



Introduction to the SELECT Statement

The SELECT statement is the cornerstone of SQL. It allows you to query a database and retrieve specific data based on your criteria. At its simplest, it specifies which columns you want to see from a particular table.

Basic Syntax

The most basic form of the SELECT statement looks like this:

```
SELECT column1, column2, ...
FROM table_name;
```

- **SELECT:** This keyword indicates that you want to retrieve data.
- **column1, column2, ...:** These are the names of the columns you want to retrieve. You can specify one or more columns, separated by commas. If you want to retrieve all columns, you can use the asterisk * as a wildcard.
- **FROM:** This keyword specifies the table from which you want to retrieve the data.
- **table_name:** This is the name of the table you're querying.
- **;;:** The semicolon marks the end of the SQL statement. While not always required, it's good practice to include it, especially when executing multiple statements.

Example:

Let's say you have a table named *Customers* with columns like *CustomerID*, *FirstName*, *LastName*, and *City*. To retrieve the *FirstName* and *LastName* of all customers, you would use the following query:

```
SELECT FirstName, LastName
FROM Customers;
```

To retrieve all columns from the *Customers* table, you would use:

```
SELECT *
FROM Customers;
```