Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# 122COM: Databases

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2017

Databases
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Code
Dynamic queries
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Recap
Further reading

# Overview

1 Databases
- SQL
- SQLite

2 Code
- Dynamic queries
  - SQL injection

3 Recap

4 Further reading

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# SQL

C

Database *(*noun) - a collection of information that is organized so that it can easily be accessed, managed, and updated.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# SQL

C

Database *(*noun) - a collection of information that is organized so that it can easily be accessed, managed, and updated.

- Pronounced S-Q-L or Sequel.
  - Structured Query Language.
- Used to query relational databases.
- Theoretically it doesn't matter what underlying database is.
  - MS SQL Server, Oracle, PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite.
  - In reality lots of minor variations.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Relational Databases

C

Built around tables.

- Can be imagined like a spreadsheet.

Row/record →

| id | forename | surname | job |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Malcolm | Reynolds | Captain |
| 4 | Zoe | Washburne | Co-captain |
| 11 | Hoban | Washburne | Pilot |
| 23 | Kaywinnet | Frye | Mechanic |

↑
Column/attribute

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

C

Many types of query.

- SELECT - Get information from the database.
- INSERT - Add information to the database.
- DELETE - Remove information.

Also used for database administration.

- CREATE - Create a whole new table/schema/function.
- ALTER - Modify a table/schema/function.
- DROP - Delete a whole table/schema/function.

# SELECT

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Used to retrieve information from the database.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

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```
SELECT * FROM staff;
```

$*$ means everything.

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Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

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```
SELECT * FROM staff WHERE surname = "Washburne";
```

Only return the records `WHERE` something is true.

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SELECT * FROM staff WHERE surname = "Washburne";
```

Only return the records `WHERE` something is true.

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | Zoe | Washburne | Co-captain |
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Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# count()

What if we want to now how many records there are?

- count() function.
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```
SELECT count(*) FROM staff;
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# count()

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```
SELECT count(*) FROM staff;
```

| # | count(*) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# INSERT

Used to add information to the database.

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I

Used to add information to the database.

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# INSERT

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|---|---|---|---|
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```
INSERT INTO staff VALUES (42, 'Simon', 'Tam', 'Doctor');
```

# INSERT

Used to add information to the database.

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INSERT INTO staff VALUES (42, 'Simon', 'Tam', 'Doctor');
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|---|---|---|---|
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| 11 | Hoban | Washburne | Pilot |
| 23 | Kaywinnet | Frye | Mechanic |
| 42 | Simon | Tam | Doctor |

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# INSERT again

Don't have to supply values for all the columns.

- Depends on the table design.

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```
INSERT INTO staff (forename, id, surname)
      VALUES ('River', 43, 'Tam');
```

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Don't have to supply values for all the columns.

- Depends on the table design.

```
INSERT INTO staff (forename, id, surname)
      VALUES ('River', 43, 'Tam');
```

| id | forename | surname | job |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Malcolm | Reynolds | Captain |
| 4 | Zoe | Washburne | Co-captain |
| 11 | Hoban | Washburne | Pilot |
| 23 | Kaywinnet | Frye | Mechanic |
| 42 | Simon | Tam | Doctor |
| 43 | River | Tam | |

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Databases

C

Why use databases at all?
Why not just use dictionaries and lists or similar?

Databases...

- Have structure.
  - Easy to organise the data.
- Scale.
  - Can handle a LOT of data.
- Multi-user.
  - Can have lots of people working on the same data.
- Fault tolerant.
  - Can recover if things go wrong.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# SQLite

Using SQLite3 in labs.

- Not a fully featured database.
  - But has all the basic features.
  - SQL.
- Good for small/non-urgent databases.
  - $\leq$ gigabytes of data.
- Efficient
  - Don't need to waste resources on a 'real' database.
- Convenient.
  - Don't need to install, configure, manage a 'real' database.
  - Portable, 1 file.
- No network.
  - Single user only.

Python

C

## How to use SQL queries in Python?

```
import sqlite3 as sql                          # sqlite module

con = sql.connect( 'firefly.sqlite' )          # open database
cur = con.cursor()

cur.execute( '''SELECT * FROM staff;''' )      # run query
for row in cur:                                  # loop over results
    print( row )

con.close()                                      # close database
```

lec_select.py

Python C

## How to use SQL queries in Python?

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    print( row )

con.close()                                      # close database
```

lec_select.py

```
(0, 'Malcolm', 'Reynolds', 'Captain')
(4, 'Zoe', 'Washburne', 'Co-captain')
(11, 'Hoban', 'Washburne', 'Pilot')
(23, 'Kaywinnet', 'Frye', 'Mechanic')
```

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

C++

I

## How to use SQL queries in C++?

