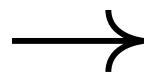# WILDCARDS IN SQL

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Introduction

- **SQL wildcards are special characters that allow us to search complex data from the table very easily and quickly.**
- **It works with string by substituting one or more characters and produce the result after matching the string into the table.**
- **SQL wildcards are used with the LIKE operator in SQL queries to search for patterns within text data.**

Types
of
Wildcards

2

3

(1.) Percent (%)

PURPOSE

- The percent wildcard represents zero, one, or multiple characters.

USAGE

- It is often used when you want to find rows where a particular column contains a substring.
- We can use it either in the first place, last place, or both sides of a string with the LIKE clause.

EXAMPLE(1.)

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```
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE Name LIKE 'A%';
```

- This query retrieves all records where the Name column starts with the letter 'A'.
- It will match "Alice", "Andrew", and "Aaron", among others.

EXAMPLE(2.)

```
SELECT * FROM Products
WHERE Description LIKE '%blue%';
```

- **This query retrieves all products whose descriptions contain the word "blue". It would match descriptions like "Light blue shirt", "Blueberry jam", etc.**

(2.) Underscore (_)

PURPOSE

- The underscore wildcard represents a single character.

USAGE

- It's used when you want to match a specific character position within a string.

EXAMPLE

7

```sql
SELECT * FROM Products
WHERE Code LIKE 'A_1';
```

- This query retrieves all products where the Code column has an 'A' as the first character, followed by any single character, and ending with '1'.
- It would match "A01", "AB1", but not "A001".

(3.) Square Brackets ([])

PURPOSE

- Square brackets are used to specify a set or range of characters to match.

USAGE

- This wildcard allows you to find a single character within the specified set or range.

EXAMPLE

```
SELECT * FROM Employees
WHERE Initial LIKE '[AB]%';
```

- **This query retrieves all employees whose Initial column starts with either 'A' or 'B'.**
- **It would match "Alice", "Bob", and "Andrew".**

(4.) Caret ([^])

PURPOSE

* The caret symbol inside square brackets negates the character set, meaning it matches any character not within the brackets.

USAGE

* . This is useful for excluding certain characters from your search.

EXAMPLE

11

```sql
SELECT * FROM Employees
WHERE Initial LIKE '[^AB]%';
```

- **This query retrieves employees whose Initial does not start with 'A' or 'B'**

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(5.) Hyphen (-)

PURPOSE

- Inside square brackets, a hyphen can be used to specify a range of characters

USAGE

- This is useful when you want to match any character within a specific range

EXAMPLE

13

```sql
SELECT * FROM Employees
WHERE Initial LIKE '[A-F]%';
```

- This would match any initial that begins with the letters 'A' through 'F'.

I HOPE YOU FIND THIS POST HELPFUL !

DO HIT THE LIKE BUTTON

THANK YOU !!

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