Lab 3: Introduction to Databases and SQL

Overview

In this lab, you will explore the fundamentals of relational databases, focusing on MySQL, one of the most popular database management systems. Through hands-on exercises, you will learn to create and manage databases, build tables, define relationships, and query data using SQL (Structured Query Language). By the end of this lab, you will have a solid understanding of database structure and the basic SQL commands used in real-world applications.

Prerequisites

- Basic knowledge of relational databases and SQL concepts.
- XAMPP installed on your local machine (for Apache server, MySQL, PHP, and Perl).

Lab Objectives

- Understand the basic concepts of relational databases.
- Learn how to set up a MySQL database using XAMPP.
- Create and manage tables with various data types.
- Perform basic SQL queries (SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE) and understand their practical applications.

Exercise Instructions

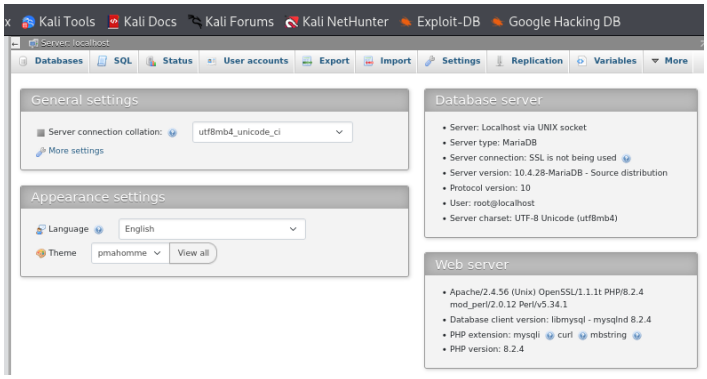
Exercise 1: Setting Up MySQL with XAMPP

1. Install and Run XAMPP:

- If you haven't already, download and install XAMPP from https://www.apachefriends.org/.
- Launch XAMPP and start the Apache and MySQL services from the XAMPP Control Panel.

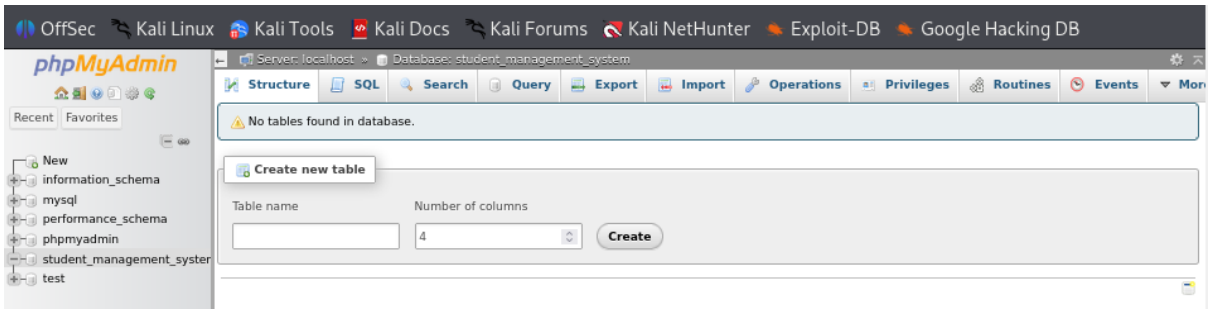
2. Access phpMyAdmin:

- Open your web browser and navigate to http://localhost/phpmyadmin/.
- phpMyAdmin is a web-based tool provided by XAMPP for managing MySQL databases.



3. Create a New Database:

- In phpMyAdmin, click on the Databases tab.
- Enter the name student_management_system for your new database and click Create.
- This database will store information about students, courses, and enrollments.



4. Reflection:

- Explain why a web application like a Student Management System would need a relational database. What are the benefits of using MySQL in such applications?

Reflection

A web application like a Student Management System (SMS) requires a relational database because it allows students to register for multiple courses, courses can have many enrolled students, and administrators need to manage enrolment records.

Benefits of using MySQL in such applications

- it enforces data types, constraints, and relationships, which helps ensure the accuracy and consistency of student, course, and enrolment data.
- It can efficiently handle large datasets without performance issue
- It supports authentication and permissions, which allow different users (e.g., students, lecturers, administrators) to have appropriate access levels.
- Administrators can create, manage, and query databases without needing deep command-line knowledge, making it beginner-friendly.
- it allows dynamic web applications like SMS to store, update, and retrieve data in real-time.

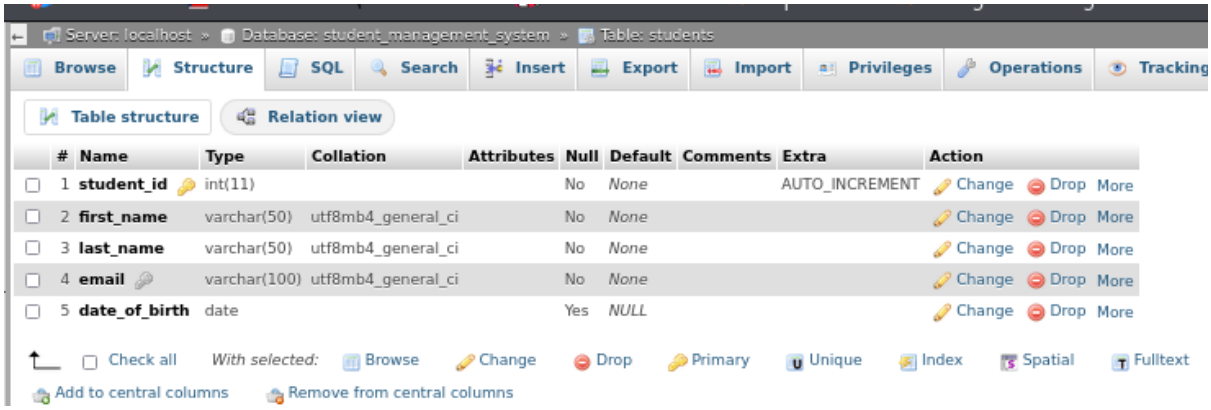
Exercise 2: Creating Tables and Defining Columns

1. Create a students Table:

- After creating the database, click on the student_management_system database.
- Create a new table named students with the following columns:
  - student_id (INT, Primary Key, Auto Increment)
  - first_name (VARCHAR(50))

