

SQL - DEFAULT CONSTRAINT

The DEFAULT constraint provides a default value to a column when the INSERT INTO statement does not provide a specific value.

Example:

For example, the following SQL creates a new table called CUSTOMERS and adds five columns. Here SALARY column is set to 5000.00 by default, so in case INSERT INTO statement does not provide a value for this column then by default this column would be set to 5000.00.

```
CREATE TABLE CUSTOMERS (  
    ID INT NOT NULL,  
    NAME VARCHAR (20) NOT NULL,  
    AGE INT NOT NULL,  
    ADDRESS CHAR (25) ,  
    SALARY DECIMAL (18, 2) DEFAULT 5000.00,  
    PRIMARY KEY (ID)  
);
```

If CUSTOMERS table has already been created, then to add a DEFAULT constraint to SALARY column, you would write a statement similar to the following:

```
ALTER TABLE CUSTOMERS  
    MODIFY SALARY DECIMAL (18, 2) DEFAULT 5000.00;
```

Drop Default Constraint:

To drop a DEFAULT constraint, use the following SQL:

```
ALTER TABLE CUSTOMERS  
    ALTER COLUMN SALARY DROP DEFAULT;
```