The invention relates to a method and system for processing complex queries each corresponding to a plurality of components to be combined. Elements corresponding to these components are searched. The elements are of different element types and are originally described by definition data having heterogeneous data structures. A conversion step transforms the heterogeneous definition data into converted definition data of one single format. An engine then retrieves elements and builds associations of elements matching the query parameters based on the converted definition data thereby providing with a reply to the query in an optimized manner.

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