SQL DEFAULT Constraint

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SQL DEFAULT Constraint

The `DEFAULT` constraint is used to set a default value for a column.

The default value will be added to all new records, if no other value is specified.

SQL DEFAULT on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL sets a `DEFAULT` value for the "City" column when the "Persons" table is created:

My SQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (
    ID int NOT NULL,
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
    FirstName varchar(255),
    Age int,
    City varchar(255) DEFAULT 'Sandnes'
);
```

The `DEFAULT` constraint can also be used to insert system values, by using functions like `GETDATE()`:

```
CREATE TABLE Orders (
    ID int NOT NULL,
    OrderNumber int NOT NULL,
```

```
    OrderDate date DEFAULT GETDATE()
);
```

SQL DEFAULT on ALTER TABLE

To create a `DEFAULT` constraint on the "City" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ALTER City SET DEFAULT 'Sandnes';
```

SQL Server:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ADD CONSTRAINT df_City
DEFAULT 'Sandnes' FOR City;
```

MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ALTER COLUMN City SET DEFAULT 'Sandnes';
```

Oracle:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
MODIFY City DEFAULT 'Sandnes';
```

DROP a DEFAULT Constraint

To drop a `DEFAULT` constraint, use the following SQL:

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ALTER City DROP DEFAULT;
```

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ALTER COLUMN City DROP DEFAULT;
```

SQL Server:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ALTER COLUMN City DROP DEFAULT;
```