

SQL a numbering column - MySQL

Asked 16 years ago Modified 16 years ago Viewed 1k times



This is a sql newbie question.

5

Basically, I want an extra column to return with my select statement to number the rows. I'm using mysql.



Eg:



```
select * from friends
```

```
David  
Steve  
Joe
```

What is the syntax to get:

```
1 David  
2 Steve  
3 Joe
```

sql

mysql

Share

Improve this question

Follow

edited Dec 22, 2008 at 3:59



Cade Roux

89.6k ● 40 ● 184 ● 266

asked Dec 22, 2008 at 2:53



Yada

31.2k ● 24 ● 105 ● 145

Many times you would have an "id" field (your primary key) to have a unique identifier for each record in a database. Is this what you want, or do you want the row number of the result set in the result set (which is redundant)? – [strager](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 2:57

@JasonK, if one of the given answers solved your problem, you're supposed to click the check mark beside it to "accept" the answer. I think you get some rep and a badge when you do. – [Paul Tomblin](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 18:24

5 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default)



From: <http://markmal.blogspot.com/2006/04/oracle-like-rownum-in-mysql.html>

7

```
SELECT @rownum:=@rownum+1 rownum, t.*FROM (SELECT @rownum:=0) r, mytable t;
```

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Dec 22, 2008 at 3:04



Paul Tomblin

183k ● 59 ● 323 ● 410

In SQL Server 2005 and higher you can use the [Row_Number](#) function.

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Dec 22, 2008 at 2:58



YonahW

16.5k ● 9 ● 43 ● 46

Dunno why this got a down-vote; it is probably the closest thing to a standard SQL answer (for all that not every DBMS has implemented it). – [Jonathan Leffler](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 3:39

Because its not about standard SQL. He clearly states that he is using MySQL. I was not the one who cast the down vote, though. – [Adeel Ansari](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 3:42

Others stated solutions for Oracle or MS SQL Server without getting down-voted. This answer is not worse than theirs. – [Tomalak](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 8:04

Just for the record the question did not originally state MySQL. When I answered the question there was not mention whatsoever of which RDBMS was being used. You can check the edit history to see for yourself. – [YonahW](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 16:23

Actually, no - at the time the answer was posted, it did not say MySQL. That was an extra tag added, and a title changed. – [Jonathan Leffler](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 16:30

If you are developing some application, its better to get the number of records from your result set or data set or any container you are using to hold the result, instead. The basic idea is to do it in your code. Otherwise, Paul solution will work in your case.

In MySql, there is nothing like ROWNUM, what we have in Oracle, and neither we have Row_Number(), what we have in MS SQL Server, nor any other variant.

Edit:

By doing it in your code, you need not change your SQL statement, if the underlying database changes, just because of this reason.

Share

edited Dec 22, 2008 at 4:16

answered Dec 22, 2008 at 4:10

Improve this answer



[Adeel Ansari](#)

39.9k ● 12 ● 96 ● 135

Follow



I'll do this in a stored proc

0



```
CREATE TABLE #Foo (  
    [FooId] [int] IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,  
    [Name] varchar(255)  
)
```

```
SELECT *  
FROM Friends  
INTO #Foo
```

```
SELECT *  
FROM #Foo
```

Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Dec 22, 2008 at 2:58



[Eugene Yokota](#)

95.5k ● 45 ● 217 ● 320



As you might have guessed from the divergent responses you've received, the answer depends on which DBMS you are using. However, the answer typically involves ROWNUM or a variant on that spelling.

0



The standard SQL answer is probably ROW_NUMBER() - mentioned by @YonahW; it works as a windowing function and is not available in all DBMS.



Share Improve this answer Follow

answered Dec 22, 2008 at 3:40



[Jonathan Leffler](#)

752k ● 145 ● 946 ● 1.3k

And it is not available until SQL Server 2005, IIRC. – [Tomalak](#) Dec 22, 2008 at 8:02