

# **MySQL Triggers**



# **Introduction on Triggers**

A trigger is a set of actions that are run automatically when a specified change operation (SQL INSERT, UPDATE, or DELETE statement) is performed on a specified table. Triggers are useful for tasks such as enforcing business rules, validating input data, and keeping an audit trail.

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# **Uses for triggers:**

Enforce business rules

- · Validate input data
- Generate a unique value for a newly inserted row on a different file.
- Write to other files for audit trail purposes
- Query from other files for cross-referencing purposes
- · Access system functions
- Replicate data to different files to achieve data consistency

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## **Benefits of using triggers in business:**

- Faster application development. Because the database stores triggers, you do not have to code the trigger actions into each database application.
- Global enforcement of business rules. Define a trigger once and then reuse it for any application that uses the database.
- Easier maintenance. If a business policy changes, you need to change only the corresponding trigger program instead of each application program.
- Improve performance in client/server environment. All rules run in the server before the result returns.

Implementation of SQL triggers is based on the SQL standard. It supports constructs that are common to most programming languages. It supports the declaration of local variables, statements to control the flow of the procedure, assignment of expression results to variables, and error handling.

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# **MySQL Triggers**

We assume that you are habituated with "MySQL Stored Procedures", if not you can read our MySQL Procedures tutorial. You can use the following statements of MySQL procedure in triggers:

- Compound statements (BEGIN / END)
- Variable declaration (DECLARE) and assignment (SET)
- Flow-of-control statements (IF, CASE, WHILE, LOOP, WHILE, REPEAT, LEAVE, ITERATE)
- Condition declarations
- Handler declarations

# **How to create MySQL triggers?**

A trigger is a named database object that is associated with a table, and it activates when a particular event (e.g. an insert, update or delete) occurs for the table. The statement CREATE TRIGGER creates a new trigger in MySQL. Here is the syntax:

# **Syntax**

```
CREATE
[DEFINER = { user | CURRENT_USER }]
TRIGGER trigger_name
trigger_time trigger_event
ON tbl_name FOR EACH ROW
trigger_body
trigger_time: { BEFORE | AFTER }
trigger_event: { INSERT | UPDATE | DELETE }
```

## **Explanation:**

**DEFINER clause :** The DEFINER clause specifies the MySQL account to be used when checking access privileges at trigger activation time. If a user value is given, it should be a MySQL account specified as 'user\_name'@'host\_name' (the same format used in the GRANT statement), CURRENT\_USER, or CURRENT\_USER().

The default DEFINER value is the user who executes the CREATE TRIGGER statement. This is the same as specifying DEFINER = CURRENT\_USER explicitly.

If you specify the DEFINER clause, these rules determine the valid DEFINER user

If you specify the DEFINER clause, these rules determine the valid DEFINER user values :

- If you do not have the SUPER privilege, the only permitted user value is your own account, either specified literally or by using CURRENT\_USER. You cannot set the definer to some other account.
- If you have the SUPER privilege, you can specify any syntactically valid account name. If the account does not actually exist, a warning is generated.
- Although it is possible to create a trigger with a nonexistent DEFINER account, it is not a good idea
  for such triggers to be activated until the account actually does exist. Otherwise, the behavior with
  respect to privilege checking is undefined.

**trigger\_name**: All triggers must have unique names within a schema. Triggers in different schemas can have the same name.

**trigger\_time**: trigger\_time is the trigger action time. It can be BEFORE or AFTER to indicate that the trigger activates before or after each row to be modified.

**trigger\_event**: trigger\_event indicates the kind of operation that activates the trigger. These trigger\_event values are permitted:

- The trigger activates whenever a new row is inserted into the table; for example, through INSERT,
   LOAD DATA, and REPLACE statements.
- The trigger activates whenever a row is modified; for example, through UPDATE statements.
- The trigger activates whenever a row is deleted from the table; for example, through DELETE and REPLACE statements. DROP TABLE and TRUNCATE TABLE statements on the table do not activate this trigger, because they do not use DELETE. Dropping a partition does not activate DELETE triggers, either.

**tbl\_name**: The trigger becomes associated with the table named tbl\_name, which must refer to a permanent table. You cannot associate a trigger with a TEMPORARY table or a view.

**trigger\_body**: trigger\_body is the statement to execute when the trigger activates. To execute multiple statements, use the BEGIN ... END compound statement construct. This also enables you to use the same statements that are permissible within stored routines.

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Here is a simple example:

```
mysql> CREATE TRIGGER ins_sum BEFORE INSERT ON account
   -> FOR EACH ROW SET @sum = @sum + NEW.amount;
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.06 sec)
```

In the above example there is new keyword '**NEW**' which is a MySQL extension to triggers. There are two MySQL extension to triggers '**OLD**' and '**NEW**'. OLD and NEW are not case sensitive.

