

SQL Basics

SQL (pronounced ess-kyu-ell) is a standard computer language for accessing and manipulating databases.

What is SQL?

- SQL stands for **Structured Query Language**
- SQL allows you to access a database
- SQL is an ANSI standard computer language
- SQL can execute queries against a database
- SQL can retrieve data from a database
- SQL can insert new records in a database
- SQL can delete records from a database
- SQL can update records in a database
- SQL is easy to learn

SQL is a Standard - BUT....

SQL is an ANSI (American National Standards Institute) standard computer language for accessing and manipulating database systems. SQL statements are used to retrieve and update data in a database. SQL works with database programs like MS Access, DB2, Informix, MS SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase, etc.

Unfortunately, there are many different versions of the SQL language, but to be in compliance with the ANSI standard, they must support the same major keywords in a similar manner (such as SELECT, UPDATE, DELETE, INSERT, WHERE, and others).

Note: Most of the SQL database programs also have their own proprietary extensions in addition to the SQL standard!

SQL Database Tables

A database most often contains one or more tables. Each table is identified by a name (e.g. "Customers" or "Orders"). Tables contain records (rows) with data.

Below is an example of a table called "Persons":

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LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

The table above contains three records (one for each person) and four columns (LastName, FirstName, Address, and City).

What are SQL Queries?

With SQL, we can query a database and have a result set returned.

A query like this:

```
SELECT LastName FROM Persons
```

Gives a result set like this:

LastName
Hansen
Svendson
Pettersen

Note: Some database systems require a semicolon at the end of the SQL statement. We don't use the semicolon in our tutorials.

It has been classified into two categories:

1. SQL Data Manipulation Language (DML)

SQL (Structured Query Language) is syntax for executing queries. But the SQL language also includes syntax to update, insert, and delete records.

These query and update commands together form the Data Manipulation Language (DML) part of SQL:

- **SELECT** - extracts data from a database table

- **UPDATE** - updates data in a database table
 - **DELETE** - deletes data from a database table
 - **INSERT INTO** - inserts new data into a database table
-

2. SQL Data Definition Language (DDL)

The Data Definition Language (DDL) part of SQL permits database tables to be created or deleted. We can also define indexes (keys), specify links between tables, and impose constraints between database tables.

The most important DDL statements in SQL are:

- **CREATE TABLE** - creates a new database table
- **ALTER TABLE** - alters (changes) a database table
- **DROP TABLE** - deletes a database table
- **CREATE INDEX** - creates an index (search key)
- **DROP INDEX** - deletes an index

DDL Commands

Create a Database

To create a database:

```
CREATE DATABASE database_name
```

Create a Table

To create a table in a database:

```
CREATE TABLE table_name  
(  
column_name1 data_type,  
column_name2 data_type,  
.....  
)
```

Example

This example demonstrates how you can create a table named "Person", with four columns. The column names will be "LastName", "FirstName", "Address", and "Age":

```
CREATE TABLE Person  
(  
LastName varchar,  
FirstName varchar,  
Address varchar,  
Age int  
)
```

This example demonstrates how you can specify a maximum length for some columns:

```
CREATE TABLE Person  
(  
LastName varchar(30),
```

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```
FirstName varchar,  
Address varchar,  
Age int(3)  
)
```

The data type specifies what type of data the column can hold. The table below contains the most common data types in SQL:

Data Type	Description
integer(size) int(size) smallint(size) tinyint(size)	Hold integers only. The maximum number of digits are specified in parenthesis.
decimal(size,d) numeric(size,d)	Hold numbers with fractions. The maximum number of digits are specified in "size". The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal is specified in "d".
char(size)	Holds a fixed length string (can contain letters, numbers, and special characters). The fixed size is specified in parenthesis.
varchar(size)	Holds a variable length string (can contain letters, numbers, and special characters). The maximum size is specified in parenthesis.
date(yyyymmdd)	Holds a date

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ALTER TABLE

The ALTER TABLE statement is used to add or drop columns in an existing table.

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD column_name datatype  
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP COLUMN column_name
```

Note: Some database systems don't allow the dropping of a column in a database table (DROP COLUMN column_name).

