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In this discussion we will examine a few features of the Select statement. These are:

- selecting individual columns
- selecting all columns
- using column aliases
- sorting the rows displayed

There are additional inserts in the demo file for this document.

Demo 01: See demo 01 for the inserts

1. Selecting columns

The first few queries use only two clauses: the FROM clause to identify the table that supplies the data and the SELECT clause to identify the columns to be returned. For these queries, all rows from the table are returned. This set of demos uses the zoo_2015 table. Your data set might be different depending on the rows you inserted.

You indicate which columns you want displayed and the order of the columns by listing the column names in the Select clause.

Demo 02: You can display the columns in any order. Note that rows for the animals with no name displays the word NULL with this client.

```
Select
  z_type
, z_name
From zoo_2015;
+-----+-----+
| z_type | z_name |
+-----+-----+
| Giraffe | Sam    |
| Armadillo | Abigail |
| Lion    | Leon   |
| Lion    | Lenora |
| Giraffe | Sally  |
| Zebra   | Huey   |
| Zebra   | Dewey  |
| Zebra   | Louie  |
| Horse   | NULL   |
| Giraffe | Dewey  |
| Giraffe | Arnold |
| Giraffe | NULL   |
| Giraffe | NULL   |
| Giraffe | Artemis |
| Giraffe | Diana  |
| armadillo | Anders |
| armadillo | Anne   |
| Lion    | Leon   |
| Lion    | NULL   |
```

```
| Lion      | NULL      |
| Lion      |            |
+-----+-----+
21 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Demo 03: Display dates and numeric values.

```
Select
  z_dob
, z_cost
, z_name
From zoo;
```

z_dob	z_cost	z_name
2012-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Sam
2014-12-15 00:00:00	490.00	Abigail
2010-02-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Leon
2014-03-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Lenora
2011-05-15 00:00:00	5000.25	Sally
2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Huey
2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Dewey
2013-01-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Louie
2010-05-15 00:00:00	490.00	NULL
2013-06-06 00:00:00	3750.00	Dewey
2014-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Arnold
2013-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	NULL
2002-05-15 10:45:00	5000.00	NULL
2013-06-06 10:45:00	1500.00	Artemis
2000-06-06 10:47:00	120.95	Diana
2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.00	Anders
2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.01	Anne
2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	Leon
2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	

2. Selecting all columns

The symbol `*` is used to indicate that all columns should be returned. This is inefficient if you do not need to see all of the columns but is helpful for a quick look at a small table.

Using `Select *` can be a bad idea with embedded SQL if the table design is changed. Embedded SQL refers to SQL statement that might be included inside other units of code. You also have to consider that someone might reorder the column positions in the table and then your query produces a different result.

Demo 04: Display all columns, all rows.

```
Select *
From zoo_2015;
```

z_id	z_name	z_type	z_cost	z_dob	z_acquired
23	Sam	Giraffe	5000.00	2012-05-15 00:00:00	2012-05-15
25	Abigail	Armadillo	490.00	2014-12-15 00:00:00	2015-01-05
56	Leon	Lion	5000.00	2010-02-25 00:00:00	2010-03-25
57	Lenora	Lion	5000.00	2014-03-25 00:00:00	2014-03-31

	85		Sally		Giraffe		5000.25		2011-05-15 00:00:00		2012-05-15	
	43		Huey		Zebra		2500.25		2013-06-02 00:00:00		2014-06-02	
	44		Dewey		Zebra		2500.25		2013-06-02 00:00:00		2014-06-02	
	45		Louie		Zebra		2500.25		2013-01-02 00:00:00		2014-01-02	
	47		NULL		Horse		490.00		2010-05-15 00:00:00		2010-04-15	
	52		Dewey		Giraffe		3750.00		2013-06-06 00:00:00		2013-07-12	
	257		Arnold		Giraffe		5000.00		2014-05-15 00:00:00		2014-05-15	
	258		NULL		Giraffe		5000.00		2013-05-15 00:00:00		2013-05-15	
	259		NULL		Giraffe		5000.00		2002-05-15 10:45:00		2002-05-15	
	260		Artemis		Giraffe		1500.00		2013-06-06 10:45:00		2013-08-15	
	261		Diana		Giraffe		120.95		2000-06-06 10:47:00		2015-01-15	
	370		Anders		armadillo		490.00		2010-01-15 08:30:00		2010-04-15	
	371		Anne		armadillo		490.01		2010-01-15 08:30:00		2010-04-15	
	372		Leon		Lion		1850.00		2009-02-25 15:00:00		2010-03-25	
	373		NULL		Lion		1850.00		2009-02-25 15:00:00		2010-03-25	
	374		NULL		Lion		1850.00		2009-02-25 15:00:00		2010-03-25	
	375				Lion		1850.00		2009-02-25 15:00:00		2010-03-25	
	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	

3. Column aliases

By default, the column headers are the attribute names. Column aliases can be used to supply different headers for the output display.

Notice in the demos below how case issues are handled in the various ways of creating column aliases.

Demo 05: Display column headers other than the attribute names. The word AS is optional and may be omitted.

