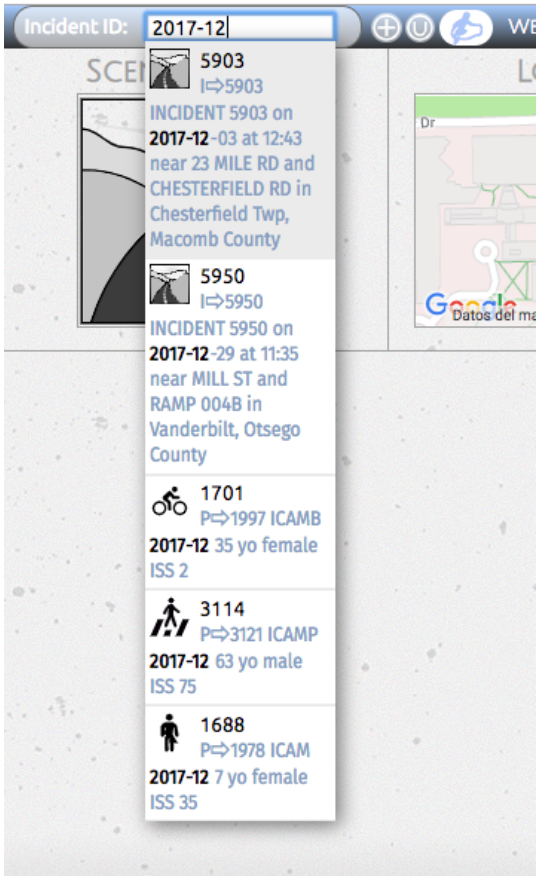
Vanessa now features greatly expanded search capabilities designed to help users locate incidents, vehicles and people (*vehicle case occupants, bicyclists or pedestrians*) more easily.

As a general principle, you can begin entering any relevant string of letters or numbers into the search box in the upper left corner of the application and expect to see a short list of matching *incidents, vehicles* or *people*. The search results will be refined as you enter additional characters.

Graphic *icons* as well as text *tags* now provide information to the user about different types of successful matches.

First Example

A partial search string such as "2017-12" could easily represent the beginning of a date, or it might represent an identifier for an ICAM case, or a CIREN case, or an ICAM Bicycle or an ICAM Pedestrian case, or possibly something else. Let's type this string into the search box and see what we get:



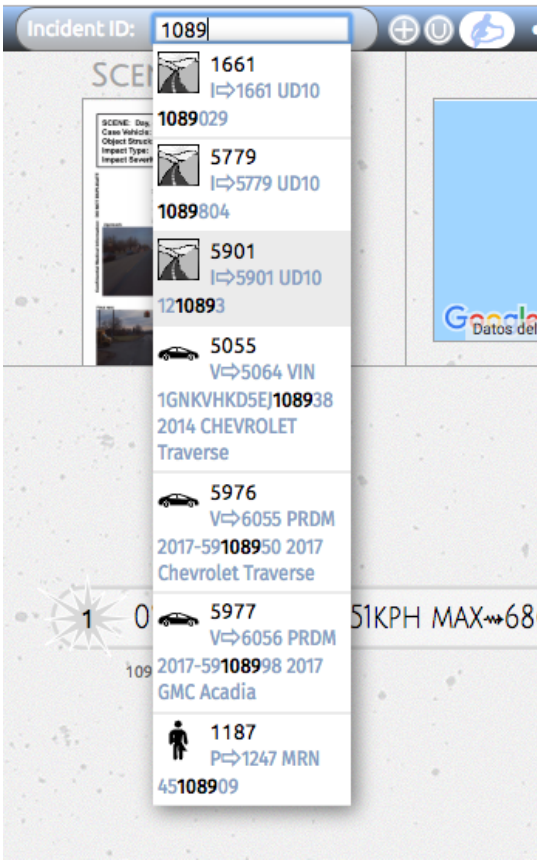
As we can see from the drop-down result list, there are:

- two incidents that occurred in December of 2017
- an ICAM Bicyclist case whose ID matches the search string
- an ICAM Pedestrian case whose ID matches the search string
- an ICAM case where the ID of one of the vehicle occupants matches the search string

We can now click on whichever matching case we had in mind.

