

SQL Introduction

>

SQL SELECT (I)

>

SQL SELECT (II)

>

SQL JOIN

>

SQL DATABASE & TABLE

>

SQL Insert, Update and Delete

>

SQL Constraints

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✓ SQL Constraints

✓ SQL Not Null Constraint

✓ SQL Unique Constraints

✓ SQL Primary Key

✓ SQL Foreign Key

✓ SQL Check

✓ SQL Default

○ SQL Create Index

SQL Additional Topics

>

Related Topics

SQL NOT NULL Constraint

SQL Constraints

SQL PRIMARY KEY

SQL UNIQUE Constraint

SQL CREATE INDEX

SQL ALTER TABLE Statement

SQL DEFAULT Constraint



In this tutorial, we'll learn about the DEFAULT constraint in SQL and how to use them with examples.

In SQL, the `DEFAULT` constraint is used to set a default value if we try to insert an empty value in a column. For example,

```
CREATE TABLE Colleges (  
  college_id INT PRIMARY KEY,  
  college_code VARCHAR(20),  
  college_country VARCHAR(20) DEFAULT 'US'  
);
```

Run Code >>

Here, the default value of the `college_country` column is **US**.

If we try to store the `NULL` value in the `college_country` column, its value will be **US** by default. For example,

```
-- Inserts 'US' to the college_country column  
INSERT INTO Colleges (college_id, college_code)  
VALUES (1, 'ARP76');  
  
-- Inserts 'UAE' to the college_country column  
INSERT INTO Colleges (college_id, college_code, college_country)  
VALUES (2, 'JWS89', 'UAE');
```

Run Code >>

DEFAULT Constraint With Alter Table

We can also add the `DEFAULT` constraint to an existing column using the `ALTER TABLE` command. For example,

SQL Server

```
ALTER TABLE Colleges  
ADD CONSTRAINT country_default  
DEFAULT 'US' FOR college_country;
```

PostgreSQL

```
ALTER TABLE Colleges  
ALTER COLUMN college_code SET DEFAULT 'US';
```

MySQL

```
ALTER TABLE Colleges  
ALTER college_country SET DEFAULT 'US';
```

Oracle

```
ALTER TABLE Colleges  
MODIFY college_country DEFAULT 'US';
```

Here, the default value of `college_country` column is set to **US** if `NULL` is passed during insertion.

Remove Default Constraint

We can remove the default constraint in a column using the `DROP` clause. For example,

SQL Server, PostgreSQL, Oracle

```
ALTER TABLE Colleges  
ALTER COLUMN college_country DROP DEFAULT;
```

MySQL

```
ALTER TABLE Colleges  
ALTER college_country DROP DEFAULT;
```

Here, the SQL command removes the `DEFAULT` constraint from the `college_country` column.

Previous Tutorial:

SQL Check

Next Tutorial:

SQL Create Index

>

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