```
#include "libsqlite.hpp"                    // sqlite library

int main()
{
    sqlite::sqlite db( "firefly.sqlite" );    // open database

    auto cur = db.get_statement();            // create query
    cur->set_sql( "SELECT * FROM staff;" );
    cur->prepare();                            // run query

    while( cur->step() )                     // loop over results
        cout « cur->get_int(0) « " " « cur->get_text(1) « endl;
}
```

lec_select.cpp

```
0 Malcolm
4 Zoe
11 Hoban
23 Kaywinnet
```

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Break

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Static queries

So far looked at static queries.

- Same query is run every time.
- Real power is in dynamic queries.
  - Code creates changes the SQL to ask new questions.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Dynamic queries

```
import sqlite3 as sql

con = sql.connect('firefly.sqlite')
cur = con.cursor()

question = input('Who is the...')

cur.execute('''SELECT forename, surname FROM staff
               WHERE job = ?;''', (question,))

for row in cur:
    print('%s %s' % row)
```

lec_dynamic.py

```
Who is the...Captain
Malcolm Reynolds
```

# Dynamic queries C++

Using sqlitepp.

- 3rd party wrapper around default SQLite3 API.
- Simplified use.

```
sqlite::sqlite db( "firefly.sqlite" );

string question;
cout « "Who is the...";
cin » question;

auto s = db.get_statement();
s->set_sql( "SELECT forename, surname FROM staff "
            "WHERE job = ?;" );
s->prepare();
s->bind( 1, question );

while( s->step() )
{
    string forename = s->get_text(0);
    string surname = s->get_text(1);
    cout « forename « " " « surname « endl;
}
```

lec_dynamic.cpp

# Bad dynamic queries

Dynamic queries should **ALWAYS** use placeholders (i.e. ?).

```
cur.execute('''SELECT forename, surname FROM staff
               WHERE job = ?;''', (question,))
```

Dynamic queries must **NEVER** be created by manipulating strings.

```
cur.execute('''SELECT forename, surname FROM staff
               WHERE job = "%s";''' % question )
cur.execute('''SELECT forename, surname FROM staff
               WHERE job = "{}";'''.format( question) )
```

- User could input anything, e.g. SQL commands!.
  - `Captain"; DROP TABLE staff; -`
- Sanitise your inputs.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

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  - `Captain"; DROP TABLE staff; -`
- Sanitise your inputs.
- Always use placeholders.
  - No exceptions.

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  - NO EXCEPTIONS!

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1

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```

NO EXCEPTIONS!

- User could input anything, e.g. SQL commands!.
  - `Captain"; DROP TABLE staff; -`
- Sanitise your inputs.
- Always use placeholders.
  - No exceptions.
  - NO EXCEPTIONS!

# SQL injection

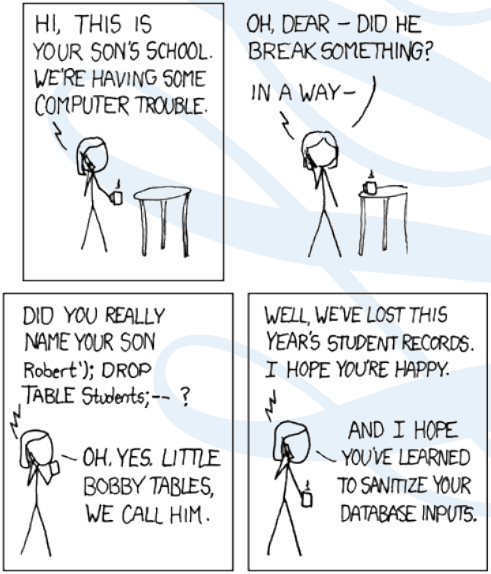
A

Around since at least 1998.

Notable SQL injection attacks.

- 2015 TalkTalk - 160,000 customers' details.
- 2014 Hold security - found 420,000 vulnerable websites.
- 2012 Yahoo - 450,000 logins.
- 2011 MySql - mysql.com compromised.
- 2008 Heartland Payment - 134,000,000 credit cards.

Many, many more.




https://xkcd.com/327/

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Quiz

https://tophat.com/

Join code: 094769

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Recap

- SQL used to query databases.
- Databases are...
  - fault tolerant.
  - multi user.
  - scalable.
- Always use place holders in dynamic queries.
  - Say no to SQL injection!

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Why do I care?

- Everyone
  - Structured Query Language (SQL) is widely used, most in demand language[1].
  - Should be aware of and able to defend against SQL injection.
  - Experience in using 3rd party libraries/modules in software.
- Computing - SQL is a vital for much of the web. Heard of LAMP servers?, the M is for MySQL.
- Ethical Hackers - need to understand SQL injection.
- ITB - SQL is widely used in business applications, especially for generating reports.
- Games Tech & MC- SQL is used in games, i.e. for save games.

[1] According to Indeed.com

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# Further reading

A

- Introduction to SQL - `http://www.w3schools.com/sql/sql_intro.asp`
- SQL injection hall of shame - `http://codecurmudgeon.com/wp/sql-injection-hall-of-shame/`
- Efficient inserting - the `executemany()` method.

Databases
SQL
SQLite
Code
Dynamic queries
SQL injection
Recap
Further reading

# The End