Second Example

Now let's type in the numeric string, "1089" which could refer to anything. Let's see what matches result:



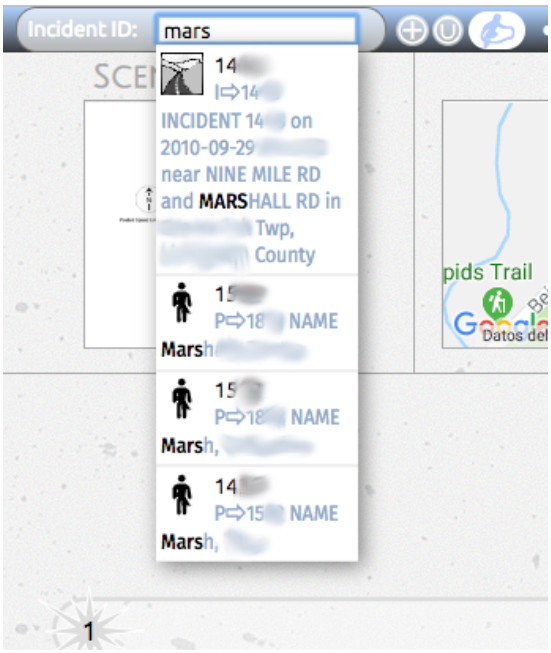
As we see, there are:

- Three matching UD-10 crash IDs associated with three Vanessa cases.
- One vehicle with a VIN containing the string
- Two PARADIGM vehicle cases whose IDs contain the matching string
- One person whose medical record number contains the string.

This kind of searching can be very valuable in cases where we only remember some fragment of information related to an incident we are looking for. The next example is similar to this one, but demonstrates that we can also search using text strings.

Third Example

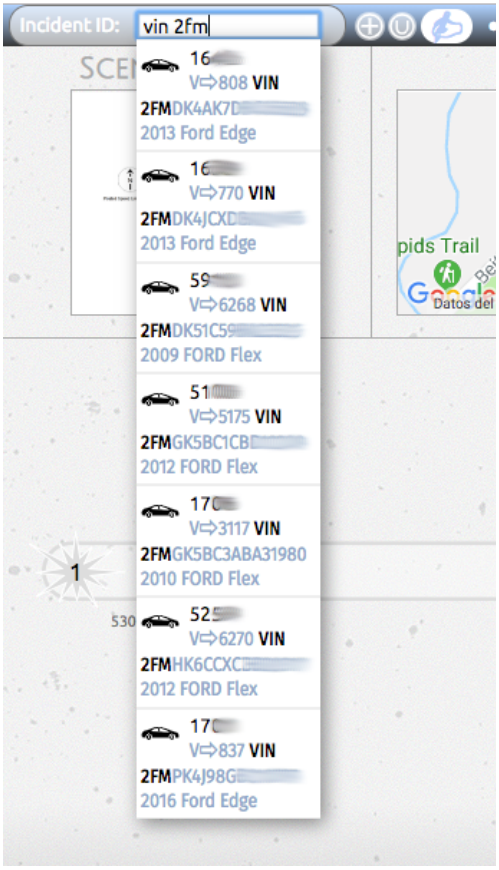
Here we enter the string "mars" ...



... which matches to the name of a road, as well as to three different people. Here let us assume we were looking for an incident that had occurred on Marshall Road, so we click on the first entry to retrieve the case we are seeking.

Using Tags to Restrict the Search Domain

Often we know *a priori* that we want to restrict our search to a certain domain. For example, if we want to search only matching vehicle VIN numbers, then we can type "VIN" followed by a space and then the beginning of a VIN number:



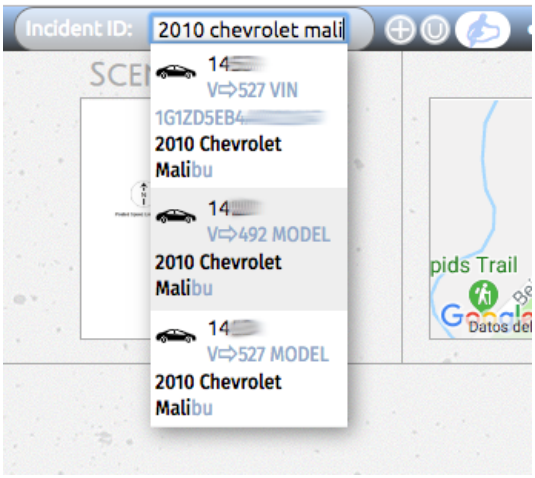
Other common tags that you can use to restrict the search domain include:

CIREN — *legacy CIREN cases*	CRASHID — *legacy ICAM crashids*	
ICAM — *ICAM case ids*	ICAMB — *ICAM bicyclist cases*	ICAMP — *ICAM pedestrian cases*
MRN — *UM medical record nos.*	PRDM — *PARADIGM cases*	SAHM — *SAHM scan ids*
UD10 — *UD-10 crashids*	VIN — *vehicle VIN numbers*	

There are many other ways you can find what you are looking for. Below are two additional specific examples:

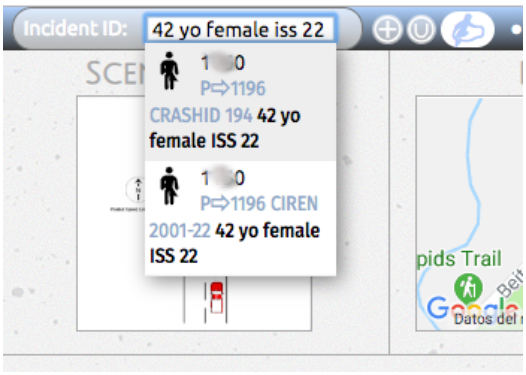
Locating a vehicle by make and model

As you may have already guessed from what you have already seen above, we can also search for incidents involving specific makes and models. Of course, for common vehicles like Chevrolet Malibus, there may be too many results. However, if we can narrow the search by including the year of manufacture, then we very likely can narrow the result set to a short list of options:



Locating a Person by age, gender, and injury severity score

Suppose that you are trying to locate a case but only remember that the case occupant was a 42 year old woman with an ISS of 22. As long as you adhere to the way that Vanessa abbreviates things, then you should be able to quickly locate the case:



There is an exact match. Vanessa shows two entries in the list because there was a match on the descriptions for both the legacy database CRASHID as well as the CIREN case ID number, but both entries refer to a single incident in Vanessa.

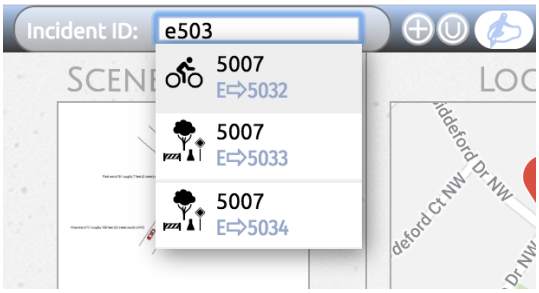
Searching for Vanessa-specific identifiers

Vanessa assigns numeric identifiers to every object or thing making up an incident. At the top level, *incidents* themselves have identifiers, which are the numbers printed at the top of every matching search entry. Below this level, there is an abstraction layer of *entities*. Entities resolve to either *vehicles* or *people* or *other* things (such as trees and signposts). All of these too have identifiers and these identifiers are visible at the top of each data entry form in Vanessa. Some identifiers, such as the *entity* identifiers, are visible on the schematic diagram shown for each incident.

To search using Vanessa's intrinsic identifiers, begin with a single letter representing the level at which you want to search, followed by one or more digits, according to the table below:

Letter prefix	Search domain	Example
i	*Vanessa incident numbers*	`i5083`
e	*Vanessa entity numbers*	`e3029`
v	*Vanessa vehicle numbers*	`v5042`
p	*Vanessa person numbers*	`p5335`

Here is an example search for entity identifiers:



The matching set includes one *bicyclist* and two other *entities*, all in incident #5007.

Conclusion

You now know how to use Vanessa's expanded search functionality.

If you have any suggestions for improvement, or notice any bugs, please let me know.

❀ *fin* ❀