Person:

LastName	FirstName	Address
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20

Example

To add a column named "City" in the "Person" table:

```
ALTER TABLE Person ADD City varchar(30)
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	

Example

To drop the "Address" column in the "Person" table:

```
ALTER TABLE Person DROP COLUMN Address
```

Result:

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LastName	FirstName	City
Pettersen	Kari	

Delete a Table or Database

To delete a table (the table structure, attributes, and indexes will also be deleted):

```
DROP TABLE table_name
```

To delete a database:

```
DROP DATABASE database_name
```

Truncate a Table

What if we only want to get rid of the data inside a table, and not the table itself?
Use the TRUNCATE TABLE command (deletes only the data inside the table):

```
TRUNCATE TABLE table_name
```


Create Index

Indices are created in an existing table to locate rows more quickly and efficiently. It is possible to create an index on one or more columns of a table, and each index is given a name. The users cannot see the indexes, they are just used to speed up queries.

Note: Updating a table containing indexes takes more time than updating a table without, this is because the indexes also need an update. So, it is a good idea to create indexes only on columns that are often used for a search.

A Unique Index

Creates a unique index on a table. A unique index means that two rows cannot have the same index value.

```
CREATE UNIQUE INDEX index_name  
ON table_name (column_name)
```

The "column_name" specifies the column you want indexed.

A Simple Index

Creates a simple index on a table. When the UNIQUE keyword is omitted, duplicate values are allowed.

```
CREATE INDEX index_name  
ON table_name (column_name)
```

The "column_name" specifies the column you want indexed.

Example

This example creates a simple index, named "PersonIndex", on the LastName field of the Person table:

```
CREATE INDEX PersonIndex  
ON Person (LastName)
```

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If you want to index the values in a column in **descending** order, you can add the reserved word **DESC** after the column name:

```
CREATE INDEX PersonIndex  
ON Person (LastName DESC)
```

If you want to index more than one column you can list the column names within the parentheses, separated by commas:

```
CREATE INDEX PersonIndex  
ON Person (LastName, FirstName)
```

Drop Index

You can delete an existing index in a table with the DROP statement.

```
DROP INDEX table_name.index_name
```

DML Commands

The SELECT Statement

The SELECT statement is used to select data from a table. The tabular result is stored in a result table (called the result-set).

Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
```

Select Some Columns

To select the columns named "LastName" and "FirstName", use a SELECT statement like this:

```
SELECT LastName,FirstName FROM Persons
```

"Persons" table

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Result

LastName	FirstName
Hansen	Ola
Svendson	Tove
Pettersen	Kari

Select All Columns

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To select all columns from the "Persons" table, use a * symbol instead of column names, like this:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
```

Result

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

The Result Set

The result from a SQL query is stored in a result-set. Most database software systems allow navigation of the result set with programming functions, like: Move-To-First-Record, Get-Record-Content, Move-To-Next-Record, etc.

Programming functions like these are not a part of this tutorial.

Semicolon after SQL Statements?

Semicolon is the standard way to separate each SQL statement in database systems that allow more than one SQL statement to be executed in the same call to the server.

Some SQL tutorials end each SQL statement with a semicolon. Is this necessary? We are using MS Access and SQL Server 2000 and we do not have to put a semicolon after each SQL statement, but some database programs force you to use it.

The SELECT DISTINCT Statement

The DISTINCT keyword is used to return only distinct (different) values.

The SELECT statement returns information from table columns. But what if we only want to select distinct elements?

With SQL, all we need to do is to add a DISTINCT keyword to the SELECT statement:

Syntax

```
SELECT DISTINCT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
```

Using the DISTINCT keyword

To select ALL values from the column named "Company" we use a SELECT statement like this:

```
SELECT Company FROM Orders
```

"Orders" table

Company	OrderNumber
Sega	3412
W3Schools	2312
Trio	4678
W3Schools	6798

Result

Company
Sega
W3Schools
Trio
W3Schools

Note that "W3Schools" is listed twice in the result-set.

To select only DIFFERENT values from the column named "Company" we use a SELECT DISTINCT statement like this:

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SELECT DISTINCT Company FROM Orders

Result:

Company
Sega
W3Schools
Trio

Now "W3Schools" is listed only once in the result-set.

The WHERE clause is used to specify a selection criterion.

The WHERE Clause

To conditionally select data from a table, a WHERE clause can be added to the SELECT statement.

Syntax