- Within the trigger body, the OLD and NEW keywords enable you to access columns in the rows affected by a trigger
- In an INSERT trigger, only NEW.col\_name can be used.
- In an UPDATE trigger, you can use OLD.col\_name to refer to the columns of a row before it is updated and NEW.col\_name to refer to the columns of the row after it is updated.
- In a DELETE trigger, only OLD.col\_name can be used; there is no new row.

A column named with OLD is read only. You can refer to it (if you have the SELECT privilege), but not modify it. You can refer to a column named with NEW if you have the SELECT privilege for it. In a BEFORE trigger, you can also change its value with SET

NEW.col\_name = value if you have the UPDATE privilege for it. This means you can use a trigger to modify the values to be inserted into a new row or used to update a row. (Such a SET statement has no effect in an AFTER trigger because the row change will have already occurred.)

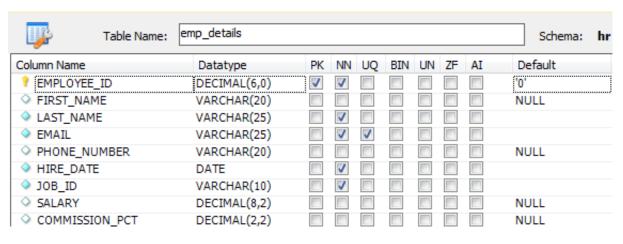
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# Sample database, table, table structure, table records for various examples

Database Name : hr Host Name : localhost Database user : root

Password: ' '

Structure of the table: emp\_details



## Records of the table (on some fields): emp\_details

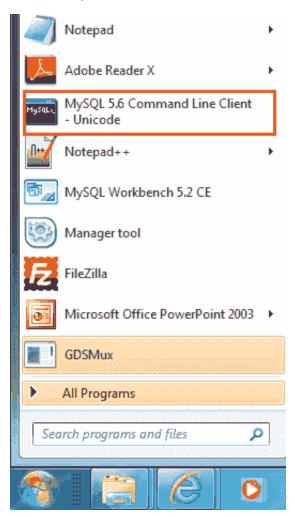
EMPL	OYEE_ID   FIRST_NA	ME   LAST_NA	ME   JOB_ID	SALARY	COMMISSION_PCT	
	100   Steven				0.10	
	101   Neena	, 0	. –		•	
	102   Lex	De Haan	AD_VP	17000.00	0.50	
	103   Alexande	r   Hunold	IT_PROG	9000.00	0.25	
	104   Bruce	Ernst	IT_PROG	6000.00	0.25	
	105   David	Austin	IT_PROG	4800.00	0.25	

# **Tool to create MySQL Triggers**

You can write a procedure in MySQL command line tool or you can use MySQL workbench which is an excellent front-end tool (here we have used version 5.3 CE).

# MySQL command line tool: -

Select MySQL command Client from Start menu:



Selecting MySQL command prompt following screen will come:

```
MySQL 5.6 Command Line Client - Unicode

Enter password:
```

After a successful login you can access the MySQL command prompt:

```
MySQL 5.6 Command Line Client - Unicode

Enter password: ***********
Welcome to the MySQL monitor. Commands end with; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 8
Server version: 5.6.12 MySQL Community Server (GPL)

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Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

mysql> ______
```

Now you can write your own trigger on a specific table, see the following example:

```
MySQL 5.6 Command Line Client - Unicode

mysql> USE hr;
Database changed
mysql> CREATE TABLE account (acct_num INT, amount DECIMAL(10,2));
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.51 sec)

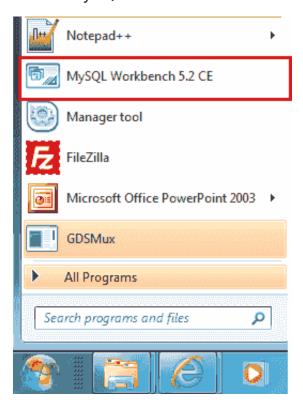
mysql> CREATE TRIGGER ins_sum BEFORE INSERT ON account
-> FOR EACH ROW SET @sum = @sum + NEW.amount;
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.13 sec)

mysql> _
```

