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SQL SELECT INTO Statement

In this tutorial, we'll learn to copy data from one table to another in SQL with the help of examples.

In SQL, we can copy data from one database table to a new table using the `SELECT INTO` command. For example,

```
SELECT *
INTO CustomersCopy
FROM Customers;
```

Here, the SQL command copies all data from the `Customers` table to the new `CustomersCopy` table.

Note: The `SELECT INTO` statement creates a new table. If the database already has a table with the same name, `SELECT INTO` gives an error.

If we want to copy data to an existing table (rather than creating a new table), we should use the `INSERT INTO SELECT` statement.

Copy Selected Columns Only

We can also copy only selected columns from the old table to a new table. For example,

```
SELECT customer_id, country
INTO CustomersCountry
FROM Customers;
```

Here, the SQL command only copies `customer_id` and `country` columns to the `CustomersCopy` table.

Copy Records Matching a Condition

We can use the `WHERE` clause with `SELECT INTO` to copy those rows that match the specified condition. For example,

```
SELECT customer_id, age
INTO USACustomersAge
FROM Customers
WHERE country = 'USA';
```

Here, the SQL command

- creates the `USACustomersAge` table with `customer_id` and `age` column
- copies the rows to the new table if the value of the `country` column is **USA**.

Copy to Another Database

By default, `SELECT INTO` creates a new table in the current database. If we want to copy data to a table in a different database, we can do that by using the `IN` clause. For example,

```
SELECT *
INTO CustomersCopy
IN another_db.mdb
FROM Customers;
```

Here, the SQL command copies the `Customers` table to the `CustomersCopy` table in the `another_db.mdb` database.

Note: The user must have **WRITE** privilege to copy data to a table in a different database.

Copy From Two Tables to One

We can also copy records from two different tables to a new table using the `JOIN` clause with `SELECT INTO`. For example,

```
SELECT Customers.customer_id, Customers.first_name, Orders.amount
INTO CustomerOrders
FROM Customers
JOIN Orders
ON Customers.customer_id = Orders.customer_id;
```

Here, the SQL command copies `customer_id` and `first_name` from the `Customers` table and the `amount` from the `Orders` table to a new table `CustomerOrders`. To learn more, visit [SQL JOIN](#).

Copy Table Schema Only

We can also use the `SELECT INTO` statement to create a new table with the given schema (without copying the data). For that, we use the `WHERE` clause with a condition that returns false.

```
SELECT *
INTO NewCustomers
FROM Customers
WHERE false;
```

Here, the SQL command creates an empty table named `NewCustomers` with the same structure as the `Customers` table.

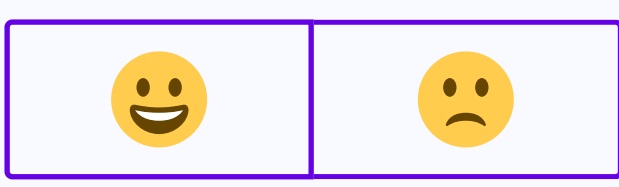
Recommended Readings

- [SQL CREATE TABLE AS Statement](#)
- [SQL BACKUP DATABASE Statement](#)

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