

PostgreSQL - DISTINCT Keyword

The PostgreSQL **DISTINCT** keyword is used in conjunction with SELECT statement to eliminate all the duplicate records and fetching only unique records.

There may be a situation when you have multiple duplicate records in a table. While fetching such records, it makes more sense to fetch only unique records instead of fetching duplicate records.

Syntax

The basic syntax of DISTINCT keyword to eliminate duplicate records is as follows –

```
SELECT DISTINCT column1, column2,.....columnN
FROM table_name
WHERE [condition]
```

Example

Consider the table COMPANY having records as follows –

```
# select * from COMPANY;
id | name  | age | address  | salary
----+-----+----+-----+-----
1  | Paul  | 32  | California | 20000
2  | Allen | 25  | Texas     | 15000
3  | Teddy | 23  | Norway    | 20000
4  | Mark  | 25  | Rich-Mond | 65000
5  | David | 27  | Texas     | 85000
6  | Kim   | 22  | South-Hall | 45000
7  | James | 24  | Houston   | 10000
(7 rows)
```

Let us add two more records to this table as follows –

```
INSERT INTO COMPANY (ID,NAME,AGE,ADDRESS,SALARY)
VALUES (8, 'Paul', 32, 'California', 20000.00 );

INSERT INTO COMPANY (ID,NAME,AGE,ADDRESS,SALARY)
VALUES (9, 'Allen', 25, 'Texas', 15000.00 );
```

Now, the records in the COMPANY table would be –

id	name	age	address	salary
1	Paul	32	California	20000
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000
5	David	27	Texas	85000
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000
7	James	24	Houston	10000
8	Paul	32	California	20000
9	Allen	25	Texas	15000

(9 rows)

First, let us see how the following SELECT query returns duplicate salary records –

```
testdb=# SELECT name FROM COMPANY;
```

This would produce the following result –

```
name
-----
Paul
Allen
Teddy
Mark
David
Kim
James
Paul
Allen
(9 rows)
```

Now, let us use **DISTINCT** keyword with the above SELECT query and see the result –

```
testdb=# SELECT DISTINCT name FROM COMPANY;
```

This would produce the following result where we do not have any duplicate entry –

```
name
-----
Teddy
Paul
Mark
David
```

```
Allen  
Kim  
James  
(7 rows)
```