MySQL DELETE Query: How to Delete Row from a Table

What is the DELETE Query?

MySQL DELETE command is used to delete rows that are no longer required from the database tables. It deletes the whole row from the table and returns the count of deleted rows. Delete command comes in handy to delete temporary or obsolete data from your database.

The Delete query in MySQL can delete more than one row from a table in a single query. This proves to be advantages when removing large numbers of rows from a database table.

Once a Delete row in MySQL row has been deleted, it cannot be recovered. It is therefore strongly recommended to make database backups before deleting any data from the database. This can allow you to restore the database and view the data later on should it be required.

How to Delete a row in MySQL

To delete a row in MySQL, the DELETE FROM statement is used:

```
DELETE FROM `table_name` [WHERE condition];
```
HERE

- DELETE FROM `table_name` tells MySQL server to remove rows from the table ..
- [WHERE condition] is optional and is used to put a filter that restricts the number of rows affected by the MySQL DELETE row query.

If the WHERE clause is not used in the MySQL DELETE query, then all the rows in a given table will be deleted.

Example of MySQL Delete Query

Before we go into more details discussing the DELETE command, let's insert some sample data into the movies table to work with.

```
INSERT INTO  `movies` (`title`, `director`, `year_released`, `category_id`) VALUES ('The Great Dictator', 'Chalie Chaplie', 1920, 7);
INSERT INTO `movies` (`title`, `director`, `category_id`) VALUES ('sample movie', 'Anonymous', 8);
INSERT INTO  movies (`title`, `director`, `year_released`, `category_id`) VALUES ('movie 3', 'John Brown', 1920, 8);
```

Executing the above script adds three (3) movies into the movies table. Before we go any further into our lesson, let's get all the movies in our table. The script shown below does that.

```
SELECT * FROM `movies`;
```

Executing the above script gives us the following results.

movie_id	itle	director	year_released	category_id
1	Pirates of the Caribbean 4	Rob Marshall	2011	1
2	Forgetting Sarah Marshall	Nicholas Stoller	2008	2
3	X-Men	NULL	2008	NULL
4	Code Name Black	Edgar Jimz	2010	NULL

5	Daddy's Little Girls	NULL	2007	8
6	Angels and Demons	NULL	2007	6
7	Davinci Code	NULL	2007	6
9	Honey mooners	John Schultz	2005	8
16	67% Guilty	NULL	2012	NULL
18	The Great Dictator	Chalie Chaplie	1920	7
19	sample movie	Anonymous	NULL	8
20	movie 3	John Brown	1920	8

Let's suppose that the Myflix video library no longer wishes to be renting out "The Great Dictator" to its members and they want it removed from the database. Its movie id is 18, we can use the script shown below to delete its row from the movies table.

```
DELETE FROM `movies` WHERE `movie_id` = 18;
```

Executing the above script in MySQL WorkBench against the Myflix deletes the movie with id 18 from the database table.

Let's see the current status of the movies table.

```
SELECT * FROM `movies`;
```

movie_id	title	director	year_released	category_id

1	Pirates of the Caribbean 4	Rob Marshall	2011	1
2	Forgetting Sarah Marshall	Nicholas Stoller	2008	2
3	X-Men	NULL	2008	NULL
4	Code Name Black	Edgar Jimz	2010	NULL
5	Daddy's Little Girls	NULL	2007	8
6	Angels and Demons	NULL	2007	6
7	Davinci Code	NULL	2007	6
9	Honey mooners	John Schultz	2005	8
16	67% Guilty	NULL	2012	NULL
19	sample movie	Anonymous	NULL	8
20	movie 3	John Brown	1920	8

NOTE:

- *the movie with id 18 has not been returned in the query result set.*
- *you cannot delete a single column for a table. You can delete an entire row.*

Let's say we have a list of movies we want to delete . We can use the WHERE clause along with IN.

```
DELETE FROM `movies` WHERE `movie_id`  IN (20,21);
```
Executing the above script deletes movies with IDs 20 and 21 from our movies table.

Summary

- The delete command is used to remove data that is no longer required from a table.
- The "WHERE clause" is used to limit the number of rows affected by the DELETE query.
- Once data has been deleted, it cannot be recovered, it is therefore strongly recommended to make backups before deleting data.