

MySQL: Display only 200 characters from total value

Asked 13 years, 1 month ago Modified 13 years, 1 month ago

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I have a MySQL table with a field named `description`, with a record like this:

5



Former cop Brian O'Conner partners with ex-con Dom Toretto on the opposite side of the law. Since Brian and Mia Toretto broke Dom out of custody, they've blown across many borders to elude authorities. Now backed into a corner in Rio de Janeiro, they must pull one last job in order to gain their freedom. As they assemble their elite team of top racers, the unlikely allies know their only shot of getting out for good means confronting the corrupt businessman who wants them dead. But he's not the only one on their tail. Hard-nosed federal agent Luke Hobbs never misses his target. When he is assigned to track down Dom and Brian, he and his strike team launch an all-out assault to capture them. But as his men tear through Brazil, Hobbs learns he can't separate the good guys from the bad.

How can I display first 200 characters of it? Like this:

Former cop Brian O'Conner partners with ex-con Dom Toretto on the opposite side of the law. Since Brian and Mia Toretto broke Dom out of custody, they've blown across many borders to elude authorities.

PHP

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mysql

database

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edited Nov 11, 2011 at 12:09

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asked Nov 4, 2011 at 14:33



SB24

531 ● 6 ● 10

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```
SELECT LEFT(description, 200)
FROM yourtable
```

relevant docs [here](#).



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answered Nov 4, 2011 at 14:35



Marc B

360k ● 43 ● 431 ● 505

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Try this:

```
SELECT SUBSTR(description, 1, 200)
FROM your_table
```



You can find docs [here](#)



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edited Nov 4, 2011 at 14:54

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answered Nov 4, 2011 at 14:36



Marco

57.5k ● 15 ● 133 ● 158



```
SELECT * FROM table ...
```

2

Then in PHP just:



```
echo substr($desc, 0, 200); //1st 200 characters
```



[DOC](#)



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edited Nov 4, 2011 at 14:41

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answered Nov 4, 2011 at 14:34



Naftali

146k ● 41 ● 246 ● 304

hey neal thanks please also answer this question too
stackoverflow.com/questions/7979513/... – SB24 Nov 4, 2011 at 14:36 ✎

@SumitBijvani you tagged your question [php](#), i gave you a php relevant answer – Naftali Nov 4, 2011 at 14:37

@Neal the third arg is the length not the ending offset. So 200 should be there ;) – NikiC Nov 4, 2011 at 14:41



```
SELECT SUBSTRING(`description`,1,200) as description F
```

2



That will start at position 1 and go 200 characters, and return the field as 'description' which is easier for `mysql_fetch_assoc()`



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answered Nov 4, 2011 at 14:42



Mario Lurig

784 ● 1 ● 6 ● 16

Marco, that's incorrect (I just tested it on my db to be sure before posting). also, from the MySQL docs: For all forms of `SUBSTRING()`, the position of the first character in the string from which the substring is to be extracted is reckoned as 1.
– Mario Lurig Nov 4, 2011 at 14:51 ✎



It is better to get the substring from the database rather than getting the whole string into PHP and then slicing it:

-1

```
SELECT SUBSTRING(description, 0, 200) FROM TABLE_NAME
```



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answered Nov 4, 2011 at 14:37



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455k ● 83 ● 499 ● 534

