SQL LIKE Operator

The LIKE operator is used in a WHERE clause to search for a specified pattern in a column.

The LIKE Operator

The LIKE operator is used to search for a specified pattern in a column.

SQL LIKE Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
WHERE column_name LIKE pattern
```

LIKE Operator Example

The "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Now we want to select the persons living in a city that starts with "s" from the table above.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE City LIKE 's%'
```

The "%" sign can be used to define wildcards (missing letters in the pattern) both before and after the pattern.

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Next, we want to select the persons living in a city that ends with an "s" from the "Persons" table.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
```

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```
WHERE City LIKE '%s'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes

Next, we want to select the persons living in a city that contains the pattern "tav" from the "Persons" table.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE City LIKE '%tav%'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

It is also possible to select the persons living in a city that NOT contains the pattern "tav" from the "Persons" table, by using the NOT keyword.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE City NOT LIKE '%tav%'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes

SQL wildcards can be used when searching for data in a database.

SQL Wildcards

SQL wildcards can substitute for one or more characters when searching for data in a database.

SQL wildcards must be used with the SQL LIKE operator.

With SQL, the following wildcards can be used:

Wildcard	Description
%	A substitute for zero or more characters
_	A substitute for exactly one character

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[charlist]	Any single character in charlist
[^charlist] or [!charlist]	Any single character not in charlist

SQL Wildcard Examples

We have the following "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Using the % Wildcard

Now we want to select the persons living in a city that starts with "sa" from the "Persons" table.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE City LIKE 'sa%'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes

Next, we want to select the persons living in a city that contains the pattern "nes" from the "Persons" table.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE City LIKE '%nes%'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes

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Using the _ Wildcard

Now we want to select the persons with a first name that starts with any character, followed by "la" from the "Persons" table.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE FirstName LIKE '_la'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes

Next, we want to select the persons with a last name that starts with "S", followed by any character, followed by "end", followed by any character, followed by "on" from the "Persons" table.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE LastName LIKE 'S_end_on'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes

Using the [charlist] Wildcard

Now we want to select the persons with a last name that starts with "b" or "s" or "p" from the "Persons" table.

The BETWEEN Operator

The BETWEEN operator selects a range of data between two values. The values can be numbers, text, or dates.

SQL BETWEEN Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
WHERE column_name
BETWEEN value1 AND value2
```

BETWEEN Operator Example

The "Persons" table:

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P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Now we want to select the persons with a last name alphabetically between "Hansen" and "Pettersen" from the table above.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT * FROM Persons
WHERE LastName
BETWEEN 'Hansen' AND 'Pettersen'
```

The result-set will look like this:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes

SQL Alias

You can give a table or a column another name by using an alias. This can be a good thing to do if you have very long or complex table names or column names.

An alias name could be anything, but usually it is short.

SQL Alias Syntax for Tables

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name
AS alias_name
```

SQL Alias Syntax for Columns

```
SELECT column_name AS alias_name
FROM table_name
```

Alias Example

Assume we have a table called "Persons" and another table called "Product_Orders". We will give the table aliases of "p" and "po" respectively.

Now we want to list all the orders that "Ola Hansen" is responsible for.

We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT po.OrderID, p.LastName, p.FirstName
FROM Persons AS p,
```

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```
Product_Orders AS po
WHERE p.LastName='Hansen' AND p.FirstName='Ola'
```

The same SELECT statement without aliases:

```
SELECT Product_Orders.OrderID, Persons.LastName, Persons.FirstName
FROM Persons,
Product_Orders
WHERE Persons.LastName='Hansen' AND Persons.FirstName='Ola'
```

As you'll see from the two SELECT statements above; aliases can make queries easier to both write and to read.

SQL JOIN

The JOIN keyword is used in an SQL statement to query data from two or more tables, based on a relationship between certain columns in these tables.

Tables in a database are often related to each other with keys.

A primary key is a column (or a combination of columns) with a unique value for each row. Each primary key value must be unique within the table. The purpose is to bind data together, across tables, without repeating all of the data in every table.

Look at the "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

Note that the "P_Id" column is the primary key in the "Persons" table. This means that **no** two rows can have the same P_Id. The P_Id distinguishes two persons even if they have the same name.

Next, we have the "Orders" table:

O_Id	OrderNo	P_Id
1	77895	3
2	44678	3
3	22456	1
4	24562	1
5	34764	15

Note that the "O_Id" column is the primary key in the "Orders" table and that the "P_Id" column refers to the persons in the "Persons" table without using their names.

Notice that the relationship between the two tables above is the "P_Id" column.

Different SQL JOINs

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Before we continue with examples, we will list the types of JOIN you can use, and the differences between them.

