

SQL DEFAULT Constraint

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SQL DEFAULT Constraint

The DEFAULT constraint is used to provide a default value for a column.

The default value will be added to all new records IF no other value is specified.

SQL DEFAULT on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL sets a DEFAULT value for the "City" column when the "Persons" table is created:

My SQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
  ID int NOT NULL,  
  LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
  FirstName varchar(255),  
  Age int.
```

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The DEFAULT constraint can also be used to insert system values, by using functions like GETDATE():

```
CREATE TABLE Orders (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    OrderNumber int NOT NULL,  
    OrderDate date DEFAULT GETDATE()  
);
```

SQL DEFAULT on ALTER TABLE

To create a DEFAULT constraint on the "City" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ALTER City SET DEFAULT 'Sandnes';
```

SQL Server:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ADD CONSTRAINT df_City  
DEFAULT 'Sandnes' FOR City;
```

MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ALTER COLUMN City SET DEFAULT 'Sandnes';
```

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Oracle:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
MODIFY City DEFAULT 'Sandnes';
```

DROP a DEFAULT Constraint

To drop a DEFAULT constraint, use the following SQL:

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ALTER City DROP DEFAULT;
```

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ALTER COLUMN City DROP DEFAULT;
```

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