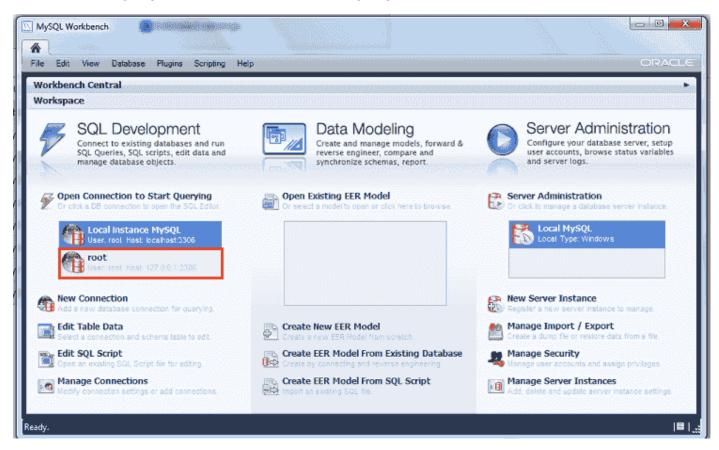
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## MySQL workbench (5.3 CE): -

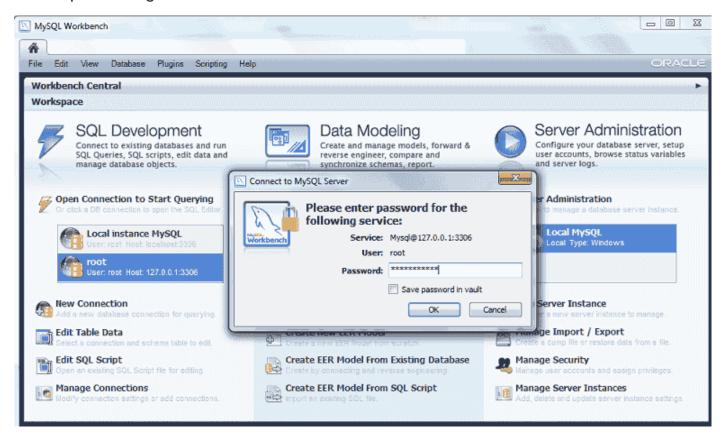
Select MySQL workbench from Start menu:



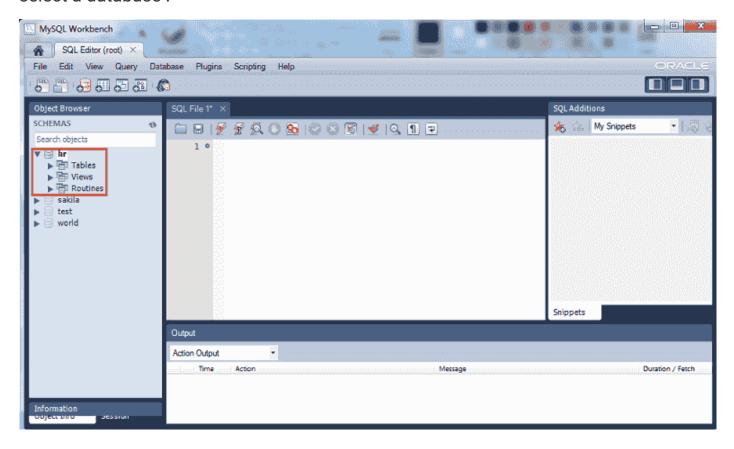
After selecting MySQL workbench following login screen will come:



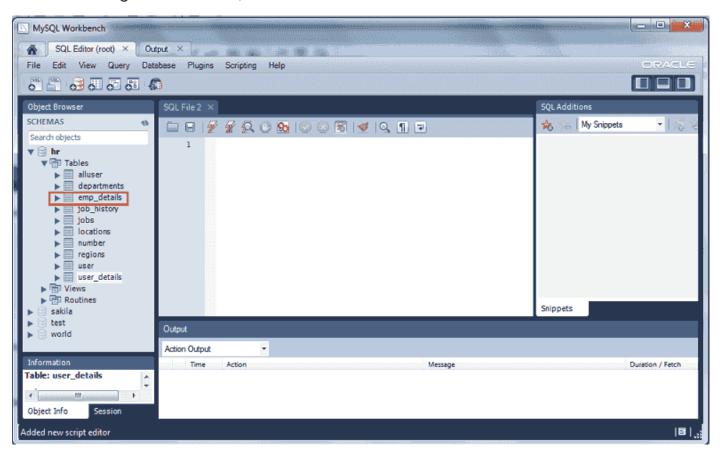
#### Now input the login details:



