



MySQL, JSON, & You: Perfect Together

Storing and Retrieving JSON Data in MySQL

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Obligatory "I Love Me" Slide

- Developer for 20+ years
 - Only constant in that stack has been MySQL
- MySQL Developer Advocate for Oracle
- Avid golfer
- Die hard NY Giants fan
- I have the best office mate



What will we cover?

```
  "keywords": [],
  "author": "",
  "license": "ISC",
  "devDependencies": {
    "electron": "8.2.1",
    "electron-reload": "1.5.0",
    "concurrently": "5.1.0",
    "@rollup/plugin-commonjs": "11.0.0",
    "@rollup/plugin-node-resolve": "7.0.0",
    "rollup": "1.20.0",
    "rollup-plugin-livereload": "1.3.0",
    "rollup-plugin-svelte": "5.0.3",
    "rollup-plugin-terser": "5.1.2",
    "svelte": "3.21.0"
  },
  "dependencies": {
    "svelte": "3.21.0"
  }
}
```

Photo by [Ferenc Almasi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

- **What is JSON?**
- **JSON as a string vs. JSON data type**
- **Why store it in database?**
- **How to persist JSON data**
- **How to retrieve JSON data**
- **Updating JSON data**
- **Using relational data as JSON**
 - And vice versa
- **Indexing JSON data**

What is JSON?

- **JSON – JavaScript Object Notation**
- **Textual representation of a data structure**
 - **Objects are wrapped in { }**
 - **Properties are key value pairs**
 - **Keys are wrapped in " "**
 - **Arrays are wrapped in []**
- **Data can be nested.**
 - **Objects can have properties that are arrays of objects.**
- **Language independent**



Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on Unsplash

"Normalize until it hurts;
denormalize until it works."

Unknown



Why Store JSON?



- **Faster development time**
 - If schema will change often, it might be better to have no schema
- **Less verbose than XML**
- Pretty much every programming language can ‘read’ JSON
- **Some data is unstructured**
 - User preferences
 - Configuration data
 - Feature flags

Image by [Tumisu](#) from [Pixabay](#)

```
{  
  "name": "Scott Stroz",  
  "numberOfChildren": 2,  
  "playesGolf": true,  
  "friends": [  
    {  
      "name": "Raymond Camden",  
      "numberOfChildren": 8,  
      "playsGolf": false  
    },  
    {  
      "name": "Todd Sharp",  
      "numberOfChildren": 2,  
      "playsGolf": true  
    }  
  ]  
}
```

JSON Syntax

JSON as String vs. JSON Data Type

JSON as String

- Was used long before JSON data type
 - Stored as CHAR, VARCHAR, TEXT, etc
 - Searching by values required the use of LIKE or REGEXP
 - Updating any value of the JSON object would require rewriting the entire string

JSON Data Type

- Introduced in MySQL 5.7
- Designed to hold *valid* JSON documents.
- Stored in a binary format
- Optimized for replication & quick searches
- Can have a defined schema

```
CREATE TABLE `season` (
    `id` int NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
    `league_id` int NOT NULL,
    `name` varchar(100) NOT NULL,
    `start_date` date DEFAULT NULL,
    `season_settings` json DEFAULT NULL,
    CHECK(
        JSON_SCHEMA_VALID(
            {
                "type": "object",
                "properties":{
                    "leagueFees": {
                        "type": "number", "minimum":0
                    }
                }
            },
            `season_settings`
        ),
        PRIMARY KEY (`id`)
);
```



