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SQL - Show Databases

Many a times you face a situation where you need to list down all the available databases. MySQL provides a convenient way to list down all the databases using **SHOW DATABASES** command where as there is no particular command in MS SQL Server to show or list the databases but, you can use the **SELECT...FROM** command as a work around list down available databases.

List Databases using SQL

The SQL **SHOW DATABASES** statement is used to list down all the available databases in MySQL database. You can use **SHOW SCHEMAS** as an alternate command for **SHOW DATABASES**.

Syntax

Following is the syntax of SQL **SHOW DATABASES** to list down all the available databases in MySQL −

```
SHOW DATABASES [LIKE 'pattern' | WHERE expr] ;
```

We can use LIKE or WHERE clause along with SHOW DATABASES to filter out a list of databases.

Example

```
SHOW DATABASES;
```

The output will be displayed as follows. This output depends on the number of databases available in the system -

Database
performance_schema
information_schema
mysql
testDB

Following is an example to list down all the databases whose name starts with test.

```
SHOW DATABASES LIKE 'test%';
```

The output will be displayed as follows -

Database (test%)
testDB

The SHOW SCHEMAS Statement

You can use the **SHOW SCHEMAS** statement as an alternate for the **SHOW DATABASES** statement.

Syntax

Following is the syntax of the SQL **SHOW SCHEMAS** statement to list down all the available databases in MySQL -

```
SHOW SCHEMAS [LIKE 'pattern' | WHERE expr] ;
```

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Example

Following is an example to list down all the available databases.

```
SHOW SCHEMAS;
```

The output will be displayed as follows. This output depends on the number of databases available in the system -

Database
performance_schema
information_schema
mysql
testDB

Following is an example to list down all the databases whose name starts with test.

```
SHOW SCHEMAS LIKE 'test%';
```

The output will be displayed as follows -

Database (test%)
testDB

The SELECT...FROM Statement

If you are working with MS SQL Server then you can use the **SELECT...FROM** statement to list down all the available databases as shown below.

```
SQL> SELECT * FROM sys.databases;
```

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If we execute the above query, it returns a table that lists down all the databases and associated information about the databases.

name	database_id	source_database_id	owner_sid
master	1	NULL	0×01
tempdb	2	NULL	0×01
model	3	NULL	0×01
msdb	4	NULL	0×01
testDB	5	NULL	0×01000

The EXEC sp_databases Statement

If you are using MS SQL Server then you can use the following **EXEC sp_databases** statement to list down all the databases –

```
SQL> EXEC sp_databases;
```

Output

This will display the same result as we got from **SELECT...FROM** statement.

name	database_id	source_database_id	owner_sid
master	1	NULL	0×01
tempdb	2	NULL	0×01
model	3	NULL	0×01
msdb	4	NULL	0×01
testDB	5	NULL	0×01000

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