

Re: varchar problem

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/alt.php/2005-06/msg00464.html>

- *From:* "Tony" <tony23.no@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 20 Jun 2005 13:05:45 -0700
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Terry wrote:

> Geoff Berrow wrote:

>> Where have you read that? A space is just another character. If you

>> want to strip them, use trim().

>>

> From page 123 of "PHP and MySQL for Dynamic Web Sites" by Larry

> Ullman: -----

> Heading "Char vs. Varchar"

> One primary difference between the two is that anything stored as CHAR

> will always be stored as a string the length of the column (using

> spaces to pad it). Conversely, VARCHAR strings will only be as long as

> the stored string itself.

What that's saying is that CHAR will be padded – so if you have CHAR(5) and put in "abc", it will be stored as "abc ".

If you enter " hello " into a VARCHAR, it will store a SEVEN-character string – the following series of characters (delimited by –) – –h–e–l–l–o– –, because that is the string it was given.

There is nothing in that saying that leading spaces in the string saved in the VARCHAR will be trimmed.

> – a google search yielded similar results.

>

> The filename (row[0]) is varchar and has no extra spaces.

> Some of the entries (row[3]) have leading spaces – most do not.

> Additionally, I did not put any spaces in – why should I have to strip

> them?

How is the data being entered? If it's through a form, a user could easily enter a leading or trailing space.

Also, how are you writing the query?

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- **Follow-Ups:**
 - ◆ **Re: varchar problem**
 - ◇ From: Terry

- **References:**
 - ◆ **varchar problem**
 - ◇ From: Terry
 - ◆ **Re: varchar problem**
 - ◇ From: Geoff Berrow
 - ◆ **Re: varchar problem**
 - ◇ From: Terry

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