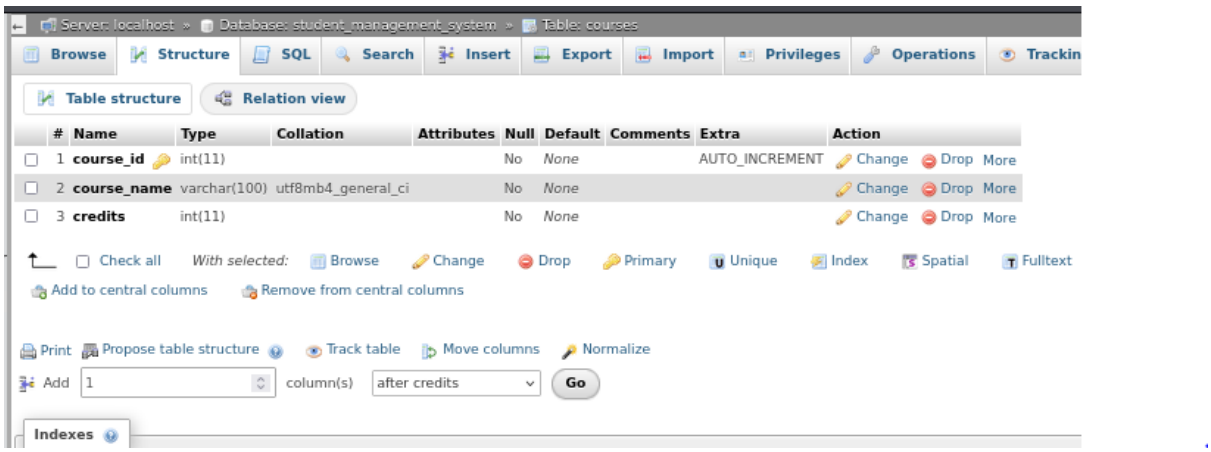
- last_name (VARCHAR(50))
- email (VARCHAR(100), Unique)
- date_of_birth (DATE)

- Click Save to create the table.



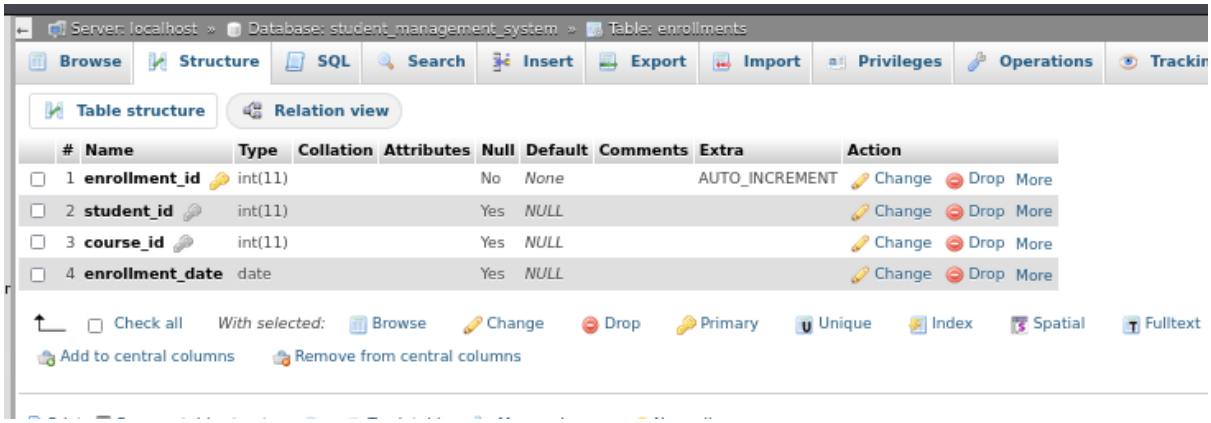
2. Create a courses Table:

- Create a second table named courses with the following columns:
  - course_id (INT, Primary Key, Auto Increment)
  - course_name (VARCHAR(100))
  - redits (INT)
- Click Save.



3. Create an enrollments Table (Relationship Between Students and Courses):

- Create a third table named enrollments to track which students are enrolled in which courses. This table should have the following columns:
  - enrollment_id (INT, Primary Key, Auto Increment)
  - student_id (INT, Foreign Key referencing students.student_id)
  - course_id (INT, Foreign Key referencing courses.course_id)
  - enrollment_date (DATE)
- Click Save to complete the table creation.



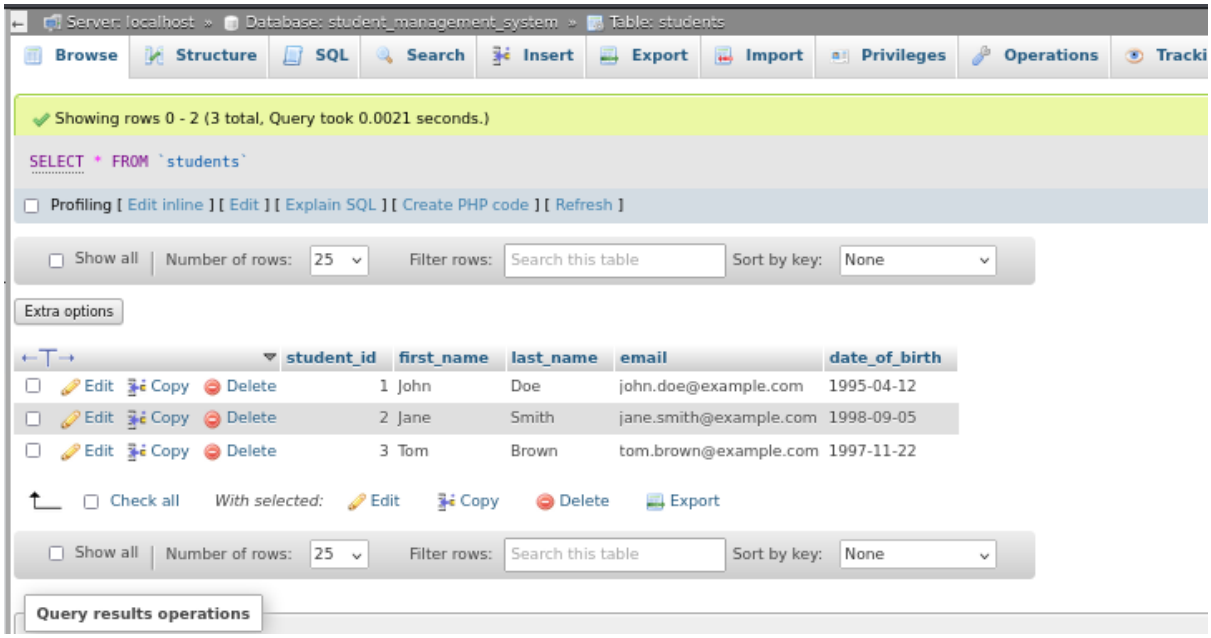
4. Reflection:

- Discuss how relationships are established between tables in a relational database. Why are foreign keys important in maintaining data integrity?
    - Relationships in a relational database are established by linking a **primary key** in one table to a **foreign key** in another. This creates logical connections (e.g., students linked to their enrollments, courses linked to their enrollments).
    - **Foreign keys are important** because they enforce **referential integrity**, ensuring that records in related tables are valid and consistent (e.g., you can't enroll a student or course that doesn't exist).

