Thursday 26 June 2025

A few days ago, I attended an interview for a remote work. Ironically, I had thought I know well about MySQL before that day. Then I found how stupid I was when I realised that I didn’t offer correct answer for the only two questions about databases. I felt desparately frustrated when I realised that thereafter. These are not ridiculously difficult questions but I was not able to answer them. I could have answered them when I was a beginner. Sadly, after writing code for three years, I couldn’t do it. The reason is that what I have been doing is only writing APIs; there are frameworks which deals with the database so that I forget some basic property of MySQL. Now I am embarrassed to tell anyone that I am a programmer with three and half years’ experience and presumably I won’t do that any more.

After attending serval interviews, I find that it is not right to constantly writing APIs without focusing on fundamental knowledge. Some web frameworks are so versatile that what I only need to do is to write interfaces regardless of what the SQLs are. Gradually, I didn’t write SQL very often so I forgot some basic functions such as “limit” and “between…and…”.