

SQL Murder Mystery: Who Killed the CEO of TechNova Inc.?"

The Murder Mystery

Rosalint Celcia

Case Overview

A CEO found dead. A locked office.
Zero witnesses.
But one thing the killer didn't count
on...
was data.
Today, using only SQL queries, going
to solve a murder.

Rosalint Celcia



On October 15th, 2025, at exactly 9:00 PM, the CEO of TechNova Inc. was found brutally murdered inside their office.

No CCTV. No fingerprints.

The only evidence?
Digital breadcrumbs hidden inside
TechNova's databases.



“We have access to five tables:
employees, keycard_logs, calls, alibis, and
evidence.

Somewhere inside these tables...
is a killer trying to hide.”

Rosalint Celcia

The first step is simple — confirm where and when the murder happened.

```
SELECT *  
FROM evidence  
WHERE room = 'CEO Office';
```

evidence_id	room	description	found_time
1	CEO Office	Fingerprint on desk	2025-10-15 21:05:00
2	CEO Office	Keycard swipe logs mismatch	2025-10-15 21:10:00

The murder happened inside the CEO Office, around 9 PM.



Next, we check who entered the CEO's office around the time of the murder.

```
SELECT e.name, k.room, k.entry_time, k.exit_time  
FROM keycard_logs k  
JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = k.employee_id  
WHERE k.room = 'CEO Office'  
AND k.entry_time BETWEEN '2025-10-15 20:45' AND '2025-10-15 21:10';
```

name	room	entry_time	exit_time
David Kumar	CEO Office	2025-10-15 20:50:00	2025-10-15 21:00:00

We've found a list of employees who were at the crime scene just minutes before the murder.

Suspicious Phone Calls

```
SELECT e.name, c.call_time, c.duration_sec  
FROM calls c  
JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = c.caller_id  
WHERE c.call_time BETWEEN '2025-10-15 20:50' AND '2025-10-15 21:00';
```

name	call_time	duration_sec
David Kumar	2025-10-15 20:55:00	45

One person made a call just before the murder...
A call that shouldn't have happened.



Checking Alibis

```
SELECT e.name, a.claimed_location, a.claim_time  
FROM alibis a  
JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = a.employee_id  
WHERE a.claim_time BETWEEN '2025-10-15 20:45' AND '2025-10-15 21:15';
```

name	claimed_location	claim_time
Alice Johnson	Office	2025-10-15 20:50:00
David Kumar	Server Room	2025-10-15 20:50:00
Eva Brown	Marketing Office	2025-10-15 20:50:00
Frank Li	Office	2025-10-15 20:50:00

These employees claimed they were somewhere else.
But claims... can be lies.

Compare Alibis with Keycard Logs

```
SELECT e.name  
FROM alibis a  
JOIN keycard_logs k ON a.employee_id = k.employee_id  
JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = a.employee_id  
WHERE a.claim_time = k.entry_time  
AND a.claimed_location != k.room;
```

name
David Kumar

Someone lied.
Their alibi doesn't match their actual movement.



Match Evidence

```
SELECT e.name, ev.description  
FROM keycard_logs k  
JOIN evidence ev ON ev.room = k.room  
JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = k.employee_id  
WHERE ev.room = 'CEO Office';
```

name	description
David Kumar	Keypad swipe logs mismatch
David Kumar	Fingerprint on desk

Physical evidence confirms our suspicion.
We're closing in.



Final Killer Reveal

Public opinion
(Media Influence)

News coverage
(Consequences)

Rosalint Celcia

```
WITH suspects AS (
    SELECT DISTINCT e.name
    FROM keycard_logs k
    JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = k.employee_id
    WHERE k.room = 'CEO Office'
        AND k.entry_time BETWEEN '2025-10-15 20:45' AND '2025-10-15 21:10'
),
liars AS (
    SELECT DISTINCT e.name
    FROM alibis a
    JOIN keycard_logs k ON a.employee_id = k.employee_id
    JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = k.employee_id
    WHERE a.claimed_location != k.room
),
callers AS (
    SELECT DISTINCT e.name
    FROM calls c
    JOIN employees e ON e.employee_id = c.caller_id
    WHERE c.call_time BETWEEN '2025-10-15 20:50' AND '2025-10-15 21:00'
)
SELECT name AS killer
FROM suspects
INTERSECT
SELECT name FROM liars
INTERSECT
SELECT name FROM callers;
```

Accessed the office.
Lied about their location.
Made a call minutes before
the CEO died.
All evidence points to one
person...





Public opinion
(Media Influence)



News coverage
(Consequences)

THE KILLER: David Kumar



Rosalint Celcia

Thank You

**And that's how SQL
helped us solve a
murder.**

**and remember – in the
world of data,
no one can hide.**

Rosalint Celcia