Exercise 3: Inserting Data into the Tables

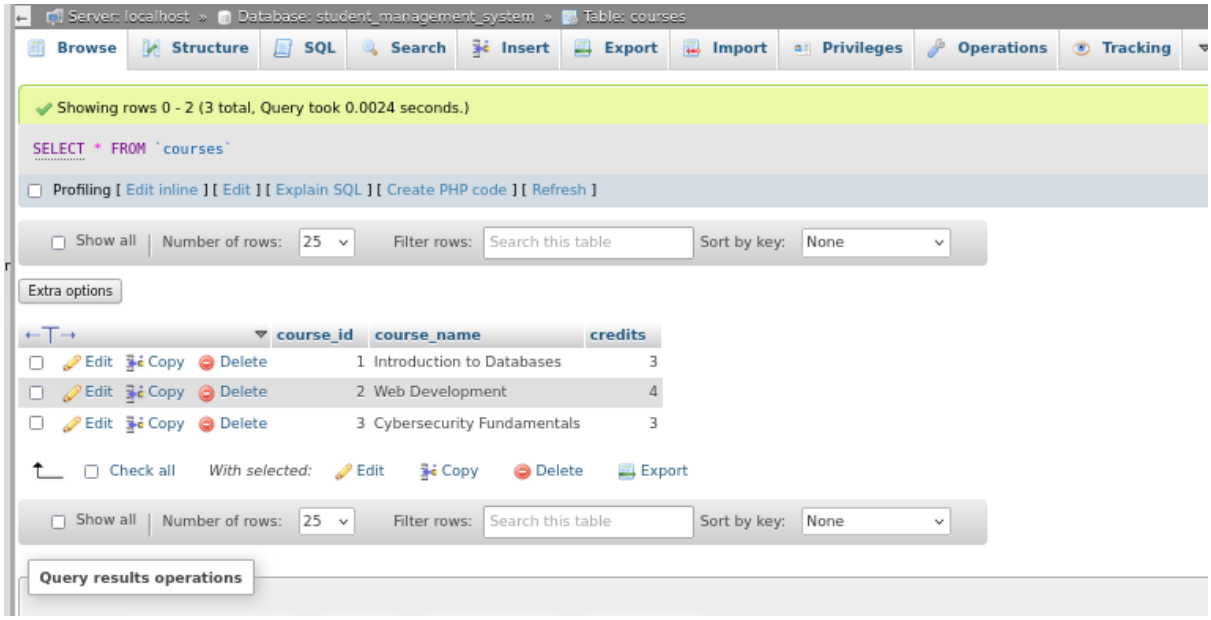
1. Insert Sample Data into the students Table:

- Open the SQL tab in phpMyAdmin and execute the following SQL statement to insert some students:
- INSERT INTO students (first_name, last_name, email, date_of_birth)
- VALUES
- ('John', 'Doe', 'john.doe@example.com', '1995-04-12'),
- ('Jane', 'Smith', 'jane.smith@example.com', '1998-09-05'),
- ('Tom', 'Brown', 'tom.brown@example.com', '1997-11-22');



2. Insert Sample Data into the courses Table:

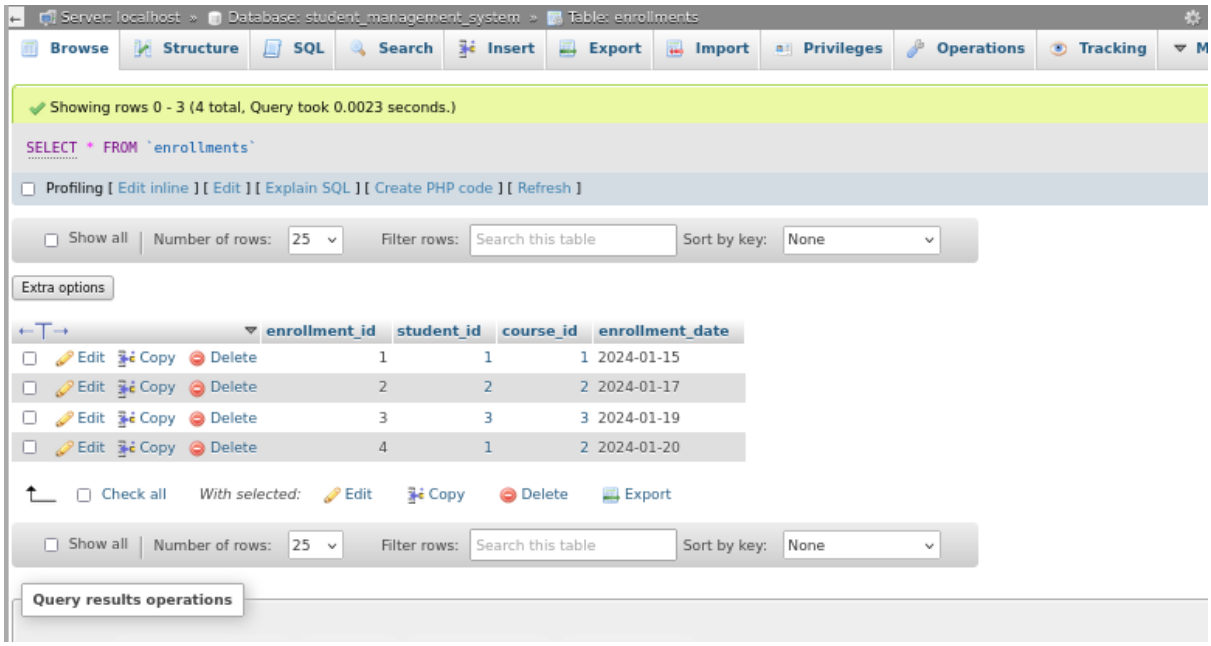
- Insert some sample courses using the following SQL statement:
- INSERT INTO courses (course_name, credits)
- VALUES
  - ('Introduction to Databases', 3),
  - ('Web Development', 4),
  - ('Cybersecurity Fundamentals', 3);



3. Insert Sample Data into the enrollments Table:

- Enroll the students into different courses using this SQL statement:

- INSERT INTO enrollments (student_id, course_id, enrollment_date)
- VALUES
- (1, 1, '2024-01-15'),
- (2, 2, '2024-01-17'),
- (3, 3, '2024-01-19'),
- (1, 2, '2024-01-20');



4. Reflection:

- Explain how inserting data into tables allows the database to become useful for managing information. Why is data consistency crucial when inserting related data across tables?
    - Without data, the database is just an empty structure with no practical use.
    - Data consistency is critical: enrollment records must reference valid students and valid courses.
    - If inconsistent data is inserted (e.g., enrolling a student who doesn't exist), the system produces errors and unreliable results.
    - Consistent data ensures the database remains accurate, reliable, and useful for managing information in applications.

