

# The UPDATE Command

## Introduction to the UPDATE command

The UPDATE command is used to define changes within your database tables. As you're probably aware, database information is not static...it's constantly changing depending on user feedback or input. As an example, assume that an administrator wanted to change specific data (maybe a username and password) for a particular employee within the employees table. To make these changes to an existing record in the table, an UPDATE statement would have to be created.

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The UPDATE statement requires certain keywords, operators, and usually a WHERE clause to modify the specific record. To give you an example, consider the following statement:

```
UPDATE employees SET name = 'Zac' WHERE name = 'Zak'
```

Or

```
UPDATE employees SET name = 'Zac' WHERE employeeid = 1
```

In both scenarios, the employees table is modified. In the first example, all instances of Zak are changed to Zac. In the second example, the name field is replaced with Zac for the employeeid which is equal to 1.

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The UPDATE statement generally uses the following elements:

- ❖ **UPDATE** - The UPDATE keyword is used to identify the statement or action you are attempting to perform on the database.
- ❖ **Table name** - The name of the table for which you want to update values for.
- ❖ **SET** - Specifies that you want to set a field to a particular value.
- ❖ **Fields** - The field that you want to set a new value for immediately follows the SET keyword. The equal sign (=) will immediately follow the name of the field.
- ❖ **Value** - The actual value that you want to set the field to.

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Of course you could update multiple fields as well. If this were the case you simply add another field/value directly after the initial field/value, separating them by the comma symbol as follows:

```
UPDATE employees SET name = 'Zac', email = 'zruvalca@sdccd.edu'  
  
WHERE employeeid = 1
```