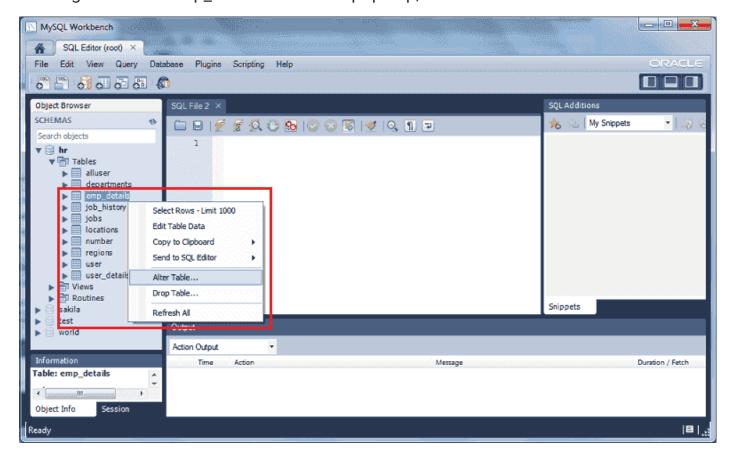
After successful login a new screen will come and from the *object browser panel* select a database :



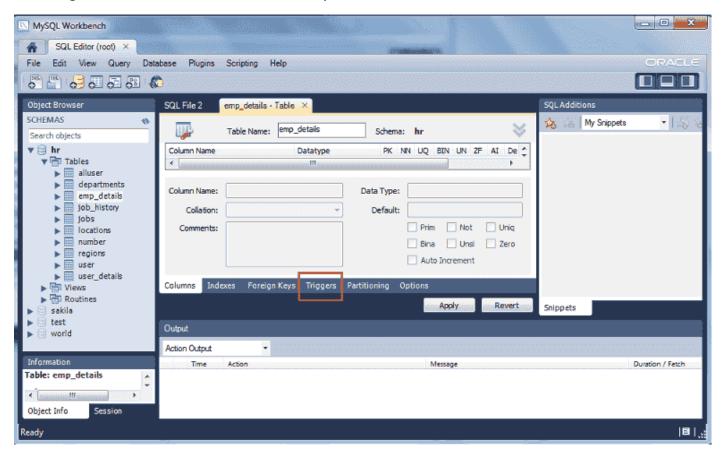
After selecting the database, select the tables:



Now right click on emp\_details a window pops up, click on Alter Table:

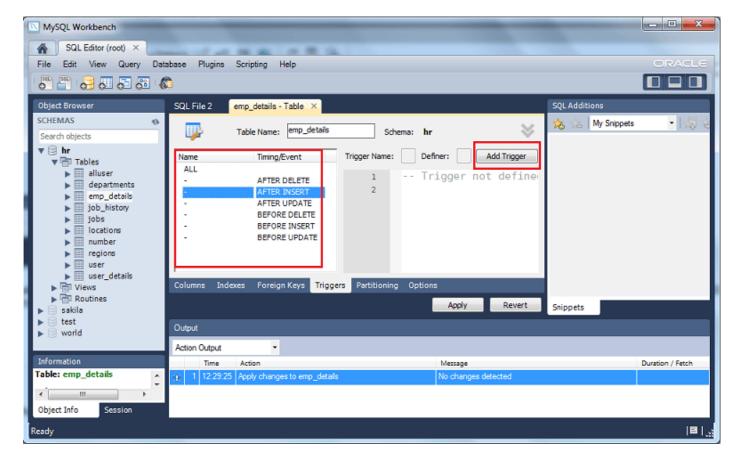


Clicking on " Alter Table " details of emp\_details will come :

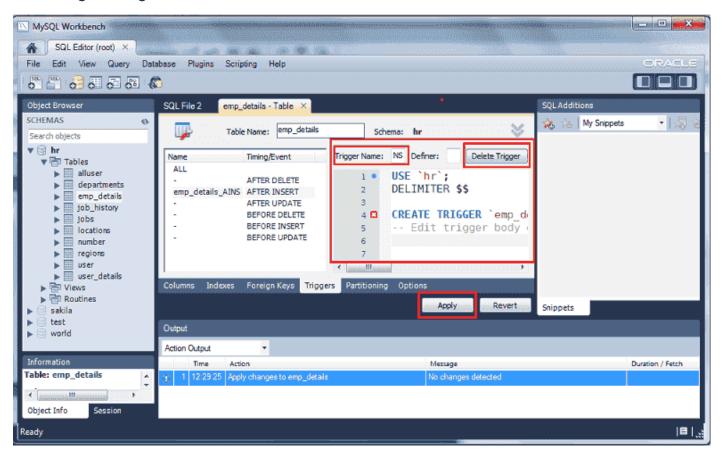


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Now click on *Trigger* tab in the previous section, then select the Timing/Event it may be AFTER DELETE, AFTER INSERT, AFTER UPDATE or BEFORE DELETE, BEFORE INSERT OR BEFORE UPDATE. Let we select AFTER INSERT, you also notice that there is a button *Add Trigger*.