Exercise 4: Querying the Database

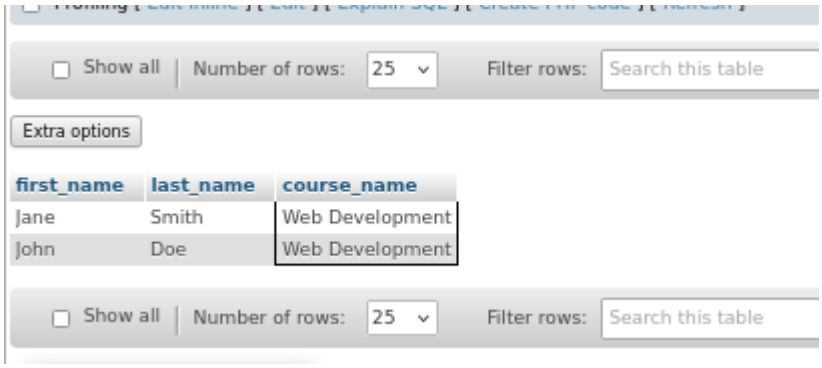
1. Retrieve All Students:

- Use a SQL query to retrieve all records from the students table:
    - SELECT * FROM students;

2. Retrieve Students Enrolled in a Specific Course:

- Write a SQL query to retrieve students enrolled in "Web Development":

- SELECT s.first_name, s.last_name, c.course_name
- FROM students s
- JOIN enrollments e ON s.student_id = e.student_id
- JOIN courses c ON e.course_id = c.course_id
- WHERE c.course_name = 'Web Development';



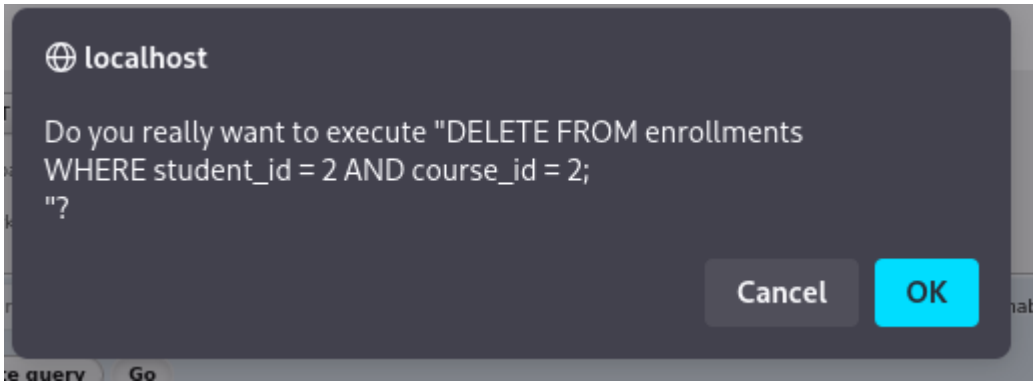
3. Update a Student's Email Address:

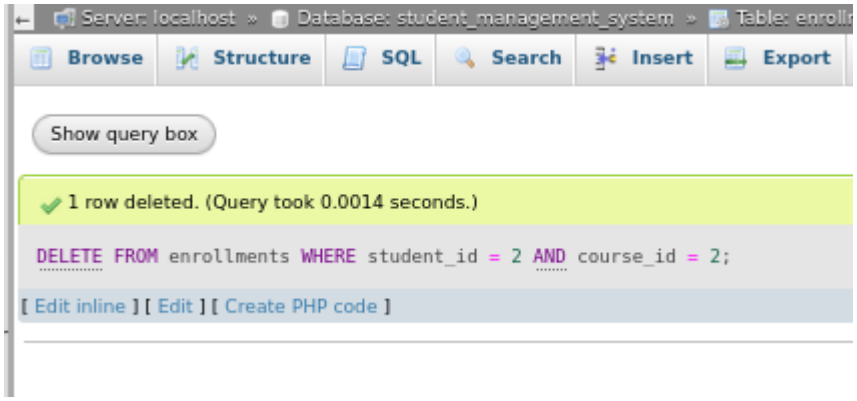
- Update the email address for John Doe using the following SQL statement:
  - UPDATE students
  - SET email = 'john.newemail@example.com'
  - WHERE first_name = 'John' AND last_name = 'Doe';

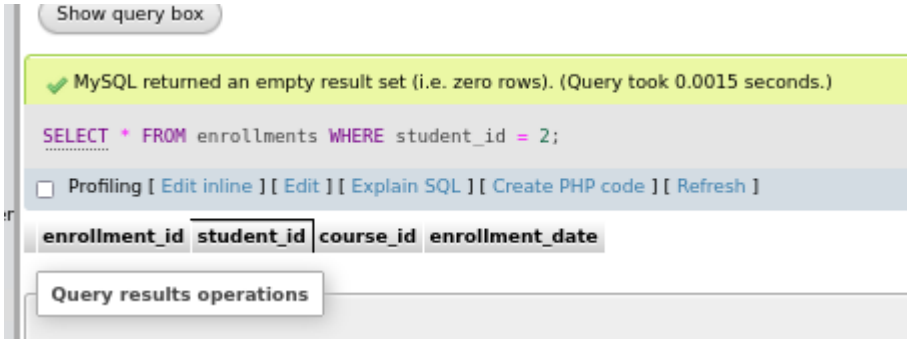
4. Delete an Enrollment Record:

- Delete the enrollment record for Jane Smith from the enrollments table:
  - DELETE FROM enrollments

- WHERE student_id = 2 AND course_id = 2;







5. Reflection:

Discuss how SQL allows you to query and manipulate data in a relational database. How do JOINs facilitate retrieving related information from multiple tables?

- **SQL allows you to query and manipulate data in a relational database.**
    - SQL provides powerful commands (`SELECT`, `INSERT`, `UPDATE`, `DELETE`) to query and manipulate data.
    - It allows retrieval of specific information and modification of stored records.

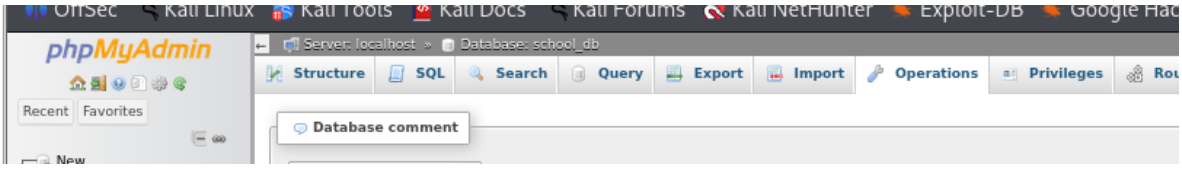
- **Importance of JOINs**:
    - JOINs connect related tables (e.g., students ↔ courses through enrollments).

