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Leveraging the Search Bar for Increased Search Success

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Every investigation starts with the search bar, utilizing a name, an address, or even a partial phone number to identify the target entity and begin to build out complex, cross-border networks. Understanding how to get the most out of Sayari Graph's flexible keyword search bar is a vital step to helping analysts understand their results and quickly identify their targets' profiles.

Case Study: Yunhe Wang

On 28 May 2024, the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated three Chinese nationals, Yunhe Wang, Jingping Liu, and Yanni Zheng, for their malicious botnet activities enabling them to fraudulently secure economic assistance, including at least \$5.9 billion from counterfeit unemployment insurance claims in the United States.¹ Wang and his associates allegedly used the illicitly gained proceeds to purchase luxury assets and properties in the United States, St. Kitts and Nevis, China, Singapore, Thailand, and the United Arab Emirates. OFAC also sanctioned three Thai companies for being owned and controlled by Wang, the primary administrator of the botnet. Wang was arrested in Singapore on 24 May and is currently objecting to extradition to the US.

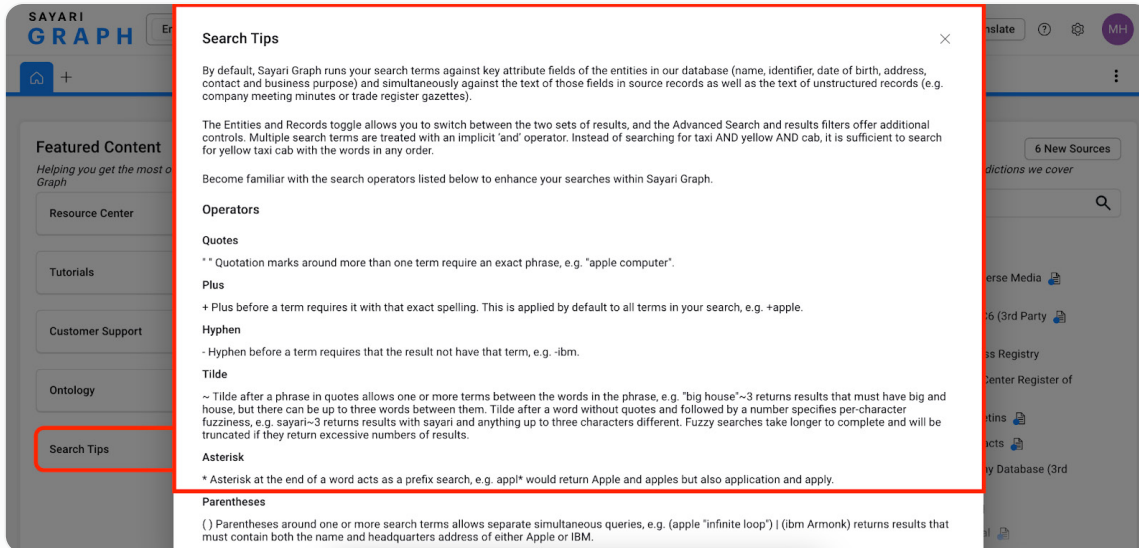
Due to the extensive global reach of Wang's scheme, utilizing public records from around the world is vital to understand and measure the extent of his network. Sayari Graph's massive searchable public data asset can help users more easily navigate public records and map these complex, cross-border networks to reveal potential associates. Below is a step-by-step guide to leveraging Sayari Graph's Search Bar to identify Wang's considerable international footprint in just a few clicks:

Searching a Name

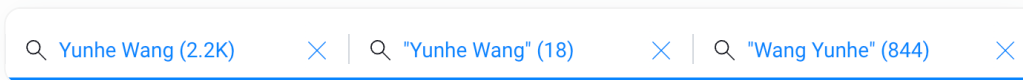
The Search Bar allows users to query attributes (i.e. name, address, ID number, etc.) against entity profiles as well as select underlying records. When searching more generic terms, such as a common person or company name or address (e.g. John Smith or International Technology Company), utilizing the Search Tips can be a helpful way to narrow the search aperture. Sayari Graph search operators are similar to Boolean operators and can be found in the Featured Content section of the landing page or under the information icon in the Search Bar itself.