Creating a Table with JSON column

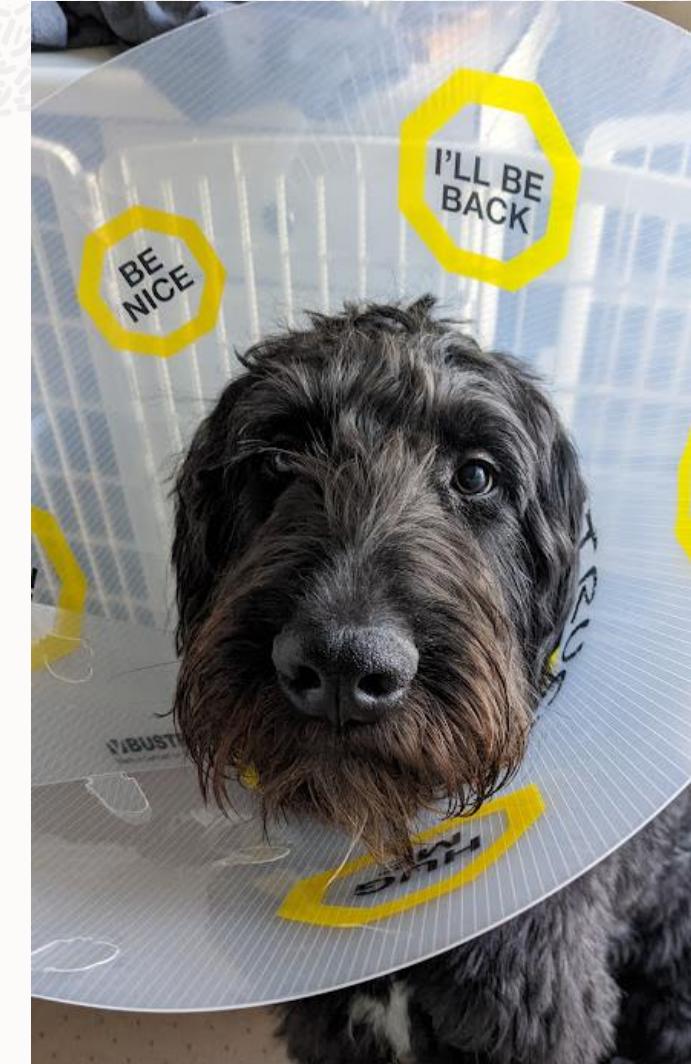
Insert JSON using... **INSERT**

```
INSERT INTO season (
    name,
    start_date,
    league_id,
    season_settings
)
VALUES( 'My Test League',
        '2022-07-18',
        1,
        '{}'
);
```

id league_id name start_date season_settings
24 1 My Test League 2022-07-18 {}

Demo Schema

```
{  
  "course": {  
    "city": "Charles Town",  
    "name": "Locust Hill Golf Course",  
    "phone": "(304) 728-7300",  
    "state": "WV",  
    "address": "278 St. Andrews Dr.",  
    "postalCode": "25414"  
  },  
  "scoring": {  
    "title": "Better Ball",  
    "description": "Better ball format where we adjust the handicaps",  
    "handicapType": "individual"  
  },  
  "subPool": [  
    {"type": "division", "value": "opposing"},  
    {"name": "ROLE.Course_Staff", "type": "role"},  
    {"name": "ROLE.Golfer_Sub", "type": "role"}  
  ],  
  "useSubs": true,  
  "leagueFee": 70.0,  
  "greensFees": 19.5,  
  "useContests": true,  
  "pointsPerHole": 1,  
  "golfersPerTeam": 2  
}
```



Pathing

Many of the JSON functions can use a 'path' to nested data

```
SELECT JSON_PRETTY(  
    JSON_KEYS(season_settings)  
)  
FROM season  
WHERE id = 23;
```

```
[  
  "course",  
  "scoring",  
  "subPool",  
  "useSubs",  
  "leagueFee",  
  "greensFees",  
  "useContests",  
  "pointsPerHole",  
  "golfersPerTeam"  
]
```

Pathing (con't)

If we want to get the keys for the 'scoring' property we use the following:

```
SELECT JSON_PRETTY(  
    JSON_KEYS( season_settings, ".$scoring" )  
)  
FROM season  
WHERE id = 23;
```

```
[  
    "title",  
    "description",  
    "handicapType"  
]
```

Querying based on JSON values

JSON_CONTAINS()

```
SELECT `id`,  
       `name`,  
       JSON_VALUE(  
           season_settings,  
           "$.leagueFee"  
       ) league_fee  
FROM season  
WHERE JSON_CONTAINS(  
    season_settings,  
    "70",  
    "$.leagueFee"  
);
```

+-----+-----+-----+	id name league_fee	+-----+-----+-----+
	8 Summer 2016 70.0	
	11 Summer 2017 70.0	
	14 Summer 2018 70.0	
	16 Summer 2019 70.0	
	18 Summer 2020 70.0	
	21 Summer 2021 70.0	
	23 Summer 2022 70.0	
	+-----+-----+-----+	

```

SELECT `id`,
       `name`,
       JSON_ARRAYAGG( jt1.role) sub_roles ③
FROM season,
② JSON_TABLE(
    season_settings,
    "$.subPool[*]" COLUMNS(
        subType NVARCHAR(20) PATH '$.type',
        role NVARCHAR(20) PATH '$.name'
    )
) as jt1
WHERE
    jt1.subType = 'role'
    AND
    JSON_CONTAINS(
        season_settings,
        '"Charles Town"', ①
        "$.course.city"
    )
GROUP BY season.id;