```
Select
  z_id
, z_dob AS BirthDate
, z_cost AS Price
, z_name AS NAME
From zoo_2015;
```

	z_id		birthdate		price		name	
	23		2012-05-15 00:00:00		5000.00		Sam	
	25		2014-12-15 00:00:00		490.00		Abigail	
	56		2010-02-25 00:00:00		5000.00		Leon	
	57		2014-03-25 00:00:00		5000.00		Lenora	
	85		2011-05-15 00:00:00		5000.25		Sally	
	43		2013-06-02 00:00:00		2500.25		Huey	
	44		2013-06-02 00:00:00		2500.25		Dewey	
	45		2013-01-02 00:00:00		2500.25		Louie	
	47		2010-05-15 00:00:00		490.00		NULL	
	52		2013-06-06 00:00:00		3750.00		Dewey	
	257		2014-05-15 00:00:00		5000.00		Arnold	
	258		2013-05-15 00:00:00		5000.00		NULL	
	259		2002-05-15 10:45:00		5000.00		NULL	
	260		2013-06-06 10:45:00		1500.00		Artemis	
	261		2000-06-06 10:47:00		120.95		Diana	
	370		2010-01-15 08:30:00		490.00		Anders	
	371		2010-01-15 08:30:00		490.01		Anne	
	372		2009-02-25 15:00:00		1850.00		Leon	
	373		2009-02-25 15:00:00		1850.00		NULL	
	374		2009-02-25 15:00:00		1850.00		NULL	
	375		2009-02-25 15:00:00		1850.00			
	-----		-----		-----		-----	

Demo 06: The use of double quotes for your aliases allows you to use spaces or special characters in the header.

```
Select
  z_id
, z_dob AS "Date of Birth"
, z_cost AS "Price $"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
;
```

z_id	Date of Birth	Price \$	Name
23	2012-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Sam
25	2014-12-15 00:00:00	490.00	Abigail
56	2010-02-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Leon
57	2014-03-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Lenora
85	2011-05-15 00:00:00	5000.25	Sally
43	2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Huey
44	2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Dewey
45	2013-01-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Louie
47	2010-05-15 00:00:00	490.00	NULL
52	2013-06-06 00:00:00	3750.00	Dewey
257	2014-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Arnold
258	2013-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	NULL
259	2002-05-15 10:45:00	5000.00	NULL
260	2013-06-06 10:45:00	1500.00	Artemis
261	2000-06-06 10:47:00	120.95	Diana
370	2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.00	Anders
371	2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.01	Anne
372	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	Leon
373	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
374	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
375	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	

4. Sorting the output display

If you want to control the order in which the rows are displayed, you use an ORDER BY clause.

You can order by

- a column
- a column alias
- the numeric position of the column in the Select (not always a good idea)
- a calculated column expression (we will discuss this in the next unit)

If you have two columns with the same alias and try to sort by the alias, you will get an error message.

Demo 07: Controlling the order in which the rows are displayed. This is sorted by price with the lower values first; this is an ascending sort which is the default sort order.

