MySQLTUTORIAL

MySQL DELETE

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the **MySQL DELETE** statement to delete data from a single table.

Introduction to MySQL DELETE statement

To delete data from a table, you use the MySQL `DELETE` statement. The following illustrates the syntax of the `DELETE` statement:

```
DELETE FROM table_name
WHERE condition;
```

In this statement:

- First, specify the table from which you delete data.

- Second, use a condition to specify which rows to delete in the `WHERE` clause. The `DELETE` statement will delete rows that match the condition,

Notice that the `WHERE` clause is optional. If you omit the `WHERE` clause, the `DELETE` statement will delete all rows in the table.

Besides deleting data from a table, the `DELETE` statement returns the number of deleted rows.

To delete data from multiple tables using a single `DELETE` statement, you use the `DELETE JOIN` (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-delete-join/) statement which will be covered in the next tutorial (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-delete-join/) .
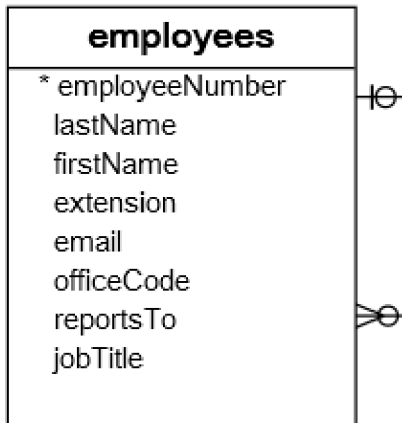
To delete all rows in a table without the need of knowing how many rows deleted, you should use the `TRUNCATE TABLE` (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-truncate-table/) statement to get better performance.

For a table that has a foreign key (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-foreign-key/) constraint, when you delete rows from the parent table, the rows in the child table will be deleted automatically by using the `ON`

`DELETE CASCADE` `(https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-on-delete-cascade/)` option.

MySQL DELETE examples

We will use the `employees` table in the sample database (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-sample-database.aspx) for the demonstration.

Note that once you delete data, it is gone. Later, you will learn how to put the `DELETE` statement in a transaction (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-transaction.aspx) so that you can roll it back.

Suppose you want to delete employees whose the `officeNumber` is 4, you use the `DELETE` statement with the `WHERE` (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-where/) clause as shown in the following query:

```
DELETE FROM employees
WHERE officeCode = 4;
```

To delete all rows from the `employees` table, you use the `DELETE` statement without the `WHERE` clause as follows:

```
DELETE FROM employees;
```

All rows in the `employees` table deleted.

MySQL DELETE and LIMIT clause

If you want to limit the number of rows to delete, use the `LIMIT` (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-limit.aspx) clause as follows:

```
DELETE FROM table_table
LIMIT row_count;
```

Note that the order of rows in a table is unspecified, therefore, when you use the `LIMIT` clause, you should always use the `ORDER BY` (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-order-by/) clause.

```
DELETE FROM table_name
ORDER BY c1, c2, ...
LIMIT row_count;
```

Consider the following `customers` table in the sample database (https://www.mysqltutorial.org/mysql-sample-database.aspx) :

For example, the following statement sorts customers by customer names alphabetically and deletes the first 10 customers:

```
DELETE FROM customers
ORDER BY customerName
LIMIT 10;
```

Similarly, the following `DELETE` statement selects customers in `France` , sorts them by credit limit in from low to high, and deletes the first 5 customers:

```
DELETE FROM customers
WHERE country = 'France'
ORDER BY creditLimit
LIMIT 5;
```

In this tutorial, you have learned how to use the MySQL `DELETE` statement to delete data from a table.