```

JSON_CONTAINS() with strings

id	name	sub_roles
2	Summer 2013	["ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
4	Summer 2014	["ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
6	Summer 2015	["ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
8	Summer 2016	["ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
11	Summer 2017	["ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
14	Summer 2018	["ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
18	Summer 2020	["ROLE.Course_STAFF"]
21	Summer 2021	["ROLE.Course_STAFF", "ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]
23	Summer 2022	["ROLE.Course_STAFF", "ROLE_GOLFER_SUB"]



JSON_VALUE()

```
SELECT `id`,  
       `name`,  
       JSON_VALUE(  
           season_settings,  
           "$.greensFees"  
           RETURNING DECIMAL(4,2)  
       ) AS greens_fees  
FROM season  
WHERE JSON_VALUE(  
    season_settings,  
    "$.course.state"  
) = 'WV';
```



id	name	greens_fees
2	Summer 2013	15.00
4	Summer 2014	17.50
6	Summer 2015	17.50
8	Summer 2016	17.50
11	Summer 2017	19.50
14	Summer 2018	19.50
16	Summer 2019	19.50
18	Summer 2020	19.50
21	Summer 2021	19.50
23	Summer 2022	19.50

Using Path Operators

```
SELECT `id`,  
       `name`,  
       season_settings->">$.course.name"  
             AS course_name,  
       season_settings->>">$.course.city"  
             AS course_city  
FROM season  
order by id desc limit 5;
```

id name	course_name	course_city
24 My Test League	NULL	NULL
23 Summer 2022	"Locust Hill Golf Course"	Charles Town
22 2021 - Fall Season	"Musket Ridge Golf Club"	Myersville
21 Summer 2021	"Locust Hill Golf Course"	Charles Town
20 2021 - Spring Season	"Glade Valley Golf Club"	Walkersville

Updating JSON values

How do we update keys/values?

JSON_INSERT()

- Inserts a new key to a JSON document
- Will NOT update value for existing keys
- Can add multiple keys in a single statement

JSON_REPLACE()

- Updates values to existing keys in a JSON document
- Will NOT add key if it does not exist
- Can update multiple keys in a single statement

JSON_SET()

- Inserts and updates values in a JSON document.
- If the key exists, the old value is updated.
- If the key does not exist, it is added and the new value is used



JSON_INSERT()

```
UPDATE season
SET
season_settings =
JSON_INSERT(
    season_settings,
    "$.leagueFee",
    25.50
);
```

```
{
    "leagueFee": 25.50
}
```

```
{
    "useSubs": true,
    "leagueFee": 70.0,
    "greensFees": 19.5,
    "useContests": true,
    "pointsPerHole": 1,
    "golfersPerTeam": 2
}
```

JSON_REPLACE()

```
UPDATE season
SET
season_settings =
JSON_REPLACE(
    season_settings,
    "$.golfersPerTeam",
    4
);
```

```
{
    "leagueFee": 25.50
}
```

```
{
    "useSubs": true,
    "leagueFee": 70.0,
    "greensFees": 19.5,
    "useContests": true,
    "pointsPerHole": 1,
    "golfersPerTeam": 4
}
```



JSON_SET()

```
UPDATE season
SET
season_settings =
JSON_SET(
    season_settings,
    "$.golfersPerTeam",
    2
);
```

```
{
    "leagueFee": 25.50,
    "golfersPerTeam": 2
}
```

```
{
    "useSubs": true,
    "leagueFee": 70.0,
    "greensFees": 19.5,
    "useContests": true,
    "pointsPerHole": 1,
    "golfersPerTeam": 2
}
```

JSON_REMOVE()

```
UPDATE season
SET
season_settings =
JSON_REMOVE(
    season_settings,
    "$.golfersPerTeam"
);
```

```
{
    "leagueFee": 25.50
}
```

```
{
    "useSubs": true,
    "leagueFees": 70.0,
    "greensFees": 19.5,
    "useContests": true,
    "pointsPerHole": 1
}
```

