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Instrucción ALTER TABLE de SQL

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Instrucción ALTER TABLE de SQL

La instrucción ALTER TABLE se utiliza para agregar, eliminar o modificar columnas de una tabla existente.

La instrucción ALTER TABLE también se utiliza para agregar y quitar varias restricciones en una tabla existente.

ALTER TABLE - AGREGAR columna

Para agregar una columna en una tabla, utilice la sintaxis siguiente:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name
ADD column_name datatype;
```

El siguiente SQL agrega una columna "Email" a la tabla "Customers":

Ejemplo

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
ADD Email varchar(255);
```

ALTER TABLE - DROP COLUMN

Para eliminar una columna de una tabla, utilice la sintaxis siguiente (tenga en cuenta que algunos sistemas de base de datos no permiten eliminar una columna):

```
ALTER TABLE table_name
DROP COLUMN column_name;
```

El siguiente SQL elimina la columna "Email" de la tabla "Customers":

Ejemplo

```
ALTER TABLE Customers
DROP COLUMN Email;
```

ALTER TABLE - COLUMNA ALTER/MODIFY

Para cambiar el tipo de datos de una columna de una tabla, utilice la sintaxis siguiente:

SQL Server / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name
ALTER COLUMN column_name datatype;
```

Mi SQL / Oracle (versión anterior 10G):

```
ALTER TABLE table_name
MODIFY COLUMN column_name datatype;
```

Oracle 10G and later:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name
MODIFY column_name datatype;
```

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SQL ALTER TABLE Example

Look at the "Persons" table:

ID	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Now we want to add a column named "DateOfBirth" in the "Persons" table.

We use the following SQL statement:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ADD DateOfBirth date;
```

Notice that the new column, "DateOfBirth", is of type date and is going to hold a date. The data type specifies what type of data the column can hold. For a complete reference of all the data types available in MS Access, MySQL, and SQL Server, go to our complete Data Types reference.

The "Persons" table will now look like this:

ID	LastName	FirstName	Address	City	DateOfBirth
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes	
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes	
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger	

Change Data Type Example

Now we want to change the data type of the column named "DateOfBirth" in the "Persons" table.

We use the following SQL statement:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ALTER COLUMN DateOfBirth year;
```

Notice that the "DateOfBirth" column is now of type year and is going to hold a year in a two- or four-digit format.

DROP COLUMN Example

Next, we want to delete the column named "DateOfBirth" in the "Persons" table.

We use the following SQL statement:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
DROP COLUMN DateOfBirth;
```

The "Persons" table will now look like this:

ID	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Test Yourself With Exercises

Exercise:

Add a column of type called .DATE Birthday

```
                    Persons
                      ;
```

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Tooltips
Slideshow
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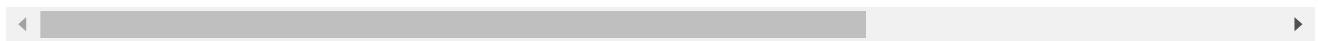
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