Clicking on *Add Trigger* button a default code on trigger will come on the basis of choosing Timing/Event:



Trigger Name: emp\_details\_AINS

## Default Trigger code details:

```
USE `hr`;
DELIMITER

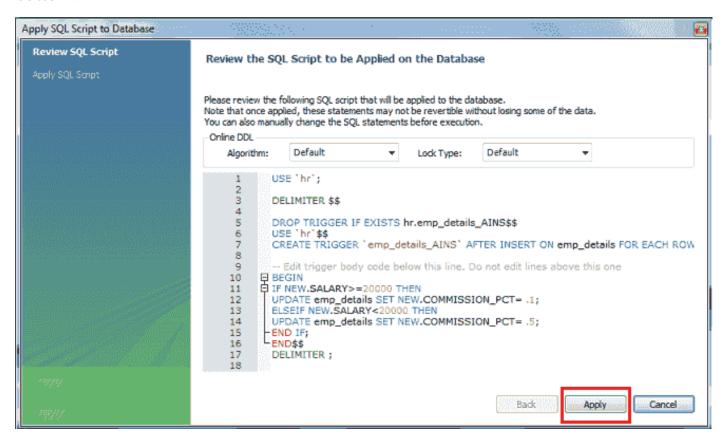
$$
CREATE TRIGGER `emp_details_AINS`
AFTER INSERT
ON emp_details FOR EACH ROW
-- Edit trigger body code below this line. Do not edit lines above this one
```

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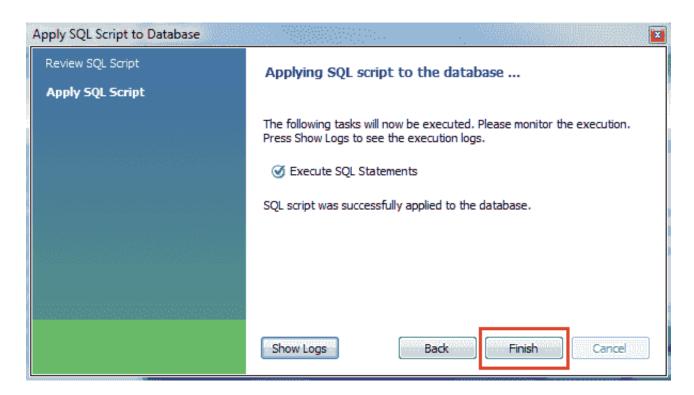
After completing the code, click on apply button.

**Note:** See a new text *Delete Trigger* has come in *Add Trigger* button. Clicking on this you can delete the trigger.

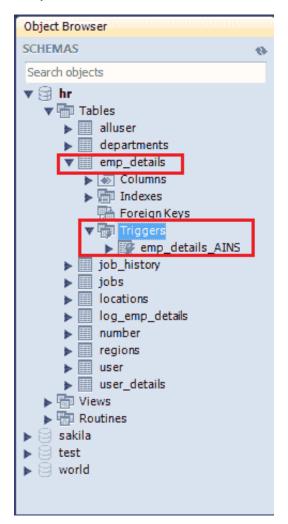
Finally you can review the script once again, as there is no error, let click on *Apply* button:



This the final window before finish. Let click on Finish button.



If you take a look at the schema, you will see emp\_details\_AINS trigger under the emp\_details table as follows:



# **MySQL Trigger: Example AFTER INSERT**

In the following example we have two tables: emp\_details and log\_emp\_details. To insert some information into log\_ emp\_details table (which have three fields employee id and salary and edttime) every time, when an INSERT happen into emp\_details table we have used the following trigger:

```
DELIMITER

$$
USE `hr`

$$
CREATE
DEFINER=`root`@`127.0.0.1`
TRIGGER `hr`.`emp_details_AINS`
AFTER INSERT ON `hr`.`emp_details`
FOR EACH ROW
-- Edit trigger body code below this line. Do not edit lines above this one
BEGIN
INSERT INTO log_emp_details
VALUES(NEW.employee_id, NEW.salary, NOW());
END$$
```

Records of the table (on some columns): emp\_details

```
mysql> SELECT EMPLOYEE_ID, FIRST_NAME, LAST_NAME, JOB_ID, SALARY, COMMISSION_PCT FROM em
+----+
| EMPLOYEE_ID | FIRST_NAME | LAST_NAME | JOB_ID | SALARY | COMMISSION_PCT |
       100 | Steven
                   | King
                           | AD_PRES | 24000.00 |
                                                      0.10
       101 | Neena
                   0.50 |
       102 | Lex | De Haan | AD_VP | 17000.00 |
                                                      0.50
       103 | Alexander | Hunold | IT_PROG | 9000.00 |
                                                      0.25 |
       104 | Bruce
                  | Ernst
                            | IT_PROG | 6000.00 |
                                                      0.25 |
                           | IT_PROG | 4800.00 |
       105 | David
                   | Austin
                                                      0.25
6 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Records of the table (all columns): log\_emp\_details

Now insert one record in emp\_details table see the records both in emp\_details and log\_emp\_details tables :

