SQL Course

DDL : Alter and Drop Statements

- To demonstrate how to modify a table structure.
- To demonstrate how to remove a table.
- To advice on good database development practice.

It is possible to change the format of a table (enlarge a column or add a column) using the **ALTER TABLE** statement.

Suppose we have a table S, which has S# defined as 4 characters long, and part_description defined as 20 characters long.

S(S#,part_description)

To increase the maximum width of a CHAR or NUMBER field, use the **ALTER TABLE** statement with a **MODIFY** clause:

> **ALTER TABLE** *S* **MODIFY** *S#*(6)**;**

To also permit null values in this column add NULL to the end of the column specification:

> **MODIFY** *S#*(6) NULL**;**

To add a new column to a table, use the **ALTER TABLE** statement with an **ADD** clause:

> **ALTER TABLE** *S* **ADD** *(supplier DATE)***;**

The **DROP TABLE** statement is used to remove tables from the database which are no longer useful.

For example, to remove the table called *Airport*, the SQL command would be:

> **DROP TABLE** *Airport***;**