```
Select
  z_id
, z_dob AS "BirthDate"
, z_cost AS "Price"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_cost
;
```

z_id	BirthDate	Price	Name
261	2000-06-06 10:47:00	120.95	Diana
25	2014-12-15 00:00:00	490.00	Abigail
370	2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.00	Anders
47	2010-05-15 00:00:00	490.00	NULL
371	2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.01	Anne
260	2013-06-06 10:45:00	1500.00	Artemis
375	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	
372	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	Leon
373	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
374	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
44	2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Dewey
43	2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Huey
45	2013-01-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Louie
52	2013-06-06 00:00:00	3750.00	Dewey
259	2002-05-15 10:45:00	5000.00	NULL
258	2013-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	NULL
257	2014-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Arnold
57	2014-03-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Lenora
56	2010-02-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Leon
23	2012-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Sam
85	2011-05-15 00:00:00	5000.25	Sally

Demo 08: Using DESC to specify a descending sort.

```

Select
  z_id
, z_dob AS "BirthDate"
, z_cost AS "Price"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_cost DESC;

```

z_id	BirthDate	Price	Name
85	2011-05-15 00:00:00	5000.25	Sally
23	2012-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Sam
259	2002-05-15 10:45:00	5000.00	NULL
258	2013-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	NULL
257	2014-05-15 00:00:00	5000.00	Arnold
57	2014-03-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Lenora
56	2010-02-25 00:00:00	5000.00	Leon
52	2013-06-06 00:00:00	3750.00	Dewey
43	2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Huey
44	2013-06-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Dewey
45	2013-01-02 00:00:00	2500.25	Louie
374	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
373	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	NULL
372	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	Leon
375	2009-02-25 15:00:00	1850.00	
260	2013-06-06 10:45:00	1500.00	Artemis
371	2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.01	Anne
370	2010-01-15 08:30:00	490.00	Anders
25	2014-12-15 00:00:00	490.00	Abigail
47	2010-05-15 00:00:00	490.00	NULL

```
| 261 | 2000-06-06 10:47:00 | 120.95 | Diana |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

If two rows have the same value for `z_cost`, then we have not specified an exact order for those rows

Demo 09: This is a two level sort. The first sort key is the `z_type`. If the `z_type` values of two rows match, then the `z_cost` value is used for the second sort level.

```
Select
  z_type As "Type"
, z_cost AS "Price"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_type, z_cost;
+-----+-----+-----+
| Type      | Price    | Name    |
+-----+-----+-----+
| Armadillo  | 490.00   | Abigail |
| armadillo  | 490.00   | Anders  |
| armadillo  | 490.01   | Anne    |
| Giraffe    | 120.95   | Diana   |
| Giraffe    | 1500.00  | Artemis |
| Giraffe    | 3750.00  | Dewey   |
| Giraffe    | 5000.00  | NULL    |
| Giraffe    | 5000.00  | NULL    |
| Giraffe    | 5000.00  | Arnold  |
| Giraffe    | 5000.00  | Sam     |
| Giraffe    | 5000.25  | Sally   |
| Horse     | 490.00   | NULL    |
| Lion      | 1850.00  | NULL    |
| Lion      | 1850.00  | NULL    |
| Lion      | 1850.00  | Leon    |
| Lion      | 1850.00  |         |
| Lion      | 5000.00  | Leon    |
| Lion      | 5000.00  | Lenora  |
| Zebra     | 2500.25  | Huey    |
| Zebra     | 2500.25  | Dewey   |
| Zebra     | 2500.25  | Louie   |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

Demo 10: This is a two level sort. The first sort key is the `z_type` and it is ascending. The second sort key `z_cost` uses a descending sort.