- They allow retrieving meaningful combined data (like "Which students are in which courses").
- Without JOINs, related data would stay isolated in separate tables and be harder to use.

SQL CLASS

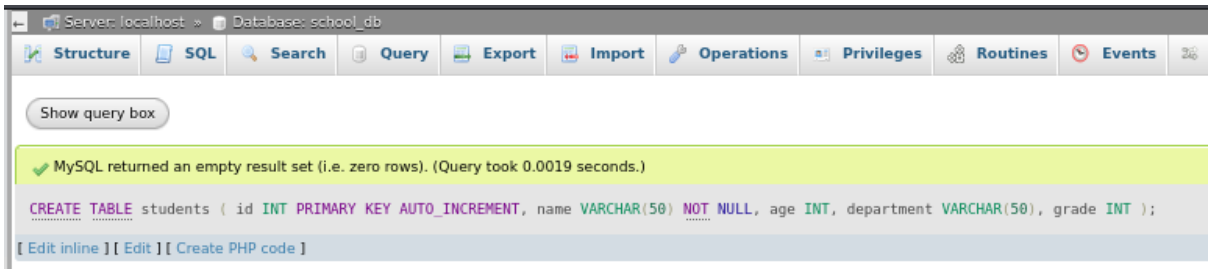
Create a new database

- CREATE DATABASE school_db;
    - USE school_db;



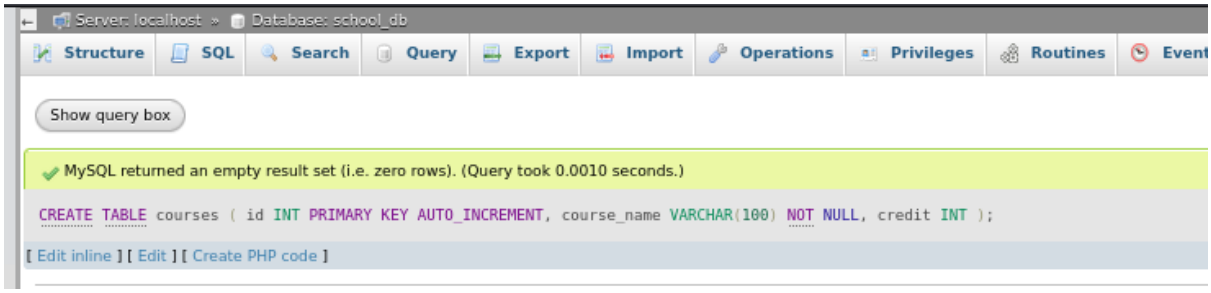
Create students table

- CREATE TABLE students (
    - id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO_INCREMENT,
    - name VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
    - age INT,
    - department VARCHAR(50),
    - grade INT
    -);



Create courses table

- CREATE TABLE courses (
    - id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO_INCREMENT,
    - course_name VARCHAR(100) NOT NULL,
    - credit INT
    -);

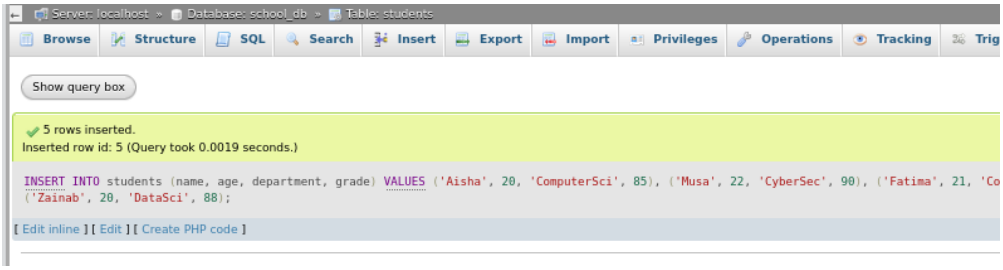


Create enrollments table (many-to-many relationship)

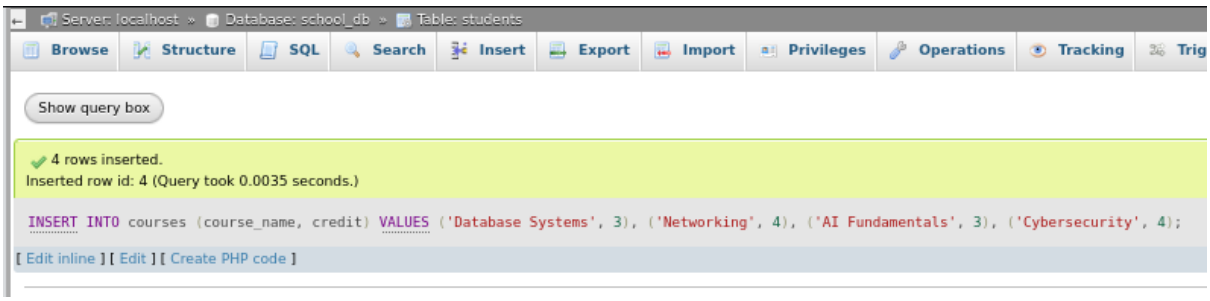
- CREATE TABLE enrollments (
  - student_id INT,
  - course_id INT,
  - FOREIGN KEY (student_id) REFERENCES students(id),
  - FOREIGN KEY (course_id) REFERENCES courses(id)
  -);

Insert into students

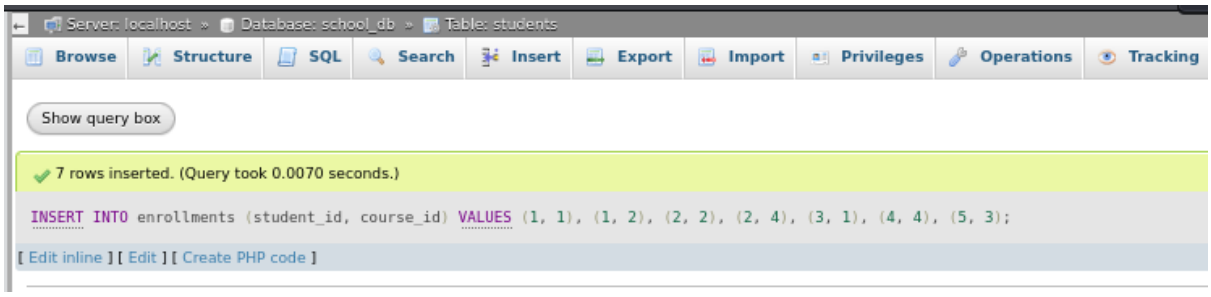
- INSERT INTO students (name, age, department, grade) VALUES
  - ('Aisha', 20, 'ComputerSci', 85),
  - ('Musa', 22, 'CyberSec', 90),
  - ('Fatima', 21, 'ComputerSci', 78),
  - ('John', 23, 'CyberSec', 60),
  - ('Zainab', 20, 'DataSci', 88); -- Insert into courses