¹ "Treasury Sanctions a Cybercrime Network Associated with the 911 S5 Botnet," U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, May 28, 2024, Accessed on August 9, 2024. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2375>

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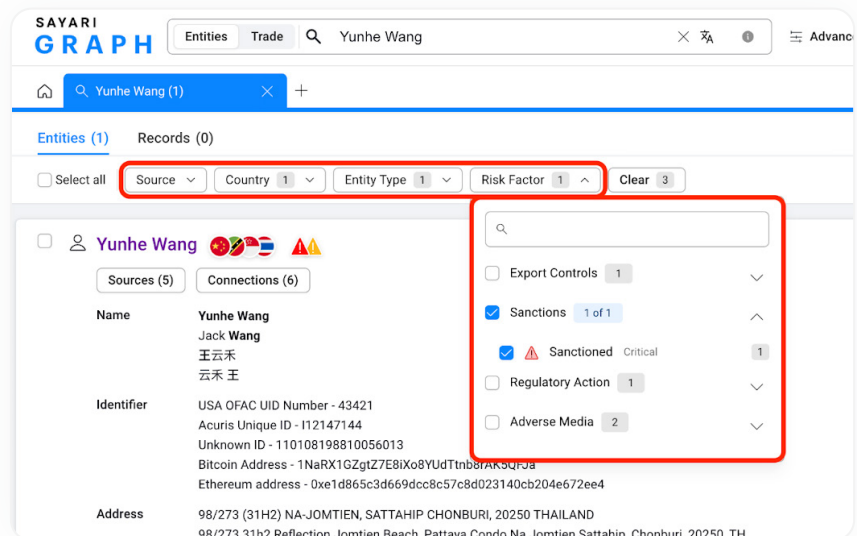


Searching **Yunhe Wang** vs **"Yunhe Wang"** vs **"Wang Yunhe"**, for example, will return different results. Yunhe Wang will return every profile or record that has "Yunhe" and "Wang" anywhere in the profile, whether that's in the name, address, or any other attribute. "Yunhe Wang" and "Wang Yunhe" will return profiles where either of those terms appear in any attribute together and in that specific order.



Post-Search Filters

Although conducting a basic search for Yunhe Wang returns over **2.2 thousand results**, users can utilize the Post-Search Filters to further refine and prioritize the results. Applying the Entity Type filter to Person profiles reduces the **results to around 800**; applying the Country filter to Thailand, where some of Wang's sanctioned companies are based, returns **four results**; and finally, applying the Risk Factor filter to sanctioned profiles, will return **one result**.

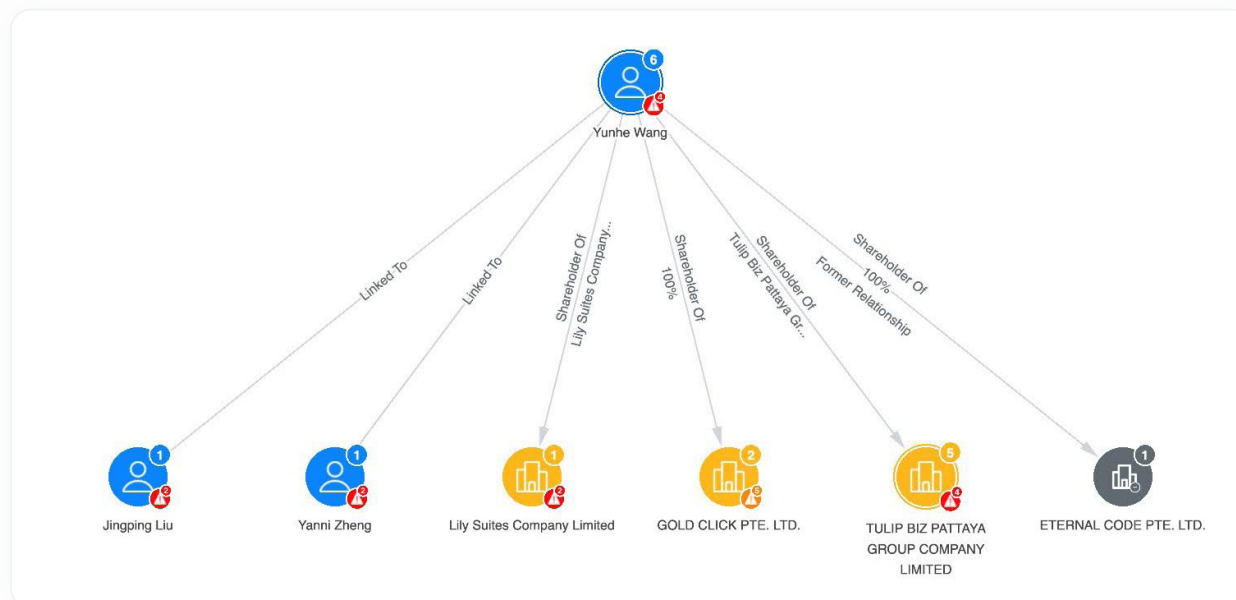


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This Yunhe Wang [profile](#) is built from risk intelligence data, US sanctions data, and Singaporean corporate data and is the main profile for the target of this investigation. However, public records across distinct jurisdictions often don't provide the same type of unique identifier for a single person—and in many cases, such as in the U.S., a jurisdiction may not require a unique identifier at all. To reduce the risk of false positives, Sayari takes a conservative approach to entity resolution. In practice, this means there are often multiple profiles for the same real-world person. Considering Wang's significant global reach, using the Country post-search filter to identify Yunhe Wang profiles in other countries can help users identify and map his international network (for example, in the UK, the US, Singapore, and potentially Cyprus).