```
SELECT column FROM table  
WHERE column operator value
```

With the WHERE clause, the following operators can be used:

Operator	Description
=	Equal
<>	Not equal
>	Greater than
<	Less than
>=	Greater than or equal
<=	Less than or equal
BETWEEN	Between an inclusive range
LIKE	Search for a pattern

Note: In some versions of SQL the <> operator may be written as !=

Using the WHERE Clause

To select only the persons living in the city "Sandnes", we add a WHERE clause to the SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons  
WHERE City='Sandnes'
```

"Persons" table

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LastName	FirstName	Address	City	Year
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes	1951
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes	1978
Svendson	Stale	Kaivn 18	Sandnes	1980
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger	1960

Result

LastName	FirstName	Address	City	Year
Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes	1951
Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes	1978
Svendson	Stale	Kaivn 18	Sandnes	1980

Using Quotes

Note that we have used single quotes around the conditional values in the examples.

SQL uses single quotes around text values (most database systems will also accept double quotes). Numeric values should not be enclosed in quotes.

For text values:

```
This is correct:  
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE FirstName='Tove'  
This is wrong:  
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE FirstName=Tove
```

For numeric values:

```
This is correct:  
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE Year>1965  
This is wrong:  
SELECT * FROM Persons WHERE Year>'1965'
```

The LIKE Condition

The LIKE condition is used to specify a search for a pattern in a column.

Syntax

```
SELECT column FROM table  
WHERE column LIKE pattern
```

A "%" sign can be used to define wildcards (missing letters in the pattern) both before and after the pattern.

Using LIKE

The following SQL statement will return persons with first names that start with an 'O':

```
SELECT * FROM Persons  
WHERE FirstName LIKE 'O%'
```

The following SQL statement will return persons with first names that end with an 'a':

```
SELECT * FROM Persons  
WHERE FirstName LIKE '%a'
```

The following SQL statement will return persons with first names that contain the pattern 'la':

```
SELECT * FROM Persons  
WHERE FirstName LIKE '%la%'
```

The INSERT INTO Statement

The INSERT INTO statement is used to insert new rows into a table.

Syntax

```
INSERT INTO table_name  
VALUES (value1, value2,...)
```

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You can also specify the columns for which you want to insert data:

```
INSERT INTO table_name (column1, column2,...)
VALUES (value1, value2,...)
```

Insert a New Row

This "Persons" table:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

And this SQL statement:

```
INSERT INTO Persons
VALUES ('Hetland', 'Camilla', 'Hagabakka 24', 'Sandnes')
```

Will give this result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger
Hetland	Camilla	Hagabakka 24	Sandnes

Insert Data in Specified Columns

This "Persons" table:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger
Hetland	Camilla	Hagabakka 24	Sandnes

And This SQL statement:

```
INSERT INTO Persons (LastName, Address)
VALUES ('Rasmussen', 'Storgt 67')
```

Will give this result:

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LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger
Hetland	Camilla	Hagabakka 24	Sandnes
Rasmussen		Storgt 67	

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The Update Statement

The UPDATE statement is used to modify the data in a table.

Syntax

```
UPDATE table_name  
SET column_name = new_value  
WHERE column_name = some_value
```

Person:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen		Storgt 67	

Update one Column in a Row

We want to add a first name to the person with a last name of "Rasmussen":

```
UPDATE Person SET FirstName = 'Nina'  
WHERE LastName = 'Rasmussen'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen	Nina	Storgt 67	

Update several Columns in a Row

We want to change the address and add the name of the city:

```
UPDATE Person
```

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```
SET Address = 'Stien 12', City = 'Stavanger'  
WHERE LastName = 'Rasmussen'
```

Result:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen	Nina	Stien 12	Stavanger

The Delete Statement

The DELETE statement is used to delete rows in a table.

Syntax

```
DELETE FROM table_name  
WHERE column_name = some_value
```

Person:

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger
Rasmussen	Nina	Stien 12	Stavanger

Delete a Row

"Nina Rasmussen" is going to be deleted:

```
DELETE FROM Person WHERE LastName = 'Rasmussen'
```

Result

LastName	FirstName	Address	City
Nilsen	Fred	Kirkegt 56	Stavanger

Delete All Rows

It is possible to delete all rows in a table without deleting the table. This means that the table structure, attributes, and indexes will be intact:

```
DELETE FROM table_name  
or  
DELETE * FROM table_name
```

THANK

YOU