- INSERT INTO courses (course_name, credit) VALUES
  - ('Database Systems', 3),
  - ('Networking', 4),
  - ('AI Fundamentals', 3),
  - ('Cybersecurity', 4); -- Insert into enrollments

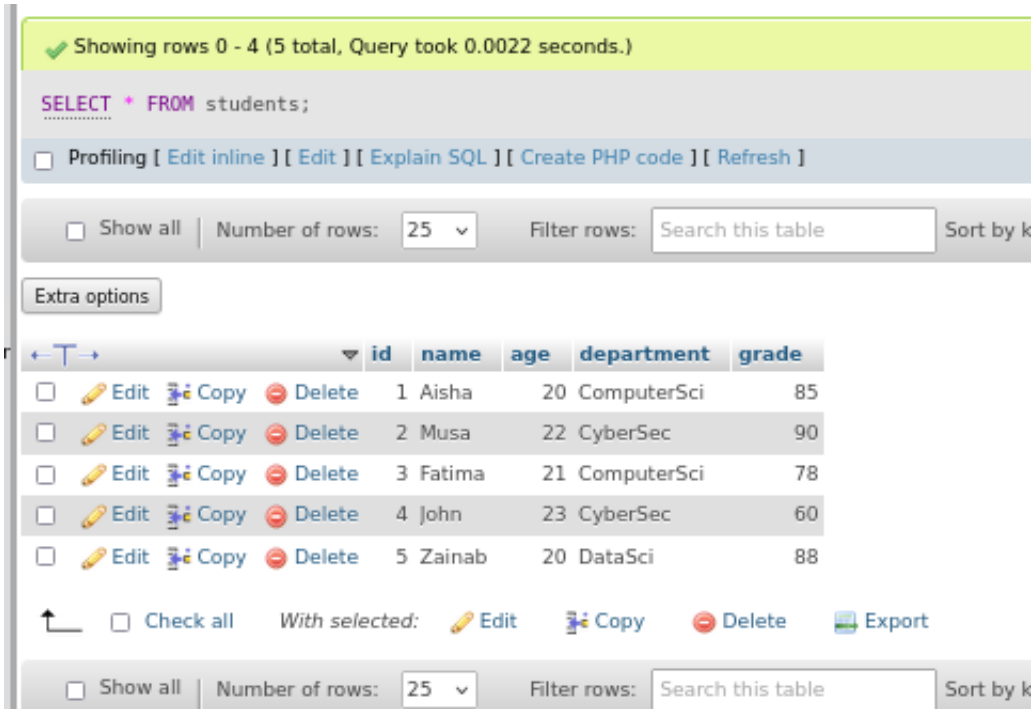


- INSERT INTO enrollments (student_id, course_id) VALUES
  - (1, 1),
  - (1, 2),
  - (2, 2),
  - (2, 4),
  - (3, 1),
  - (4, 4),
  - (5, 3);



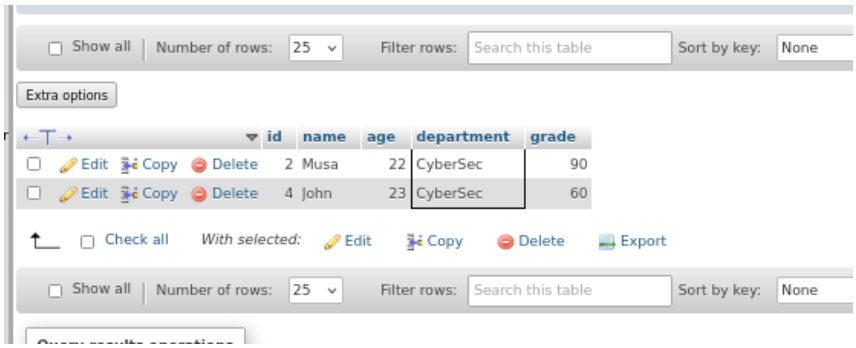
Exercise 1: Select all students

- SELECT * FROM students;



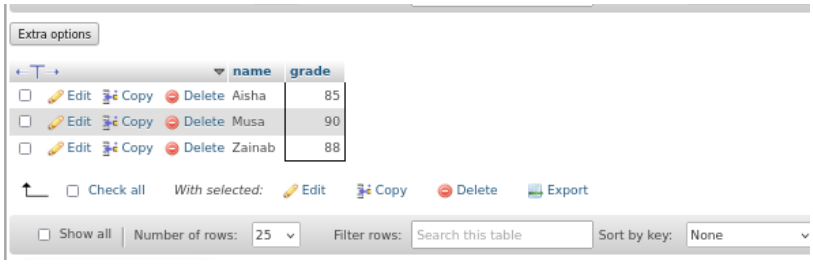
Exercise 2: Filter students by department

- SELECT * FROM students
    - WHERE department = 'CyberSec';



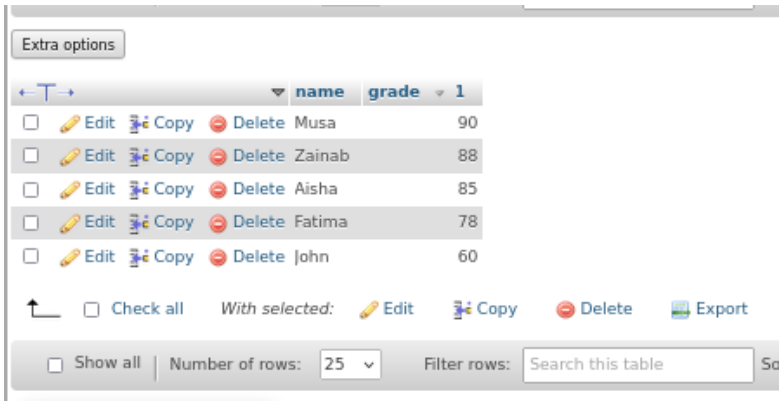
Exercise 3: Find top students

- SELECT name, grade FROM students
    - WHERE grade > 80;



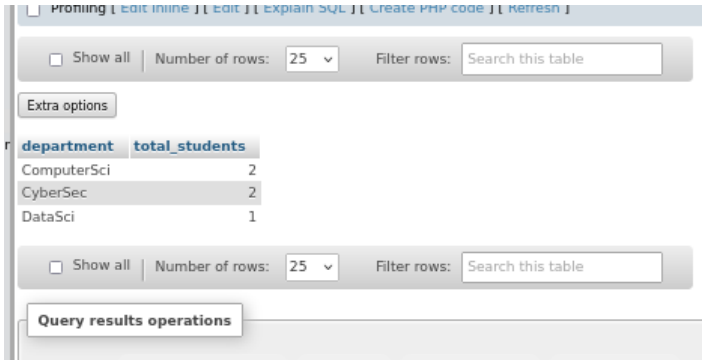
Exercise 4: Sort students by grade

- SELECT name, grade FROM students
    - ORDER BY grade DESC;



