MYSQL UNION KEYWORD

You can use **UNION** if you want to select rows one after the other from several tables, or several sets of rows from a single table all as a single result set.

UNION is available as of MySQL 4.0.This section illustrates how to use it.

Suppose you have two tables that list prospective and actual customers, a third that lists vendors from whom you purchase supplies, and you want to create a single mailing list by merging names and addresses from all three tables. UNION provides a way to do this. Assume the three tables have the following contents:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM prospect;
+---------+-------+------------------------+
| fname   | lname | addr                   |
+---------+-------+------------------------+
| Peter   | Jones | 482 Rush St., Apt. 402 |
| Bernice | Smith | 916 Maple Dr.          |
+---------+-------+------------------------+
mysql> SELECT * FROM customer;
+-----------+------------+--------------------+
| last_name | first_name | address            |
+-----------+------------+--------------------+
| Peterson  | Grace      | 16055 Seminole Ave.|
| Smith     | Bernice    | 916 Maple Dr.      |
| Brown     | Walter     | 8602 1st St.       |
+-----------+------------+--------------------+
mysql> SELECT * FROM vendor;
+------------------+--------------------+
| company          | street             |
+------------------+--------------------+
| ReddyParts, Inc. | 38 Industrial Blvd.|
| Parts-to-go, Ltd.| 213B Commerce Park.|
+------------------+--------------------+
```

It does not matter if all the three tables have different column names. The following query illustrates how to select names and addresses from the three tables all at once:

```
mysql> SELECT fname, lname, addr FROM prospect
 -> UNION
 -> SELECT first_name, last_name, address FROM customer
 -> UNION
 -> SELECT company, '', street FROM vendor;
+------------------+----------+------------------------+
| fname            | lname    | addr                   |
+------------------+----------+------------------------+
| Peter            | Jones    | 482 Rush St., Apt. 402 |
| Bernice          | Smith    | 916 Maple Dr.          |
| Grace            | Peterson | 16055 Seminole Ave.    |
| Walter           | Brown    | 8602 1st St.           |
| ReddyParts, Inc. |          | 38 Industrial Blvd.    |
| Parts-to-go, Ltd.|          | 213B Commerce Park.    |
+------------------+----------+------------------------+
```

If you want to select all records, including duplicates, follow the first UNION keyword with ALL:

```
mysql> SELECT fname, lname, addr FROM prospect
 -> UNION ALL
 -> SELECT first_name, last_name, address FROM customer
 -> UNION
 -> SELECT company, '', street FROM vendor;
+------------------+----------+------------------------+
| fname            | lname    | addr                   |
```

```
+-------------------+-----------+------------------------+
| Peter             | Jones     | 482 Rush St., Apt. 402 |
| Bernice           | Smith     | 916 Maple Dr.          |
| Grace             | Peterson  | 16055 Seminole Ave.    |
| Bernice           | Smith     | 916 Maple Dr.          |
| Walter            | Brown     | 8602 1st St.           |
| ReddyParts, Inc.  |           | 38 Industrial Blvd.    |
| Parts-to-go, Ltd. |           | 213B Commerce Park.    |
+-------------------+-----------+------------------------+
```