

PHP MySQL DELETE Query

In this tutorial you'll learn how to delete records from a MySQL table using PHP.

Deleting Database Table Data

Just as you insert records into tables, you can delete records from a table using the SQL **DELETE** statement. It is typically used in conjugation with the **WHERE** clause to delete only those records that matches specific criteria or condition.

The basic syntax of the **DELETE** statement can be given with:

```
DELETE FROM table_name WHERE column_name=some_value
```

Let's make a SQL query using the **DELETE** statement and **WHERE** clause, after that we will execute this query through passing it to the PHP `mysqli_query()` function to delete the tables records. Consider the following *persons* table inside the *demo* database:

id	first_name	last_name	email
1	Peter	Parker	peterparker@mail.com
2	John	Rambo	johnrambo@mail.com
3	Clark	Kent	clarkkent@mail.com
4	John	Carter	johncarter@mail.com
5	Harry	Potter	harrypotter@mail.com

The PHP code in the following example will delete the records of those persons from the *personstable* whose *first_name* is equal to John.

Example

Procedural

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PDO

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```
<?php
/* Attempt MySQL server connection. Assuming you are running MySQL
server with default setting (user 'root' with no password) */
$link = mysqli_connect("localhost", "root", "", "demo");

// Check connection
if($link === false){
    die("ERROR: Could not connect. " . mysqli_connect_error());
}
```

```
// Attempt delete query execution
$sql = "DELETE FROM persons WHERE first_name='John'";
if(mysqli_query($link, $sql)){
    echo "Records were deleted successfully.";
} else{
    echo "ERROR: Could not able to execute $sql. " .
mysqli_error($link);
}

// Close connection
mysqli_close($link);
?>
```

After the deletion the *persons* table will look something like this:

id	first_name	last_name	email
1	Peter	Parker	peterparker@mail.com
3	Clark	Kent	clarkkent@mail.com
5	Harry	Potter	harrypotter@mail.com

As you can see the records has been deleted successfully from the persons table.

Warning: The WHERE clause in the DELETE statement specifies which record or records should be deleted. If you omit the WHERE clause, all records will be deleted.