



SQL Standard

SQL Min() Function

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In SQL, we can use the min() function to retrieve the smallest value from a given set of values. This can be a column containing numerical values from a given table.

MIN is probably one of the most common aggregate functions that allows us to pass a set of values and it can return a single value from the provided dataset.

In this tutorial, we will explore the functionality of the min() function in SQL databases such as MySQL. We will use the Sakila sample database for demonstration. However, feel free to use any dataset that you find appropriate.

SQL Min() Function

As we mentioned, this function allows us to pass a set of values and it returns the smallest value from the provided set.

We can express the function syntax as follows:

```
SELECT MIN(column_name)
FROM table_name
WHERE condition;
```

In this syntax, we call the min() function and pass the column name whose minimum value we wish to retrieve. Since the function is an aggregate function, it computes the min value from all the provided values and returns a single value.

We also specify an optional clause using the WHERE clause to filter the rows based on a specific condition before locating the minimum value.

Examples:

To better understand how to use the min() function in SQL, let us look at a more practical usage of the function.

Basic Usage

Consider the film table from the Sakila sample database. Suppose we wish to find the

minimum rental rate for a film.

We can use the min() function as shown in the following:

```
SELECT MIN(rental_rate) AS min_rental_rate
FROM film;
```

In this example, we locate the smallest value in the “rental_rate” column of the film table.

This should return the lowest rental value among all films in the database.

Resulting Output:

```
min_rental_rate|
-----+
              0.99|
```

Advanced Usage

Let us look at a more advanced usage of the function. Suppose we want to find the minimum rental rate for a specific film. For example, “ACE GOLDFINGER”. We can add the WHERE clause to our query as shown in the following:

```
SELECT MIN(rental_rate) AS min_rental_rate
FROM film
WHERE film_id = (
    SELECT film_id
    FROM film
    WHERE title = 'CITY OF ANGELS'
);
```

This should return the rental rate for the specified film.

Conclusion

In this tutorial, we learned how to work and use the min() function in SQL. We started with the basics and progressed to the advanced examples where we add the filters using the WHERE clause for a more granular control.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



John Otieno

My name is John and am a fellow geek like you. I am passionate about all things computers from Hardware, Operating systems to Programming. My dream is to share my knowledge with the world and help out fellow geeks. Follow my content by subscribing to LinuxHint mailing list

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Linux Hint LLC, editor@linuxhint.com
1210 Kelly Park Circle, Morgan Hill, CA
95037

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