

MySQL BLOB



Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn about MySQL BLOB data type and its applications.

Introduction to MySQL BLOB data type

In MySQL, a BLOB (Binary Large Object) is a data type that allows you to store large binary data, such as images, audio, video, and so on. BLOBs are useful when you want to store and retrieve data in your database.

MySQL supports the following types of BLOBs:

- **TINYBLOB:** Maximum length of 255 bytes.
- **BLOB:** Maximum length of 65,535 bytes.
- **MEDIUMBLOB:** Maximum length of 16,777,215 bytes.
- **LONGBLOB:** Maximum length of 4,294,967,295 bytes.

When you create tables that store BLOBs, you select the appropriate BLOB type based on the size of binary data you plan to store.

MySQL BLOB data type example

First, [create a table](#) that includes a `BLOB` column:

```
CREATE TABLE images (  
  id INT PRIMARY KEY AUTO_INCREMENT,  
  title VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,  
  image_data LONGBLOB NOT NULL  
);
```

Second, show the value of the `secure_file_priv` variable:

```
SELECT @@secure_file_priv;
```

Output:

```
+-----+  
| @@secure_file_priv |  
+-----+  
| C:\ProgramData\MySQL\MySQL Server 8.0\Uploads\ |  
+-----+  
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

The `secure_file_priv` system variable restricts the locations on the MySQL server from which the `LOAD_FILE()` function can read files.

If you attempt to load the file from other locations, the `LOAD_FILE()` function returns NULL.

Third, insert a binary image into the `image_data` of the `images` table using the `LOAD_FILE()` function:

```
INSERT INTO images (title,image_data)  
VALUES ('MySQL tutorial', LOAD_FILE('C:/ProgramData/MySQL/MySQL Server 8.0/Uploads/logo.pr
```

Make sure to replace `C:/ProgramData/MySQL/MySQL Server 8.0/Uploads/logo.png` with the actual absolute path to your image file.

Notice that you need to replace the backslash (`\`) with the forward-slash (`/`) in the path

to the file on Windows to make it work properly.

Finally, retrieve the binary data from the `BLOB` column:

```
SELECT * FROM images;
```

In practice, you often use applications written in Python, PHP, Java, and so on to read files in the client and store them in the `BLOB` column:

- [PHP BLOB](#)
- [Python BLOB](#)
- [Java BLOB](#)

Summary

- Use MySQL BLOB to store large binary data in the database.

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SELECT FROM

SELECT

ORDER BY

WHERE

SELECT DISTINCT

AND

OR

IN

NOT IN

BETWEEN

LIKE

LIMIT

IS NULL

Table & Column Aliases

Joins

INNER JOIN

LEFT JOIN

RIGHT JOIN

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HAVING

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UPDATE DATA

[UPDATE](#)

[UPDATE JOIN](#)

DELETE DATA

[DELETE JOIN](#)

[ON DELETE CASCADE](#)

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[BIT](#)

[INT](#)

[BOOLEAN](#)

[DECIMAL](#)

[DATETIME](#)

[TIMESTAMP](#)

[DATE](#)

[TIME](#)

[CHAR](#)

[VARCHAR](#)

[TEXT](#)

[BINARY](#)

[VARBINARY](#)

[ENUM](#)

[BLOB](#)

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