```
mysql> INSERT INTO emp_details VALUES(236, 'RABI', 'CHANDRA', 'RABI','590.423.45700', '20
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.07 sec)
```

```
mysql> SELECT EMPLOYEE_ID, FIRST_NAME, LAST_NAME, JOB_ID, SALARY, COMMISSION_PCT FROM em
       | EMPLOYEE_ID | FIRST_NAME | LAST_NAME | JOB_ID | SALARY | COMMISSION_PCT |
   100 | Steven | King | AD_PRES | 24000.00 |
                                                  0.10
      101 | Neena
                  | Kochhar | AD_VP | 17000.00 |
                                                  0.50 |
      102 | Lex | De Haan | AD_VP | 17000.00 |
                                                  0.50
      103 | Alexander | Hunold | IT_PROG | 9000.00 |
                                                  0.25 |
       104 | Bruce | Ernst | IT_PROG | 6000.00 |
                                                  0.25 |
       105 | David | Austin | IT_PROG | 4800.00 |
                                                  0.25 |
       236 | RABI
                 | CHANDRA | AD_VP | 15000.00 |
                                                  0.50
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM log_emp_details;

+-----+

| emp_details | SALARY | EDTTIME |

+-----+

| 100 | 24000.00 | 2011-01-15 00:00:00 |

| 101 | 17000.00 | 2010-01-12 00:00:00 |

| 102 | 17000.00 | 2010-09-22 00:00:00 |

| 103 | 9000.00 | 2011-06-21 00:00:00 |

| 104 | 6000.00 | 2012-07-05 00:00:00 |

| 105 | 4800.00 | 2011-06-21 00:00:00 |

| 236 | 15000.00 | 2013-07-15 16:52:24 |
```

```
+-----+
7 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

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# **MySQL Trigger: Example BEFORE INSERT**

In the following example, before insert a new record in emp\_details table, a trigger check the column value of FIRST\_NAME, LAST\_NAME, JOB\_ID and

- If there are any space(s) before or after the FIRST\_NAME, LAST\_NAME, TRIM() function will remove those.
- The value of the JOB\_ID will be converted to upper cases by UPPER() function.

#### Here is the trigger code:

```
USE `hr`;
DELIMITER

$$
CREATE TRIGGER `emp_details_BINS`
BEFORE INSERT
ON emp_details FOR EACH ROW
-- Edit trigger body code below this line. Do not edit lines above this one
BEGIN
SET NEW.FIRST_NAME = TRIM(NEW.FIRST_NAME);
SET NEW.LAST_NAME = TRIM(NEW.LAST_NAME);
SET NEW.JOB_ID = UPPER(NEW.JOB_ID); END;
$$
```

Now insert a row into emp\_details table (check the FIRST\_NAME, LAST\_NAME, JOB\_ID columns):

```
mysql> INSERT INTO emp_details VALUES (334, 'Ana', 'King', 'ANA', '690.432.45701', '20 Query OK, 1 row affected (0.04 sec)
```

## Now list the following fields of emp\_details:

```
mysql> SELECT EMPLOYEE_ID, FIRST_NAME, LAST_NAME, JOB_ID, SALARY, COMMISSION_PCT FROM emp
+-----+----+-----+------+
| EMPLOYEE_ID | FIRST_NAME | LAST_NAME | JOB_ID | SALARY | COMMISSION_PCT |
                  100 | Steven
                                                  0.10
       101 | Neena
                  0.50
       102 | Lex
                  0.50
       103 | Alexander | Hunold
                          | IT_PROG | 9000.00 |
                                                  0.25 |
       104 | Bruce
                  | Ernst
                           | IT_PROG | 6000.00 |
                                                  0.25
       105 | David
                   | Austin
                          | IT_PROG | 4800.00 |
                                                  0.25 |
       236 | RABI
                   | CHANDRA
                          | AD VP | 15000.00 |
                                                   0.50 |
```

#### See the last row:

```
FIRST_NAME - > ' Ana ' has changed to 'Ana'
LAST_NAME - > ' King' has changed to 'King'
JOB_ID - > ' it_prog' has changed to 'IT_PROG'
```

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# **MySQL Trigger: Example AFTER UPDATE**

We have two tables student\_mast and stu\_log. student\_mast have three columns STUDENT\_ID, NAME, ST\_CLASS. stu\_log table has two columns user\_id and description.