```
Select
  z_type As "Type"
, z_cost AS "Price"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_type, z_cost desc
;
+-----+-----+-----+
| Type      | Price    | Name    |
+-----+-----+-----+
| armadillo  | 490.01   | Anne    |
| Armadillo  | 490.00   | Abigail |
| armadillo  | 490.00   | Anders  |
| Giraffe    | 5000.25  | Sally   |
| Giraffe    | 5000.00  | Sam     |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

Giraffe	5000.00	NULL
Giraffe	5000.00	NULL
Giraffe	5000.00	Arnold
Giraffe	3750.00	Dewey
Giraffe	1500.00	Artemis
Giraffe	120.95	Diana
Horse	490.00	NULL
Lion	5000.00	Lenora
Lion	5000.00	Leon
Lion	1850.00	Leon
Lion	1850.00	NULL
Lion	1850.00	NULL
Lion	1850.00	
Zebra	2500.25	Huey
Zebra	2500.25	Dewey
Zebra	2500.25	Louie

Demo 11: The default is that nulls sort as a low-valued data item. We have animals with no name value. They are sorting at the top of this display.

```

Select
  z_type As "Type"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_name;

```

Type	Name
Lion	NULL
Lion	NULL
Horse	NULL
Giraffe	NULL
Giraffe	NULL
Lion	
Armadillo	Abigail
armadillo	Anders
armadillo	Anne
Giraffe	Arnold
Giraffe	Artemis
Giraffe	Dewey
Zebra	Dewey
Giraffe	Diana
Zebra	Huey
Lion	Lenora
Lion	Leon
Lion	Leon
Zebra	Louie
Giraffe	Sally
Giraffe	Sam

Demo 12: With a Desc z_name sort the nulls are at the end of the result set.

```

Select
  z_type As "Type"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_name DESC;

```

Type	Name
Giraffe	Sam
Giraffe	Sally
Zebra	Louie
Lion	Leon
Lion	Leon
Lion	Lenora
Zebra	Huey
Giraffe	Diana
Zebra	Dewey
Giraffe	Dewey
Giraffe	Artemis
Giraffe	Arnold
armadillo	Anne
armadillo	Anders
Armadillo	Abigail
Lion	
Horse	NULL
Giraffe	NULL
Lion	NULL
Lion	NULL
Giraffe	NULL

Demo 13: You can sort on a date value. If two rows have the same value for the `z_dob` column, we are not specifying which of the rows is first in the display. MySQL can return rows that are tied for `z_dob` in any order.

```
Select
  z_id
, z_dob as "BirthDate"
, z_name as "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY z_dob DESC;
```

z_id	BirthDate	Name
25	2014-12-15 00:00:00	Abigail
257	2014-05-15 00:00:00	Arnold
57	2014-03-25 00:00:00	Lenora
260	2013-06-06 10:45:00	Artemis
52	2013-06-06 00:00:00	Dewey
44	2013-06-02 00:00:00	Dewey
43	2013-06-02 00:00:00	Huey
258	2013-05-15 00:00:00	NULL
45	2013-01-02 00:00:00	Louie
23	2012-05-15 00:00:00	Sam
85	2011-05-15 00:00:00	Sally
47	2010-05-15 00:00:00	NULL
56	2010-02-25 00:00:00	Leon
371	2010-01-15 08:30:00	Anne
370	2010-01-15 08:30:00	Anders
372	2009-02-25 15:00:00	Leon
373	2009-02-25 15:00:00	NULL
374	2009-02-25 15:00:00	NULL
375	2009-02-25 15:00:00	


```

| 259 | 2002-05-15 10:45:00 | NULL |
| 261 | 2000-06-06 10:47:00 | Diana |
+-----+-----+-----+

```

Demo 14: You can sort by a column alias. Since this alias includes spaces, it needs to be quoted and you need to use the back tick.

```

Select
  z_id
, z_dob as "Date of Birth"
, z_name as "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY `Date of Birth`;
+-----+-----+-----+
| z_id | Date of Birth          | Name |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 261 | 2000-06-06 10:47:00 | Diana |
| 259 | 2002-05-15 10:45:00 | NULL |
| 372 | 2009-02-25 15:00:00 | Leon |
| 373 | 2009-02-25 15:00:00 | NULL |
| 374 | 2009-02-25 15:00:00 | NULL |
| 375 | 2009-02-25 15:00:00 |      |
| 371 | 2010-01-15 08:30:00 | Anne |
| 370 | 2010-01-15 08:30:00 | Anders |
| 56 | 2010-02-25 00:00:00 | Leon |
| 47 | 2010-05-15 00:00:00 | NULL |
| 85 | 2011-05-15 00:00:00 | Sally |
| 23 | 2012-05-15 00:00:00 | Sam |
| 45 | 2013-01-02 00:00:00 | Louie |
| 258 | 2013-05-15 00:00:00 | NULL |
| 43 | 2013-06-02 00:00:00 | Huey |
| 44 | 2013-06-02 00:00:00 | Dewey |
| 52 | 2013-06-06 00:00:00 | Dewey |
| 260 | 2013-06-06 10:45:00 | Artemis |
| 57 | 2014-03-25 00:00:00 | Lenora |
| 257 | 2014-05-15 00:00:00 | Arnold |
| 25 | 2014-12-15 00:00:00 | Abigail |
+-----+-----+-----+

