

WILDCARDS IN SQL

What is Wildcard?

- A Wildcard refers to a special character that is used in SQL queries to represent one or more characters when searching for data in a database. Wildcards are particularly useful when you want to perform pattern matching or when you're not sure of the exact value you're searching for.

SQL Server supports several wildcard characters:

- **Percentage (%) wildcard:** Represents zero or more characters.
- **Underscore (_) wildcard:** Represents a single character.
- **Bracket ([]) :** Represents any single character within the specified range or set.
- **Exclamation mark (!):** Represents any single character not within the specified range or set.

Scenario Based Question

- **Scenario:** A Company wants to retrieve information about its employees from the database using different wildcard characters to search for employees based on their names. Consider the same Employees table with the columns EmployeeID, FirstName, and LastName.

- **Percentage (%) wildcard:** Retrieve the information of all employees whose first names start with the letter 'J'.

Syntax: SELECT * FROM Employees WHERE FirstName LIKE 'J%';

- **Underscore (_) wildcard:** Retrieve the information of employees whose last names have exactly six characters and start with the letter 'S'.

Syntax: SELECT * FROM Employees WHERE LastName LIKE 'S_____';

- **Bracket ([]) wildcard:** Retrieve the information of employees whose first names start with either 'A' or 'M'.

Syntax: SELECT * FROM Employees WHERE FirstName LIKE '[AM]%';

- **Exclamation mark (!) wildcard:** Retrieve the information of employees whose last names do not start with the letter 'B'.

Syntax: SELECT * FROM Employees WHERE LastName LIKE '[!B]%';