Let we promote all the students in next class i.e. 7 will be 8, 8 will be 9 and so on. After updating a single row in student\_mast table a new row will be inserted in stu\_log table where we will store the current user id and a small description regarding current update. Here is the trigger code:

```
-- Full Trigger
DDL Statements
-- Note: Only CREATE TRIGGER statements are allowed
DELIMITER

$$
USE `test`

$$
CREATE
DEFINER=`root`@`127.0.0.1`
TRIGGER `test`.`student_mast_AUPD`
AFTER UPDATE
ON `test`.`student_mast`FOR EACH ROW
```

#### After update STUDENT MAST table:

```
mysql> UPDATE STUDENT_MAST SET ST_CLASS = ST_CLASS + 1;
Query OK, 4 rows affected (0.20 sec)
Rows matched: 4
Changed: 4
Warnings: 0
```

The trigger show you the updated records in 'stu\_log'. Here is the latest position of STUDENT\_MAST and STU\_LOG tables:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM STUDENT MAST;
+----+
| STUDENT ID | NAME
                   | ST_CLASS |
+----+
      1 | Steven King |
      2 | Neena Kochhar |
                         9 |
      3 | Lex De Haan |
                         9 |
      4 | Alexander Hunold |
 -----+
4 rows in set (0.00 sec)mysgl> SELECT * FROM STU LOG;
    ------
       | description
| user id
| root@localhost | Update Student Record Steven King Previous Class :7 Present Class 8
| root@localhost | Update Student Record Neena Kochhar Previous Class :8 Present Class 9
| root@localhost | Update Student Record Alexander Hunold Previous Class :10 Present Clas
4 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

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# **MySQL Trigger: Example BEFORE UPDATE**

We have a table student\_marks with 10 columns and 4 rows. There are data only in STUDENT\_ID and NAME columns.

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM STUDENT_MARKS;
```

STUDENT_ID	•	•						•		TOTAL	 _	
	   Steven King	- + · 	0		_	+   0			Ċ	0	0.00	
2	Neena Kochhar		0		0	0	0	0		0	0.00	
3	Lex De Haan		0		0	0	0	0		0	0.00	
4	Alexander Hunold		0		0	0	0	0		0	0.00	

Now the exam is over and we have received all subject marks, now we will update the table, total marks of all subject, percentage of total marks and grade will be automatically calculated. For this sample calculation, the following conditions are assumed:

Total Marks (will be stored in TOTAL column): TOTAL = SUB1 + SUB2 + SUB3 + SUB4 + SUB5

Percentage of Marks (will be stored in PER\_MARKS column): PER\_MARKS = (TOTAL)/5

Grade (will be stored GRADE column):

- If PER\_MARKS>=90 -> 'EXCELLENT'
- If PER\_MARKS>=75 AND PER\_MARKS<90 -> 'VERY GOOD'
- If PER\_MARKS>=60 AND PER\_MARKS<75 -> 'GOOD'
- If PER\_MARKS>=40 AND PER\_MARKS<60 -> 'AVERAGE'
- If PER\_MARKS<40-> 'NOT PROMOTED'

#### Here is the code:

```
mysql> UPDATE STUDENT_MARKS SET SUB1 = 54, SUB2 = 69, SUB3 = 89, SUB4 = 87, SUB5 = 59 WHE
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.05 sec)
Rows matched: 1
Changed: 1
Warnings: 0
```

## Let update the marks of a student:

```
USE `test`;
DELIMITER

$$

CREATE TRIGGER `student_marks_BUPD`

BEFORE UPDATE

ON student_marks FOR EACH ROW
```

```
-- Edit trigger body code below this line. Do not edit lines above this one
BEGIN
SET NEW.TOTAL = NEW.SUB1 + NEW.SUB2 + NEW.SUB3 + NEW.SUB4 + NEW.SUB5;
SET NEW.PER MARKS = NEW.TOTAL/5;
IF NEW.PER_MARKS >=90 THEN
SET NEW.GRADE = 'EXCELLENT';
ELSEIF NEW.PER_MARKS>=75 AND NEW.PER_MARKS<90 THEN
SET NEW.GRADE = 'VERY GOOD';
ELSEIF NEW.PER MARKS>=60 AND NEW.PER MARKS<75 THEN
SET NEW.GRADE = 'GOOD';
ELSEIF NEW.PER_MARKS>=40 AND NEW.PER_MARKS<60 THEN
SET NEW.GRADE = 'AVERAGE';
ELSESET NEW.GRADE = 'NOT PROMOTED';
END IF;
END;
$$
```

Now check the STUDENT\_MARKS table with updated data. The trigger show you the updated records in 'stu\_log'.

ENT_ID   NAME		•					•		
 + 1   Steven King					+   87				
2   Neena Kochhar		i			0		İ	0	
3   Lex De Haan	0	ĺ	0	0	0	0	ĺ	0	0.00
4   Alexander Hunold	0		0	0	0	0		0	0.00

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# **MySQL Trigger: Example AFTER DELETE**

In our 'AFTER UPDATE' example we had two tables student\_mast and stu\_log. student\_mast have three columns STUDENT\_ID, NAME, ST\_CLASS and stu\_log table has two columns user\_id and description. We want to store some information in stu\_log table after a delete operation happened on student\_mast table. Here is the trigger:

```
USE `test`;
DELIMITER

$$
CREATE TRIGGER `student_mast_ADEL`
AFTER DELETE ON student_mast FOR EACH ROW
```

Let delete a student from STUDENT\_MAST.

