MYSQL RAND FUNCTION

MySQL has a **RAND** function that can be invoked to produce random numbers between 0 and 1:

```
mysql>  SELECT RAND( ), RAND( ), RAND( );
+-----------------+----------------+-----------------+
| RAND( )         | RAND( )        | RAND( )         |
+-----------------+----------------+-----------------+
| 0.45464584925645 | 0.1824410643265 | 0.54826780459682 |
+-----------------+----------------+-----------------+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

When invoked with an integer argument, RAND( ) uses that value to seed the random number generator. Each time you seed the generator with a given value, RAND( ) will produce a repeatable series of numbers:

```
mysql>  SELECT RAND(1), RAND( ), RAND( );
+-----------------+----------------+-----------------+
| RAND(1 )        | RAND( )        | RAND( )         |
+-----------------+----------------+-----------------+
| 0.18109050223705 | 0.75023211143001 | 0.20788908117254 |
+-----------------+----------------+-----------------+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

You can use **ORDER BY RAND()** to randomize a set of rows or values as follows:

To understand **ORDER BY RAND()** function, consider an **employee_tbl** table, which is having the following records:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM employee_tbl;
+------+------+------------+------------------+
| id   | name | work_date  | daily_typing_pages |
+------+------+------------+------------------+
|    1 | John | 2007-01-24 |              250 |
|    2 | Ram  | 2007-05-27 |              220 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 |              170 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 |              100 |
|    4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 |              220 |
|    5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 |              300 |
|    5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 |              350 |
+------+------+------------+------------------+
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Now, use the following commands:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM employee_tbl ORDER BY RAND();
+------+------+------------+------------------+
| id   | name | work_date  | daily_typing_pages |
+------+------+------------+------------------+
|    5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 |              300 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 |              100 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 |              170 |
|    2 | Ram  | 2007-05-27 |              220 |
|    4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 |              220 |
|    5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 |              350 |
|    1 | John | 2007-01-24 |              250 |
+------+------+------------+------------------+
7 rows in set (0.01 sec)

mysql> SELECT * FROM employee_tbl ORDER BY RAND();
+------+------+------------+------------------+
| id   | name | work_date  | daily_typing_pages |
+------+------+------------+------------------+
|    5 | Zara | 2007-02-06 |              350 |
|    2 | Ram  | 2007-05-27 |              220 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-04-06 |              100 |
```

```
|    1 | John | 2007-01-24 |               250 |
|    4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 |               220 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 |               170 |
|    5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 |               300 |
+------+------+------------+-------------------+
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

```
|    1 | John | 2007-01-24 |               250 |
|    4 | Jill | 2007-04-06 |               220 |
|    3 | Jack | 2007-05-06 |               170 |
|    5 | Zara | 2007-06-06 |               300 |
+------+------+------------+-------------------+
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```