```

Demo 15: What happens if you use double quotes on the sort key identifier? Are these rows sorted in date order? To get sorting on a quoted alias you need to use the back ticks.

```

Select
  z_id
, z_dob as "Date of Birth"
, z_name as "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY "Date of Birth";
+-----+-----+-----+
| z_id | Date of Birth          | Name |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 23 | 2012-05-15 00:00:00 | Sam |
| 25 | 2014-12-15 00:00:00 | Abigail |
| 56 | 2010-02-25 00:00:00 | Leon |
| 57 | 2014-03-25 00:00:00 | Lenora |
| 85 | 2011-05-15 00:00:00 | Sally |
| 43 | 2013-06-02 00:00:00 | Huey |
| 44 | 2013-06-02 00:00:00 | Dewey |
| 45 | 2013-01-02 00:00:00 | Louie |
+-----+-----+-----+

```

47	2010-05-15 00:00:00	NULL
52	2013-06-06 00:00:00	Dewey
257	2014-05-15 00:00:00	Arnold
258	2013-05-15 00:00:00	NULL
259	2002-05-15 10:45:00	NULL
260	2013-06-06 10:45:00	Artemis
261	2000-06-06 10:47:00	Diana
370	2010-01-15 08:30:00	Anders
371	2010-01-15 08:30:00	Anne
372	2009-02-25 15:00:00	Leon
373	2009-02-25 15:00:00	NULL
374	2009-02-25 15:00:00	NULL
375	2009-02-25 15:00:00	

Demo 16: MySQL allows you to sort by the column number. This is generally considered poor style since it is easy to rearrange the column in the select and forget to adjust the Order By clause. You want to write SQL that is easier to write correctly and harder to write incorrectly.

This will sort by the `z_type` values then by the `z_name` values.

```
Select
  z_id
, z_type
, z_name
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY 2,3;
```

z_id	z_type	z_name
25	Armadillo	Abigail
370	armadillo	Anders
371	armadillo	Anne
258	Giraffe	NULL
259	Giraffe	NULL
257	Giraffe	Arnold
260	Giraffe	Artemis
52	Giraffe	Dewey
261	Giraffe	Diana
85	Giraffe	Sally
23	Giraffe	Sam
47	Horse	NULL
374	Lion	NULL
373	Lion	NULL
375	Lion	
57	Lion	Lenora
372	Lion	Leon
56	Lion	Leon
44	Zebra	Dewey
43	Zebra	Huey
45	Zebra	Louie

You can sort on calculated columns, either by using the alias or repeating the calculation as the sort key. We discuss calculation later; this is included here for completeness. `Extract (month..)` gives us the numerical value of the month.

Demo 17:

```
Select z_id
, extract( Month from z_dob) AS "Birth Month"
, z_name As "Name"
From zoo_2015
ORDER BY extract( Month from z_dob);
```

z_id	Birth Month	Name
370	1	Anders
45	1	Louie
371	1	Anne
375	2	
372	2	Leon
373	2	NULL
56	2	Leon
374	2	NULL
57	3	Lenora
259	5	NULL
258	5	NULL
257	5	Arnold
85	5	Sally
23	5	Sam
47	5	NULL
261	6	Diana
260	6	Artemis
43	6	Huey
52	6	Dewey
44	6	Dewey
25	12	Abigail