Possibly Same As

After adding the sanctioned Yunhe Wang profile to a Graph window, expanding all related entities will reveal Wang's associates, as well as his related companies, based on risk intelligence and Singaporean corporate data. Notably, his company Tulip Biz Pattaya Group Co., Ltd. has a halo around the node, indicating that there are multiple profiles grouped in that node. This is known as a Possibly Same As (PSA) group or a collection of profiles that have multiple matching attributes indicating that they are likely the same entity, but the data lacks the unique identifiers necessary to definitively resolve them into a single profile.



In the case of Tulip Biz Pattaya Group, the [risk intelligence and sanctions data profile](#) is PSA'd to a [Thai data profile](#) with the same name and country tag. Although PSA clusters are generated based on specific criteria, it's good practice to verify PSA groups throughout each investigation.

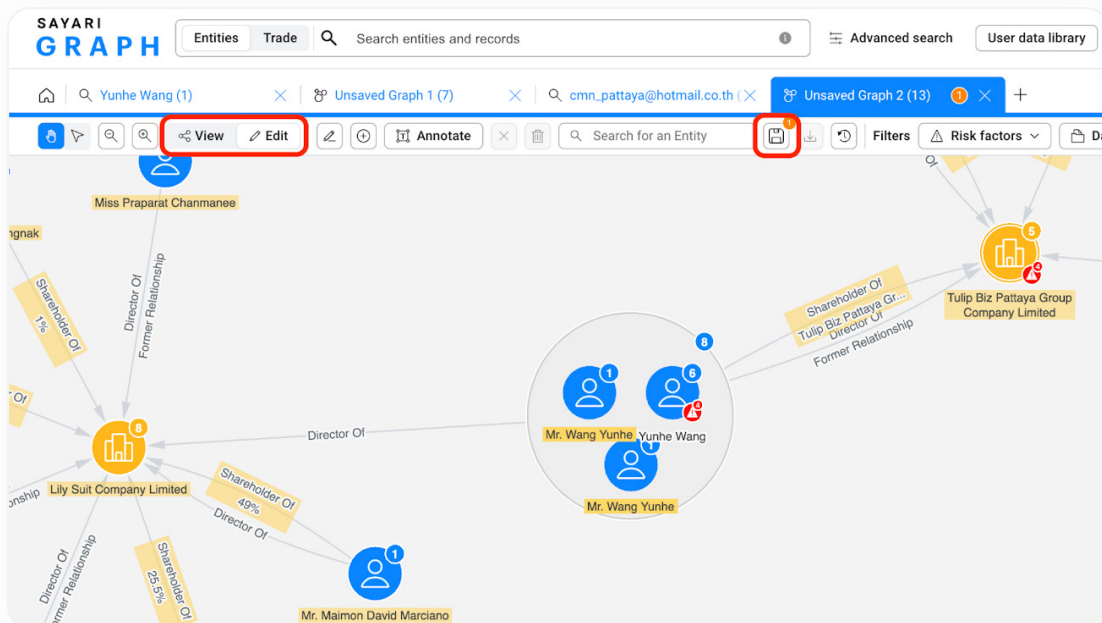
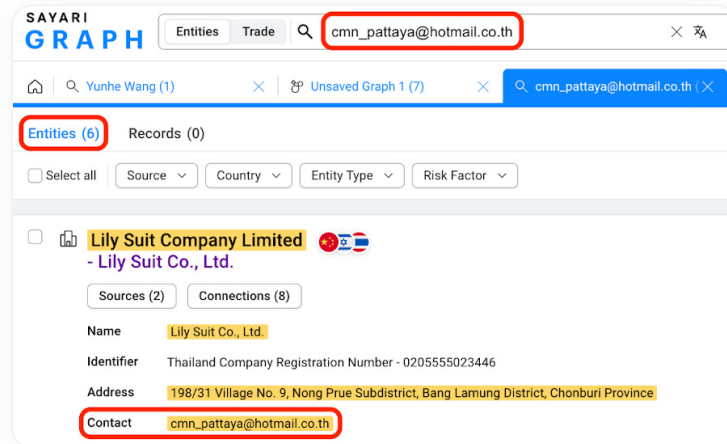
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Searching an Email

The public records from the Thai corporate registry underlying the Tulip Biz Pattaya Group's Thai profile not only provide detailed ownership and control information for the entity, but also contact information such as email addresses, which can be useful for identifying affiliated companies and individuals. For instance, querying Tulip Biz Pattaya Group's associated email, cmn_pattaya@hotmail.co.th, in the search bar

