PHP MySQL WHERE Clause

In this tutorial you will learn how to select the records from a MySQL database table based on specific conditions using PHP.

Filtering the Records

The `WHERE` clause is used to extract only those records that fulfill a specified condition.

The basic syntax of the `WHERE` clause can be given with:

```
SELECT column_name(s) FROM table_name WHERE column_name operator value
```

Let's make a SQL query using the `WHERE` clause in `SELECT` statement, after that we'll execute this query through passing it to the PHP `mysqli_query()` function to get the filtered data.

Consider we've a *persons* table inside the *demo* database that has following records:

```
+----+------------+-----------+---------------------+
| 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 following PHP code selects all the rows from the *persons* table where first_name='john':

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```php
<?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 select query execution
$sql = "SELECT * FROM persons WHERE first_name='john'";
if($result = mysqli_query($link, $sql)){
    if(mysqli_num_rows($result) > 0){
        echo "<table>";
            echo "<tr>";
                echo "<th>id</th>";
                echo "<th>first_name</th>";
                echo "<th>last_name</th>";
                echo "<th>email</th>";
            echo "</tr>";
        while($row = mysqli_fetch_array($result)){
            echo "<tr>";
```

```
24              echo "<td>" . $row['id'] . "</td>";
25              echo "<td>" . $row['first_name'] . "</td>";
26              echo "<td>" . $row['last_name'] . "</td>";
27              echo "<td>" . $row['email'] . "</td>";
28          echo "</tr>";
29      }
30      echo "</table>";
31      // Close result set
32      mysqli_free_result($result);
33    } else{
34        echo "No records matching your query were found.";
35    }
36 } else{
37     echo "ERROR: Could not able to execute $sql. " . mysqli_error($link);
38 }
39
40 // Close connection
41 mysqli_close($link);
42 ?>
```

After filtration the result set will look something like this:

```
+----+------------+-----------+--------------------+
| id | first_name | last_name | email              |
+----+------------+-----------+--------------------+
|  2 | John       | Rambo     | johnrambo@mail.com  |
|  4 | John       | Carter    | johncarter@mail.com |
+----+------------+-----------+--------------------+
```

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