COURSEWARE

Aggregate Functions

Contents

Overview

An aggregate function or aggregation function is a function where the values of multiple rows are grouped together to form a single summary value. There are a number of aggregate functions supported in MySQL, all of which aim to get a single result from several records:

- `COUNT` – counts the number of fields
- `SUM` – gets the sum total of a field
- `MIN/MAX/AVG` – gets the minimum/maximum/average value from a field

COUNT

The `COUNT()` function returns the number of records that matches a specified criteria:

```
SELECT COUNT(field_name1) FROM table_name;
```

For example, if we wanted to count the number of orders placed:

```
SELECT COUNT(order_id) FROM orders;
```

SUM

The `SUM()` function returns a calculated total from a numeric field:

```
SELECT SUM(field_name1) FROM table_name;
```

For example, if we wanted to count the number of items in the order line:

```
SELECT SUM(quantity) FROM order_line;
```

MIN, MAX, and AVG

The `MIN()` function returns the smallest value in a field:

```
SELECT MIN(price) FROM product;
```

The `MAX()` function returns the largest value in a field:

```
SELECT MAX(price) FROM product;
```

The `AVG()` function returns the average value in a field:

```
SELECT AVG(price) FROM product;
```

GROUP BY

The `GROUP BY` command is often used in conjunction with aggregate functions to bring together sections of data based on common values within a field.

For instance, if you wanted to find the most expensive order made by each customer, we could try something like this:

```
SELECT customer_id, MAX(total) AS max_total FROM orders GROUP BY customer_id;
```

Tutorial

There is no tutorial for this module.

Exercises

Design, write and run `SELECT` queries for your games shop database that will answer typical questions you would ask of a retail database (price of the most expensive item, most common customer, etc.)

(*note: if you have not tested `SELECT` statements yet, refer back to the Data Query Language module for context*)

▶ Solution