Using Relational Data as JSON

And Vice Versa

Using JSON_OBJECT()

```
SELECT
    JSON_PRETTY(
        JSON_OBJECT( 'id', id,
                    'name', name,
                    'leagueId', league_id,
                    'startDate', start_date,
                    'seasonSettings', season_settings
                )
    ) AS season_info
from season where id = 24;
```

```
{
    "id": 24,
    "name": "My Test League",
    "leagueId": 1,
    "startDate": "2022-07-22",
    "seasonSettings": {
        "leagueFee": 25.50
    }
}
```

Using JSON_ARRAYAGG()

```
SELECT JSON_PRETTY(  
    JSON_ARRAYAGG(  
        JSON_OBJECT( 'id', id,  
                    'name', name,  
                    'leagueId', league_id,  
                    'startDate', start_date)  
    )  
) seasons  
FROM season  
WHERE id in (23,24)  
ORDER BY start_date DESC;
```

```
[  
 {  
     "id": 23,  
     "name": "Summer 2022",  
     "leagueId": 1,  
     "startDate": "2022-04-12"  
 },  
 {  
     "id": 24,  
     "name": "My Test League",  
     "leagueId": 1,  
     "startDate": "2022-07-22"  
 }  
 ]
```

Returning JSON Data as Relational Data

```
SELECT name,  
       season_settings->>"$.course.name" course_name,  
       CAST(  
           season_settings->>"$.greensFees"  
           AS DECIMAL(4,2)  
       ) greens_fees,  
       season_settings->>"$.scoring.handicapType" hcp_type  
FROM season  
WHERE year(start_date) >2019  
ORDER BY start_date DESC;
```

name	course_name	greens_fees	hcp_type
My Test League	NULL	NULL	NULL
Summer 2022	Locust Hill Golf Course	19.50	individual
2021 - Fall Season	Musket Ridge Golf Club	30.00	team
2021 - Spring Season	Glade Valley Golf Club	20.00	team
Summer 2021	Locust Hill Golf Course	19.50	individual
2020 - Spring Season	Glade Valley Golf Club	18.00	team
Summer 2020	Locust Hill Golf Course	19.50	individual

Indexing JSON values

A Basic Query of JSON Data



```
explain  
select *\nfrom season\nwhere season_settings->>'$.course.name'\n= 'Locust Hill Golf Course'\G
```

A Basic Query of JSON Data



```
***** 1. row *****  
      id: 1  
select_type: SIMPLE  
      table: season  
partitions: NULL  
      type: ALL  
possible_keys: NULL ←  
      key: NULL ←  
...  
...
```

Adding an Index for JSON Data



```
ALTER TABLE season
ADD INDEX course_name ((  

    1 CAST(season_settings->>'$.course.name'  

        as CHAR(255)) 2  

    3 COLLATE utf8mb4_bin
));
```

What does the new index look like?



```
show indexes from season\G
```

What does the new index look like?

```
...
***** 2. row *****
    Table: season
  Non_unique: 1
    Key_name: course_name
Seq_in_index: 1
Column_name: NULL
  Collation: A
Cardinality: 4
  Sub_part: NULL
    Packed: NULL
      Null: YES
Index_type: BTREE
  Comment:
Index_comment:
  Visible: YES
Expression: (cast(json_unquote(json_extract(`season_settings`,_utf8mb4`\$.course.name\`))  
as char(255) charset utf8mb4) collate utf8mb4_bin)
```



What Does the Explain Plan Look Like Now?

```
explain  
  select *  
  from season  
  where season_settings->>'$.course.name'  
    = 'Locust Hill Golf Course'\G
```

What Does the Explain Plan Look Like Now?



```
***** 1. row *****
    id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
    table: season
partitions: NULL
      type: ref
possible_keys: course_name ←←
      key: course_name ←←
...
...
```



RECAP

- WE DEFINED JSON AND TALKED ABOUT SYNTAX.
- JSON AS A STRING VS. JSON DATA TYPE
- WHY STORE IT IN DATABASE?
- HOW TO PERSIST JSON DATA
- HOW TO RETRIEVE JSON DATA
- UPDATING JSON DATA
- USING RELATIONAL DATA AS JSON
- USING JSON AS RELATIONAL DATA
- INDEXING JSON DATA

Resources

GitHub

- <https://github.com/boyzoid/mysql-json-demo>

MySQL Documentation

- <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/8.0/en/json-function-reference.html>

David Stokes' book

- MySQL & JSON: A Practical Programming Guide

