





SQL Beginner to Guru

MySQL Edition

Introduction to the SQL WHERE Clause



The SQL Where Clause

- If no WHERE clause is given, the SQL statement will apply to all records in the table.
 - If you are SELECT-ing data, all rows are returned.
 - If you are UPDATE-ing data, all rows are updated.
 - If you are DELETE-ing data, all rows are deleted.
- The WHERE clause allows us to tell MySQL the criteria we want to use for which rows are returned.
- The WHERE clause is a very versatile clause and important to master.





Where Clause Examples

- Simple WHERE Clause - **SELECT * FROM employees WHERE first_name = 'Elvis';**
- This statement will return all records in the employees table where the first_name column is equal to Elvis.
 - Must match case EXACTLY - i.e. records with first_name of 'elvis' would not be returned.
 - Records with leading and trailing spaces will not be returned.
 - Functions can be used to address matching on case, or remove leading / trailing spaces.





The AND Logical Operator

- The AND operator can be used to add additional criteria.
- With AND all criteria must be satisfied.
- Example: **SELECT * FROM employees WHERE first_name = 'Elvis' AND last_name = 'Rossi';**
- This statement will return all rows from the employee table where the first_name column is Elvis and last_name is Rossi.
- Records matching one, but not the other will NOT be returned.





The OR Logical Operator

- The OR operator can be used to add additional criteria.
- With OR one side of the joined criteria must be satisfied.
- Example: **SELECT * FROM employees WHERE first_name = 'Elvis' OR last_name = 'Rossi';**
- This statement will return all rows from the employee table where the first_name column is Elvis or where last_name is Rossi.
- All records matching either one will be returned.





WHERE Clause with IN Keyword

- The **IN** keyword allows you to specify a list of values to match on.
- Can be used to reduce the number of OR clauses.
- Example: **SELECT * FROM employees WHERE first_name IN ('Elvis', 'Mary', 'Uri', 'Moss');**
- The above will return all rows from the database where the first_name column is equal to one of the given values.
- Works like the equals statement - must match case and not have leading or trailing spaces.





WHERE Clause with NOT IN Keyword

- The NOT IN keyword excludes any records being returned where that value is found in that given list.
- Can be used to reduce the number of OR clauses.
- Example: **SELECT * FROM employees WHERE first_name IN ('Elvis', 'Mary', 'Uri', 'Moss');**
- The above will return all rows from the database where the first_name column is NOT equal to one of the given values.
- Works like the equals statement - must match case and not have leading or trailing spaces.





NULL Values

- A NULL value is where a value has not been assigned to the column.
 - NULL means nothing. A 'space' is still considered a value.
- Keyword IS NOT NULL will return all rows where the column has an assigned value.
- Keyword IS NULL will return all rows where the column DOES NOT have an assigned value.
- Equal operator (=) will return NULL if both values are NULL.
- NULL Safe Equal operator will return 1 (character 1) if both values are NULL.





Comparison Operators

Operator	Description
=	Equals - Returns true if both values match exactly. Null if both values are NULL.
<=>	Null Safe Equal Operator - Like equals operator, but returns 1 if both columns are NULL.
<> or !=	Not Equal Operator - Returns true where values are not equal.
>	Greater Than Operator - Returns true where left side is greater than right side.
>=	Greater Than or Equal To Operator - Returns true where left side is greater than or equal to right side.
<	Less Than Operator - Returns true when left side is less than right side.
<=	Less Than Or Equal To Operator - Returns true where left side is less than or equal to right side.





Comparison Operators

- Matching Wildcards used in Like / Not Like:
 - % - Wildcard for many characters. ie F% will match any string starting with F
 - _ (underscore) - Wildcard for ONE character. _d% will match on any string with 'd' as second character.

Operator	Description
LIKE	Like - Used to match string values using wildcard values.
NOT LIKE	Not Like - Used to exclude string values matching wildcard values.
BETWEEN	Between - Match records where column is between two given values.
NOT BETWEEN	Not Between - Exclude records where column is between two given values.



