

Introduction to SQL

- During this week we will learn:
 - How to use a graphical interface to perform database operations
 - How to create database tables using SQL
 - How to define primary and foreign key constraints using SQL
 - How to insert data into a table
 - How to write simple database queries using SQL

SQL

- *SQL* is the standard database language for relational databases. With SQL we can:
 - Create the database and table structures
 - Perform insertion, modification, and deletion of data from the tables
 - Perform database queries
- The query operates on tables and builds a result table from one or more tables in the database
- An SQL query is a single statement in which you describe what you want from the database

SQL

- SQL is used with relational database management systems (RDMS), such as *Microsoft SQL Server*, which we will be using during the course
- RDMS software can be running on local computer on a server on the internet
- We can send database queries to a RDMS using e.g. programming interfaces, command line interfaces or graphical interfaces

Communicating with a RDMS

Here's an example on performing a database query in Python programming language:

```
import psycopg2

# Establish connection with the RDMS
connection = psycopg2.connect(
    # ...
)

cursor = connection.cursor()
# Execute the database query
cursor.execute("SELECT course_code, course_name, credits FROM Course")
courses = cursor.fetchall()
```

Communicating with a RDMS

- During this course we will be using a graphical interface called *SQL Server Management Studio* to communicate with the SQL Server
- With SQL Server Management Studio we can for example inspect and manage database related information, perform database queries and visualize the structure of the database tables

SQL as a data definition language

Create database

- Database is a named collection of tables
- In addition to tables, database holds different kinds of configuration, for example related to access control
- We can create a database with the `CREATE DATABASE` statement

```
CREATE DATABASE University
```

Create table

- The actual data of a database lives inside *tables*
- Table has a name and a collection of *columns*
- We can create a table with the `CREATE TABLE` statement

```
CREATE TABLE Student (  
    student_number INTEGER,  
    first_name VARCHAR(50),  
    surname VARCHAR(50)  
)
```


Create table

- Table and column names should describe the information they store
 - The "Student" table contains rows that represent students
 - The "first_name" column contains the family name of the student
- Table and column names should consist of letters, digits or underscores. They *should not contain whitespace*
- In column names, underscore is commonly used instead of whitespace. For example "first_name" instead of "first name"
- Table names are commonly in *singular format*, for example "Student"
- Each column has a *type* that determines the kind of values the column can have
- For example an `INTEGER` type of column can only contain integer values

Data types

	ISO SQL Data Type	Examples of literals	Comments
<i>Integer types</i>	SMALLINT INTEGER BIGINT	12 1234567 12345678901	(2 bytes) ± 32767 (sizes in SQL Server) (4 bytes) ± 2147483647 (8 bytes) ± 9223372036854775807 NB! integer / integer gives an integer (no rounding!)
<i>Decimal types</i>	DECIMAL (precision, scale) NUMERIC (precision, scale)	12.75 -- NB! Decimal <i>point</i>	<i>precision</i> = the total number of digits <i>scale</i> = the total number of decimal places e.g. 12.75 => precision: 4, scale: 2 NUMERIC: exact precision and exact scale DECIMAL: minimum precision and exact scale
<i>Character strings</i>	CHAR (n) VARCHAR (n) NCHAR (n) NVARCHAR (n)	'Hello!' 'Database engine' N'δ' N'Πάντα ρεῖ καὶ'	Exactly <i>n</i> characters, padded with space. Maximum of <i>n</i> characters, no padding (saves space!) Exactly <i>n</i> UNICODE characters, padded. Maximum of <i>n</i> UNICODE characters, no padding
	NB! <i>Single quotes</i> only. Case sensitivity of strings can be enabled/disabled with a DBMS configuration option.		
<i>Boolean</i>	BOOLEAN	TRUE	Stores TRUE or FALSE values
<i>Date type</i>	DATE	'2012-06-25'	NB! Use the ISO 8601 date format: ' yyyy-mm-dd '
<i>Time type</i>	TIME	'09:35:00'	Hours, minutes, seconds as ' hh:mm:ss '

Example of a table creation

- Let's consider a table named "Country" that stores information about countries
- The table needs the following columns:
 - "country_code", the three characters long code that identifies the country. This is the table's primary key
 - "country_name", the name of the country
 - "population" the number of people living the country
- *What is the SQL statement that creates the "Country" table with the mentioned columns?*

Constraints

- *Constraints* specify rules for the data in a table
- For example `NOT NULL` constraint ensures that a column cannot have a ``NULL` (empty) value
- The `NOT NULL` constraint is defined *after the column type* in the `CREATE TABLE` statement

```
CREATE TABLE Student (  
    student_number INTEGER NOT NULL,  
    first_name VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,  
    surname VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL  
)
```

