In this lesson we are looking at the WHERE command. The WHERE command is used to filter through our data. For example, say we were looking for a specific customer. We can use the WHERE command to find a customer with a specific first name or a specific last name, or with both.

In the SQL query the WHERE command goes after the table name we are selecting from.

Let’s say we are looking for a customer whose first name is ‘Rolf”. Then we will code as below.

*SELECT customers.first\_name, customers.last\_name FROM customers*

*WHERE customers.first\_name = ‘Rolf’;*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| first\_name  character varying (100) | last\_name  character varying (255) |
| Rolf | Smith |

As we can see that on our output, we got the only customer in our customers’ table whose first name is ‘Rolf”.

We also have a customer whose last name is ‘Watson’. We can potentially select both customers, the one who already has his first name as Rolf or also the customer whose last name is Watson.

*SELECT customers.first\_name, customers.lastname FROM customers*

*WHERE customers.first\_name = ‘Rolf’ OR customers.last\_name = ‘Watson’;*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| first\_name  character varying (100) | last\_name  character varying (255) |
| Rolf | Smith |
| Anne | Watson |

Similarly, instead OR we can use AND. We can select customers that have first name ‘Rolf’ and last name ‘Watson’. But in this case we will not get any output as the customer with first name ‘Rolf’, has is last name as ‘Smith’ and the customer whose last name is Watson has her first name as ‘Anne’, that’s why as they are two different customers we will get an empty output.

*SELECT customers.first\_name, customers.last\_name FROM customers*

*WHERE customers.first\_name = ‘Rolf’ AND customers.last\_name = ‘Watson’;*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| first\_name  character varying (100) | last\_name  character varying (255) |

This is how we use a WHERE command and then we specify the columns with equal sign, thus letting Postgres know what we specifically want in those columns; and we can use ‘AND’ and ‘OR’ to do more filtering.

One important thing to note that Rolf and Watson are not tables or SQL commands, so they have to go inside quotation marks.