

The INSERT INTO Command

Introduction to the INSERT INTO command

Collecting information from your users is not uncommon and, in most cases, it's a necessity. When you collect information from your users, you're not querying data, but rather you're inserting data into the database.

In our case, we might decide to create a help desk application (more than likely web-based) that allows customers to submit help desk requests. These requests, of course, will need to be stored in the database, specifically within the tickets table. This can be done using the INSERT INTO command.

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Before we get ahead of ourselves with the tickets table, let's practice inserting employees into the employees table. If you can recall, the employees table resembles the following structure:

Field Name	Data Type
employeeid	int
name	varchar
username	varchar
password	varchar
email	varchar
roleid	int

When writing an INSERT statement we would want to include all of the fields in our statement and also be mindful of the data types that each field accepts. If you tried inserting a string of text into roleid for instance, an error would be produced.

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Considering the field names and data types within the employees table, our INSERT statement might be written as follows:

```
INSERT INTO employees (name, username, password, email, roleid)
VALUES ('Zak', 'zruvalcaba', 'abc123', 'zruvalca@sdccd.edu', 1)
```

Notice that employeeid is missing from this statement. Again, this is the primary key and since it's an auto incrementing key, it is excluded from the statement.

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The preceding statement inserts all the values you specified into the proper columns within the employees table. The INSERT statement generally uses the following elements:

- ❖ **INSERT** - The INSERT keyword is used to identify the statement or action you are attempting to perform on the database.
- ❖ **INTO** - The INTO keyword specifies that you are inserting something into a specific table.
- ❖ **Table name** - The name of the table into which you want to insert the values.
- ❖ **Fields** - Each field for which you are inserting a value into is listed. Note that each field name is comma delimited and is almost always listed in the order as it appears within the database table.
- ❖ **VALUES** - The actual values to be inserted. The values are also comma delimited and must be in the same order as the fields are listed.