Primary key constraint

- *Primary key* uniquely identifies each row in the table
- *Primary key constraint* prevents duplicate rows to exist for the table
- Primary key constraint is defined with the `PRIMARY KEY` constraint *after the column definitions* in the `CREATE TABLE` statement

```
CREATE TABLE Student (  
    student_number INTEGER NOT NULL,  
    first_name VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,  
    surname VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,  
  
    -- The primary key is the student_number column  
    CONSTRAINT Pk_Student PRIMARY KEY (student_number)  
)
```

Foreign key constraint

- *Foreign key* is a column or group columns whose values are required to match those of the primary key of the referenced table
- *Foreign key constraint* prevents foreign key not being matched by a primary key in the referenced table
- Foreign key constraint is defined with the `FOREIGN KEY` constraint *after the column definitions* in the `CREATE TABLE` statement

```
CREATE TABLE Laptop (  
    serial_number VARCHAR(10) NOT NULL,  
    student_number INTEGER NOT NULL,  
  
    -- The primary key is the serial_number column  
    CONSTRAINT Pk_Laptop PRIMARY KEY (serial_number),  
    --- The foreign key student_number references the primary key student_number in the Student table  
    CONSTRAINT Fk_Student FOREIGN KEY (student_number)  
    REFERENCES Student(student_number)  
)
```

Drop table

- We can delete a table in the database with the `DROP TABLE` statement

```
DROP TABLE Laptop
```

SQL as a data manipulation language

Insert

- We insert a new row into a table by defining the table name and the values for the columns
- A new row can be inserted with the `INSERT INTO` statement
- ⚠ String literals are defined with *single quotes*, for example `'Kalle'`

```
INSERT INTO Student (student_number, first_name, surname) VALUES (1, 'Kalle', 'Ilves')
```

Insert

- Constraints are checked once a new row is inserted
- For example if `NOT NULL` constraint of a column is violated, there will be an error

```
-- ✗ surname column has a NOT NULL constraint, omitting it will cause an error  
INSERT INTO Student (student_number, first_name) VALUES (1, 'Kalle')
```

Select

- The `SELECT` statement is used to select rows from a table
- With the `SELECT` statement we define a group of columns we want to select the data from and the name of the target table
- The result is a result table containing the rows from the target table with the specified columns

```
SELECT first_name, surname FROM Student
```

Where

- We can filter the selected rows of a table with a `WHERE` clause
- With the `WHERE` clause we define a condition which the selected rows should satisfy
- The result table only contains the rows that satisfy the condition

```
SELECT first_name, surname FROM Student WHERE first_name = 'Matti'
```

Comparison operators

- The `WHERE` clause conditions support similar *comparison operators* as many programming languages

```
WHERE first_name = 'Matti' -- equal to. ⚠ Note, just a single = symbol
WHERE first_name <> 'Matti' -- not equal to
WHERE age > 18 -- greater than
WHERE age >= 30 -- greater than or equal
WHERE age < 18 -- less than
WHERE age <= 30 -- less than or equal
```

Logical operators

- Comparisons can be combined with *logical operators* to achieve conditions such as "age is greater than 18 *and* age is less than 30"

```
WHERE age > 18 AND age < 30 -- AND operator  
WHERE first_name = 'Matti' OR first_name = 'Kaarina' -- OR operator  
WHERE NOT age < 18 -- NOT operator
```

Logical operators

- We can use brackets to determine in which order the logical operators should be applied

```
WHERE (skill = 1 OR skill = 2) AND salary > 10000
```

Order by

- The order of result table's row is unpredictable, it might not be the same each time we execute the query
- We can use the `ORDER BY` clause to define in which order we want the rows to be in the result table
- The sorting is done based on columns

```
SELECT course_name, credits
FROM Course
ORDER BY credits -- rows will be sorted by the credits column's value
```

Order by

- Table might contain multiple rows with the same value in the column used in the `ORDER BY` clause
- To determine the order of such rows we can provide multiple columns to the `ORDER BY` clause

```
SELECT course_name, credits
FROM Course
-- when the credits is the same, the course_name is used to determine the order
ORDER BY credits, course_name
```


Order by

- The `ORDER BY` sorts the records in *ascending order* (smallest value first) by default
- We can change the order by using either `ASC` (ascending order) or `DESC` (descending order) keyword

```
SELECT course_name, credits
FROM Course
-- use descending order for credits and ascending order for course_name
ORDER BY credits DESC, course_name ASC
```

Summary

- We can create database tables using the `CREATE TABLE` statement
- `PRIMARY KEY` constraint is used to define the table's primary key
- `FOREIGN KEY` constraint is used to define a foreign key referencing primary key column of another table
- `INSERT INTO` statement is used to insert a new row for the table
- `SELECT` statement is used to select rows from a table
- `WHERE` clause can be used to filter the rows of a table
- We can use comparison and logical operators to define a condition for the `WHERE` clause, for example `WHERE first_name = 'Kalle' OR first_name = 'Elina'`
- We can use `ORDER BY` clause to determine the order of rows in the result table