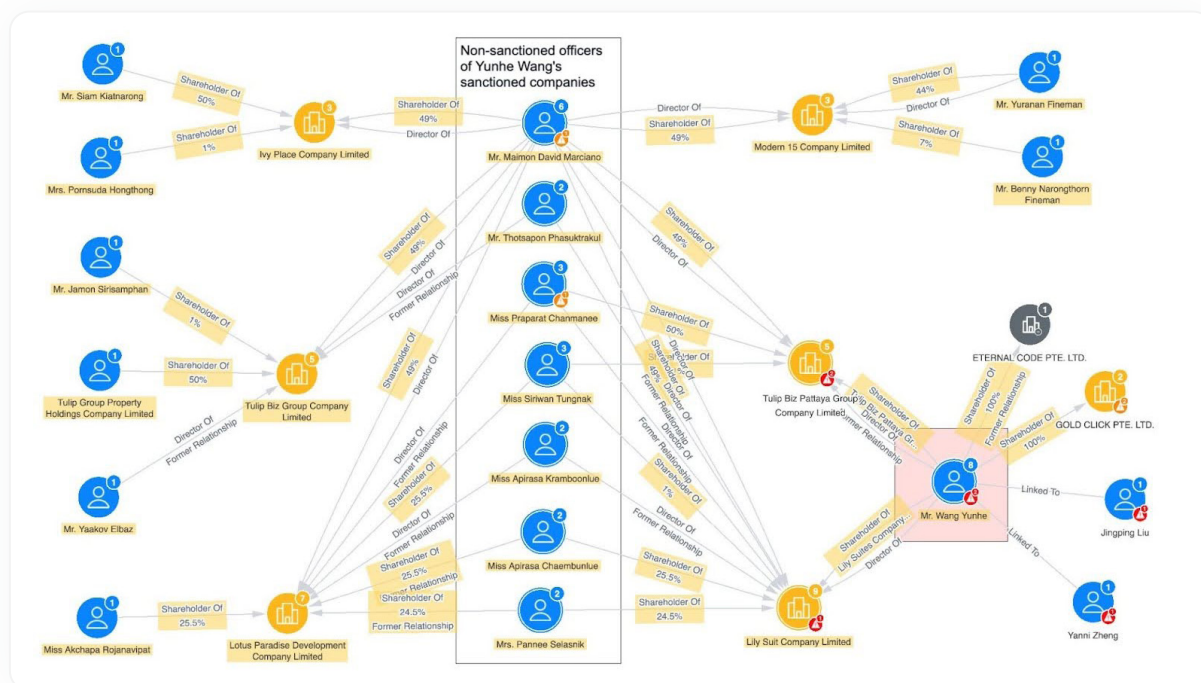
returns [six results](#), including a Thai data profile for [Lily Suit Co., Ltd.](#), another one of Wang's sanctioned Thai companies. This profile was not PSA'd or resolved with the [sanctions data profile](#) because its English name is spelled differently than the one reported in the sanctions data, but verifying the address and identification numbers establishes that these profiles belong to the same company. In cases where searching an entire email address yields no results, querying a portion or just the domain can sometimes give better results.

Adding all six results to a new Graph window and expanding each company's relationships reveals that both Tulip Biz Pattaya Group and Lily Suit have a "Mr. Wang Yunhe" as a director, based on Thai data, corroborating the connections identified in the risk intelligence data. This also reveals that each company has several shareholders or directors in common, and that all six companies have a "Mr. Maimon David Marciano" as a director and 49% shareholder. By switching from the "View" mode to the "Edit" mode, users can drag and drop profiles together that they believe to belong to the same entity to create user-created PSAs. Once created or edited, the Graphs must be saved to preserve the changes across sessions and across all license group members' accounts. Any changes made are private to the user's license group and completely invisible to Sayari.



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Incidentally, the three Yunhe Wang profiles depicted in the picture above are three of the four results from the post-search filter Country = Thailand search conducted at the beginning of this investigation. Through link analysis and common attributes, investigators are able to verify that these separate profiles represent the same person, allowing them to further investigate this network and identify additional leads, potential co-conspirators, and enablers.



Finally, in addition to having common shareholders and directors, all six companies list real estate as their business purpose and have registered addresses on the same road, further cementing the common typology of companies associated with Wang beyond his two directly related sanctioned companies.

Successfully leveraging the search bar was key to identifying known and unknown targets throughout this investigation. Whether using Boolean operators, post-search filters, or searching names, contact information, unique identifiers, or addresses, investigators can use the keyword search bar to confidently construct a query, efficiently navigate through the results, and quickly identify their targets' profiles.