```
mysql> DELETE FROM STUDENT_MAST WHERE STUDENT_ID = 1;
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.06 sec)
```

Here is the latest position of STUDENT\_MAST, STU\_LOG tables:

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM STUDENT_MAST;
+----+
| STUDENT_ID | NAME
                       | ST_CLASS |
+----+
       2 | Neena Kochhar |
       3 | Lex De Haan |
        4 | Alexander Hunold | 11 |
3 rows in set (0.00 \text{ sec})
mysql> SELECT * FROM STU_LOG;
| user id
            | description
| root@localhost | Update Student RecordSteven King Previous Class :7 Present Class 8
| root@localhost | Update Student RecordNeena Kochhar Previous Class :8 Present Class 9
| root@localhost | Update Student RecordAlexander Hunold Previous Class :10 Present Class
| root@localhost | Update Student Record Steven King Clas :8-> Deleted on 2013-07-16 15:3
+----
5 rows in set (0.00 \text{ sec})
```

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# How MySQL handle errors during trigger execution?

- If a BEFORE trigger fails, the operation on the corresponding row is not performed.
- A BEFORE trigger is activated by the attempt to insert or modify the row, regardless of whether the attempt subsequently succeeds.
- An AFTER trigger is executed only if any BEFORE triggers and the row operation execute successfully.
- An error during either a BEFORE or AFTER trigger results in failure of the entire statement that caused

trigger invocation.

• For transactional tables, failure of a statement should cause rollback of all changes performed by the statement.

# **Delete a MySQL trigger**

To delete or destroy a trigger, use a DROP TRIGGER statement. You must specify the schema name if the trigger is not in the default (current) schema:

```
DROP TRIGGER [IF EXISTS] [schema_name.]trigger_nam
```

if you drop a table, any triggers for the table are also dropped.

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Reference: MySQL 5.6 Manual

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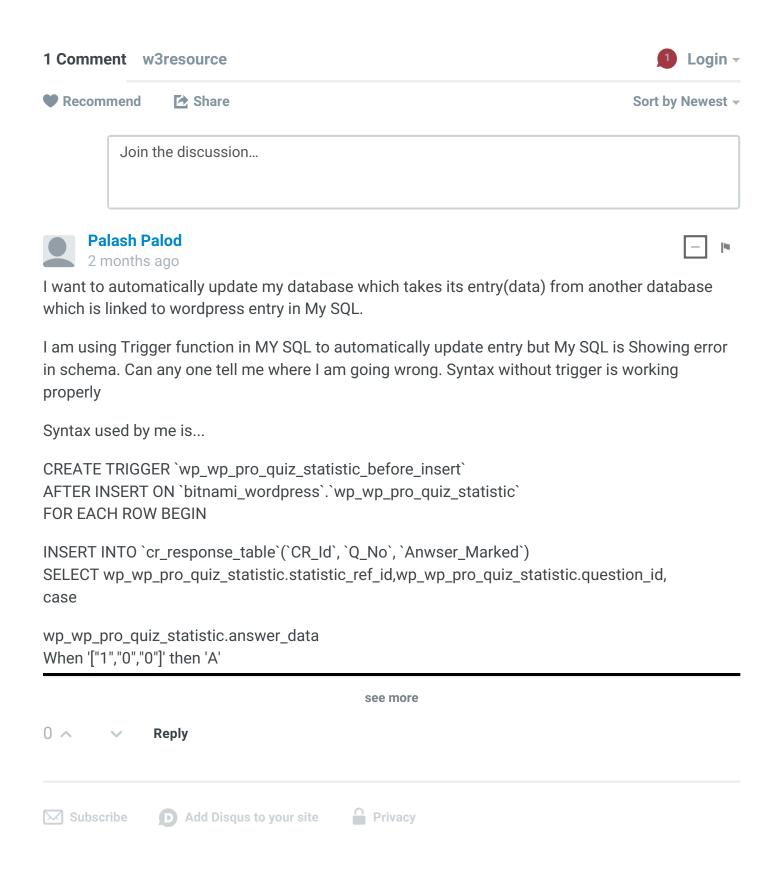




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