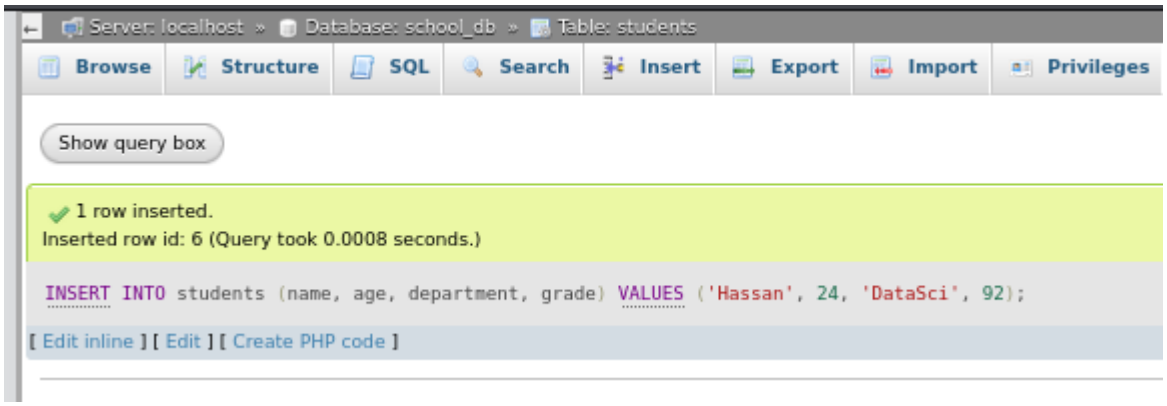
Exercise 5: Count students per department

- SELECT department, COUNT(*) AS total_students
  - FROM students
  - GROUP BY department;



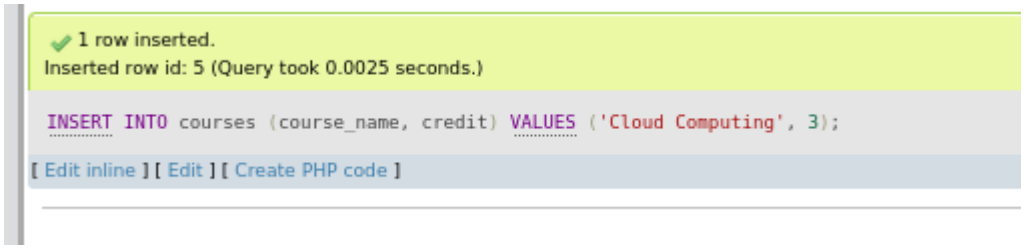
Exercise 6: Insert a new student

- INSERT INTO students (name, age, department, grade)
  - VALUES ('Hassan', 24, 'DataSci', 92);



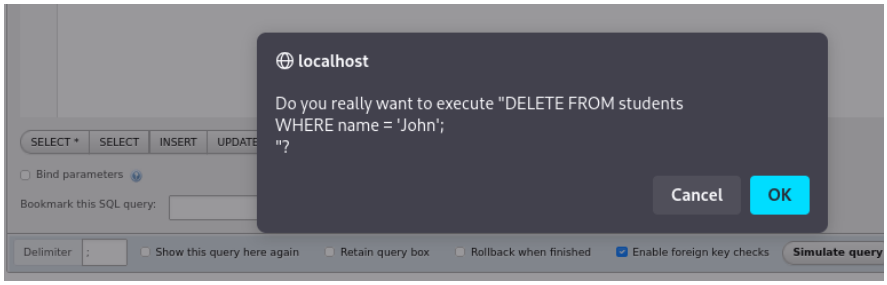
Exercise 7: Insert a new course

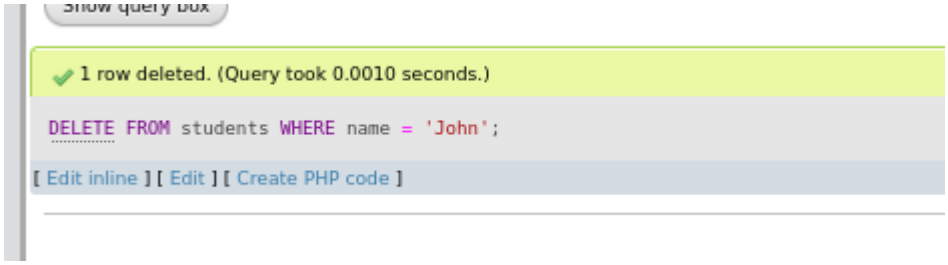
- INSERT INTO courses (course_name, credit)
  - VALUES ('Cloud Computing', 3);



Exercise 8: Delete a student by name

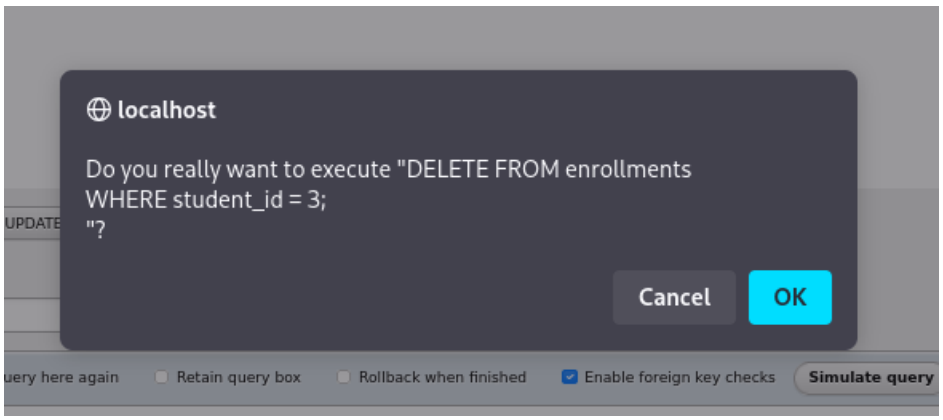
- DELETE FROM students
  - WHERE name = 'John';
  -

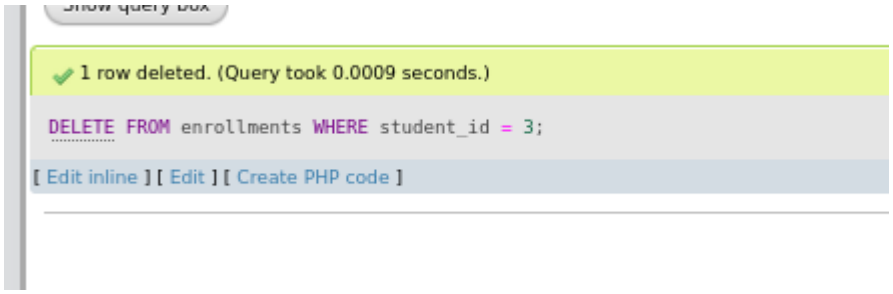




Exercise 9: Delete enrollments for a specific student

- DELETE FROM enrollments
  - WHERE student_id = 3;

