

because of the 767 byte limit on the index key size. When working with partial indexes it can be helpful to know exactly how much of the column is covered uniquely by an index of a given size. Fernando Ipar has a pretty nifty little SQL query that will give you a rudimentary peek into how well a partial index will perform. The query will tell you what percentage of rows are uniquely identified by the index. You can check out his blog post about it over here. Here is the general form of the query:

```
SELECT  
COUNT(DISTINCT(SUBSTR(<column>,1,<partial index length>)))  
/ COUNT(DISTINCT(<column>)) * 100 FROM <table>; SELECT  
COUNT(DISTINCT(SUBSTR(name,1,10))) / COUNT(DISTINCT(name)) *  
100 FROM customers;
```

A Little Problem With all the goodness that partial indexes offer, I have found at least one draw back. It seems that partial indexes cannot be used with aggregation functions like GROUP BY. Even if the partial index does not uniquely identify each row in the table, one would think that MySQL would be able to use the partial index to at least help the Update (11/8/2011): Someone posted an interesting answer