- **JOIN**: Return rows when there is at least one match in both tables
- **LEFT JOIN**: Return all rows from the left table, even if there are no matches in the right table
- **RIGHT JOIN**: Return all rows from the right table, even if there are no matches in the left table
- **FULL JOIN**: Return rows when there is a match in one of the tables

- ## SQL INNER JOIN Keyword
- The INNER JOIN keyword return rows when there is at least one match in both tables.
- SQL INNER JOIN Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name1
INNER JOIN table_name2
ON table_name1.column_name=table_name2.column_name
```

- **PS:** INNER JOIN is the same as JOIN.
- ---
- ## SQL INNER JOIN Example
- The "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

- The "Orders" table:

O_Id	OrderNo	P_Id
1	77895	3
2	44678	3
3	22456	1
4	24562	1
5	34764	15

- Now we want to list all the persons with any orders.
- We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT Persons.LastName, Persons.FirstName, Orders.OrderNo
FROM Persons
INNER JOIN Orders
ON Persons.P_Id=Orders.P_Id
ORDER BY Persons.LastName
```

- The result-set will look like this:

LastName	FirstName	OrderNo
Hansen	Ola	22456
Hansen	Ola	24562

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Pettersen	Kari	77895
Pettersen	Kari	44678

- The INNER JOIN keyword return rows when there is at least one match in both tables. If there are rows in "Persons" that do not have matches in "Orders", those rows will NOT be listed.

SQL LEFT JOIN Keyword

- The LEFT JOIN keyword returns all rows from the left table (table_name1), even if there are no matches in the right table (table_name2).

SQL LEFT JOIN Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name1
LEFT JOIN table_name2
ON table_name1.column_name=table_name2.column_name
```

- **PS:** In some databases LEFT JOIN is called LEFT OUTER JOIN.

SQL LEFT JOIN Example

- The "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

- The "Orders" table:

O_Id	OrderNo	P_Id
1	77895	3
2	44678	3
3	22456	1
4	24562	1
5	34764	15

- Now we want to list all the persons and their orders - if any, from the tables above.
- We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT Persons.LastName, Persons.FirstName, Orders.OrderNo
FROM Persons
LEFT JOIN Orders
ON Persons.P_Id=Orders.P_Id
ORDER BY Persons.LastName
```

- The result-set will look like this:

LastName	FirstName	OrderNo
Hansen	Ola	22456
Hansen	Ola	24562

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Pettersen	Kari	77895
Pettersen	Kari	44678
Svendson	Tove	

- The LEFT JOIN keyword returns all the rows from the left table (Persons), even if there are no matches in the right table (Orders).

SQL RIGHT JOIN Keyword

- The RIGHT JOIN keyword Return all rows from the right table (table_name2), even if there are no matches in the left table (table_name1).

SQL RIGHT JOIN Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name1
RIGHT JOIN table_name2
ON table_name1.column_name=table_name2.column_name
```

- **PS:** In some databases RIGHT JOIN is called RIGHT OUTER JOIN.

SQL RIGHT JOIN Example

- The "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

- The "Orders" table:

O_Id	OrderNo	P_Id
1	77895	3
2	44678	3
3	22456	1
4	24562	1
5	34764	15

- Now we want to list all the orders with containing persons - if any, from the tables above.
- We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT Persons.LastName, Persons.FirstName, Orders.OrderNo
FROM Persons
RIGHT JOIN Orders
ON Persons.P_Id=Orders.P_Id
ORDER BY Persons.LastName
```

- The result-set will look like this:

LastName	FirstName	OrderNo
Hansen	Ola	22456

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Hansen	Ola	24562
Pettersen	Kari	77895
Pettersen	Kari	44678
		34764

- The RIGHT JOIN keyword returns all the rows from the right table (Orders), even if there are no matches in the left table (Persons).

SQL FULL JOIN Keyword

- The FULL JOIN keyword return rows when there is a match in one of the tables.

SQL FULL JOIN Syntax

```
SELECT column_name(s)
FROM table_name1
FULL JOIN table_name2
ON table_name1.column_name=table_name2.column_name
```

SQL FULL JOIN Example

- The "Persons" table:

P_Id	LastName	FirstName	Address	City
1	Hansen	Ola	Timoteivn 10	Sandnes
2	Svendson	Tove	Borgvn 23	Sandnes
3	Pettersen	Kari	Storgt 20	Stavanger

- The "Orders" table:

O_Id	OrderNo	P_Id
1	77895	3
2	44678	3
3	22456	1
4	24562	1
5	34764	15

- Now we want to list all the persons and their orders, and all the orders with their persons.
- We use the following SELECT statement:

```
SELECT Persons.LastName, Persons.FirstName, Orders.OrderNo
FROM Persons
FULL JOIN Orders
ON Persons.P_Id=Orders.P_Id
ORDER BY Persons.LastName
```

- The result-set will look like this:

LastName	FirstName	OrderNo
Hansen	Ola	22456
Hansen	Ola	24562

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Pettersen	Kari	77895
Pettersen	Kari	44678
Svendson	Tove	
		34764

- The FULL JOIN keyword returns all the rows from the left table (Persons), and all the rows from the right table (Orders). If there are rows in "Persons" that do not have matches in "Orders", or if there are rows in "Orders" that do not have matches in "Persons", those rows will be listed as well.

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