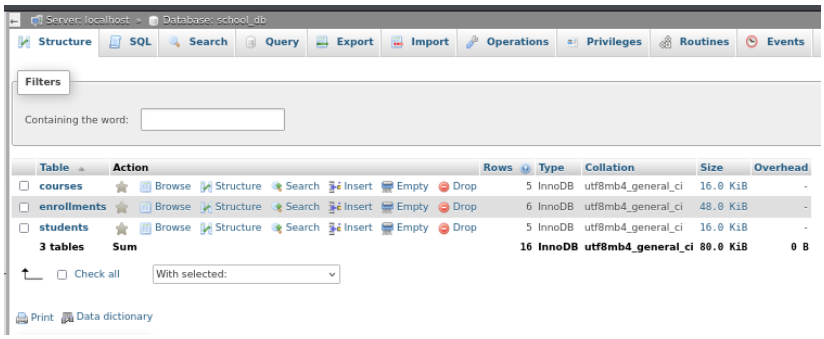




Exercise 10: Drop a table

- DROP TABLE enrollments;

Before Dropping table enrolment



Prompt while dropping Table enrolment

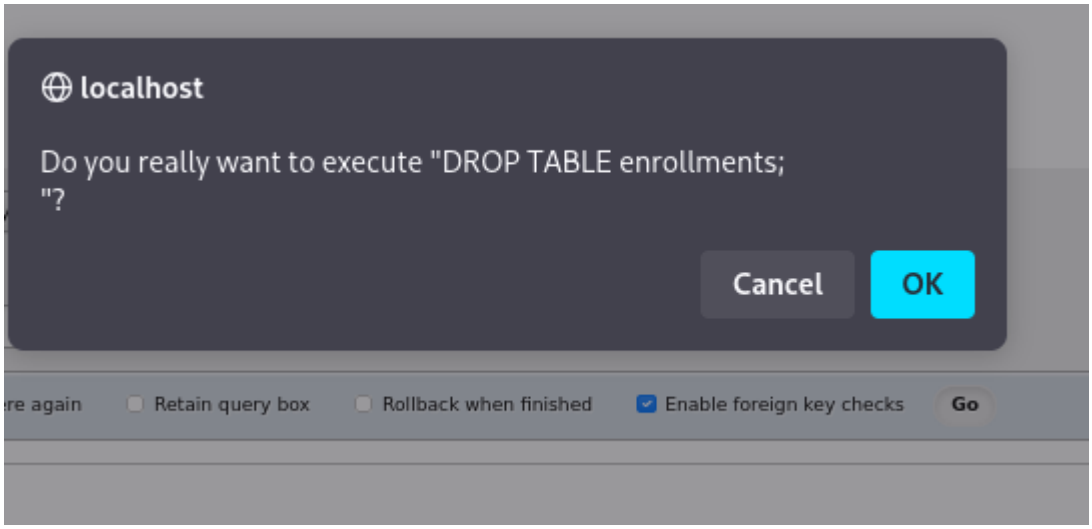


Table enrolment dropped

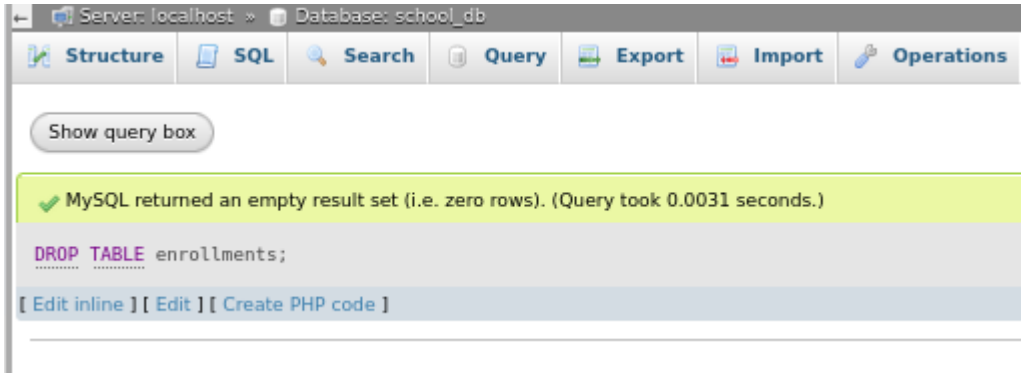
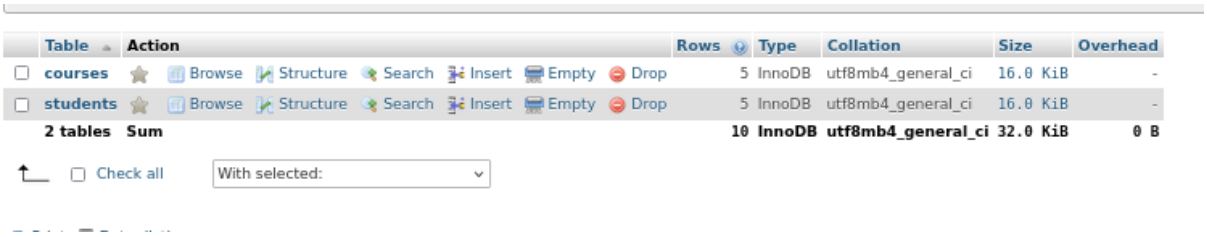


Image after Dropping Table enrolment



Reflection

- **Data Retrieval**:
  - Queries like SELECT * FROM students; show how SQL retrieves complete datasets.
  - Filtering with WHERE and sorting with ORDER BY make the results more meaningful.
- **Data Analysis**:
  - Aggregation with COUNT() and GROUP BY helps summarize data, e.g., number of students per department.
  - Such queries support decision-making and reporting.
- **Data Manipulation**:
  - INSERT statements add new records, making the database dynamic and expandable.
  - UPDATE modifies existing records.
  - DELETE removes specific records while keeping the table intact.
- **Data Integrity & Relationships**:
  - Deleting enrolments for a student (DELETE FROM enrolments WHERE student_id = 3;) shows how relational links are managed without losing the student's main record.
- **Database Management**:
  - DROP TABLE demonstrates structural changes removing entire tables permanently.
  - This emphasizes the need for careful use of destructive commands.
- **Overall Takeaway**:
  - SQL provides a complete toolkit for **CRUD** operations (Create, Read, Update, Delete) and structural management.
  - Proper use of queries ensures that data remains accurate, consistent, and useful for applications like school management systems.