

# T-SQL and the WHERE LIKE %Parameter% clause

▲ I was trying to write a statement which uses the WHERE LIKE '%text%' clause, but I am not receiving results when I try to use a parameter for the text. For example, this works:

62

```
SELECT Employee WHERE LastName LIKE '%ning%'
```



This would return users Flenning, Manning, Ningle, etc. But this statement would not:

4

```
DECLARE @LastName varchar(max)
SET @LastName = 'ning'
SELECT Employee WHERE LastName LIKE '%@LastName%'
```

No results found. Any suggestions? Thanks in advance.

sql

sql-server-2008

tsql

edited Jan 9 '13 at 14:47



Mahmoud Gamal

66.8k

15

114

146

asked Jan 9 '13 at 14:45



dp3

622

3

14

27

## 3 Answers

▲ It should be:

135

...

```
WHERE LastName LIKE '%' + @LastName + '%';
```



Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

[Sign up with email](#)[Sign up with Google](#)[Sign up with Facebook](#)

edited Oct 1 '18 at 21:03

answered Jan 9 '13 at 14:46



Mahmoud Gamal

66.8k 15 114 146

- 1 thanks for the earlier tip on the question. But it wasn't though. Anyway [in the quest of a high performing answer - is this useful or not?](#) :) – bonCodigo Jan 9 '13 at 18:37
- 1 @bonCodigo I don't know really, performance and optimization is not my area. Furthermore, these functions are vendor specific, in your case it depends on how the Oracle RDBMS evaluate them, and I don't know Oracle. Sorry. – Mahmoud Gamal Jan 10 '13 at 7:07
- 2 This didn't work for me. The % needs to be in the addParameter section. See James Curran answer here [stackoverflow.com/questions/251276/...](#) – bendecko Sep 12 '14 at 11:56
- 1 see my answer (currently below). the wildcard-symbol is PART of the SEARCH expression, not part of the sql-query. It is entered by the USER (or, if wildcard-search is predefined, is appended to the users search expression input). If you append it via string concatenation on database-level, you get an un reusable query-string – swe Aug 31 '16 at 9:53



15



The correct answer is, that, because the '%' -sign is part of your search expression, it should be part of your VALUE, so wherever you SET @LastName (be it from a programming language or from TSQL) you should set it to '%' + [userinput] + '%'

or, in your example:

```
DECLARE @LastName varchar(max)
SET @LastName = 'ning'
SELECT Employee WHERE LastName LIKE '%' + @LastName + '%'
```

edited Nov 1 '17 at 9:13

answered Jun 2 '15 at 14:50



Mohammad Shehroz

103 1 10



swe

1,269 11 22

you may try this one, used **CONCAT**

Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

[Sign up with email](#)

[Sign up with Google](#)
[Sign up with Facebook](#)




Join Stack Overflow to learn, share knowledge, and build your career.

Sign up with email

 Sign up with Google

Sign up with Facebook

