

Re: OT: where to get mySQL questions answered?

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2003-12/1788.html>

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In message <C41Ib.860092\$6C4.759329@pd7tw1no>, Zaphod Beeblebrox <foo@spamsnothere.org> writes

>Hi:

>

>After resolving some performance issues with mysql in building initial
>queries for a search engine, I'm experiencing more crippling problems as
>soon as I add an OR to my WHERE x LIKE '%blah%' type queries.

>

>Does anyone know where I should ask this type of question? I can't find any
>usenet groups on my ISP's server that match, and am in a bit of a bind here.

I also can't find a comp.databases.mysql, sadly.

>

>If anyone could be so kind as to point me in the right direction as to where
>to ask, or can answer the following question, it would be greatly
>appreciated.

>

>My php code dynamically builds an sql query. If I type in a single word in
>a text box, it generates something like this:

>

```
>SELECT tus_site.arsi_database_id AS foo, tus_site.arsi_local_site_num,  
>tus_site.arsi_initial_site_num FROM tus_site INNER JOIN site_name_common ON  
>tus_site.arsi_database_id=site_name_common.sinaco_arsi_database_id INNER  
>JOIN site_name_alternate ON  
>tus_site.arsi_database_id=site_name_alternate.sinaalt_arsi_database_id INNER  
>JOIN oral_history ON  
>tus_site.arsi_database_id=oral_history.orhi_arsi_database_id WHERE  
>oral_history.orhi_desc LIKE '%things%' OR tus_site.arsi_location_desc LIKE  
>'%things%'
```

>

>If more than one word is typed in, it adds to the WHERE clause.

>

>With even one word being searched for (basically two criteria in the where
>clause) mysqld locks up completely on Win98. If I simplify the query by
>hand to have only one criterion in the WHERE clause, it works just fine and
>returns expected results. I've used similar queries in a number of other
>database systems, and never had a problem. Any insight? As a side note, to

comp.lang.php: Re: OT: where to get mySQL questions answered?

>get as far as I have so far, I had to manually add an index to the tus_site
>table.
>

Investigate what the correct syntax is in a command-line interface to MySQL, then tweak your code to correct it. I suspect that maybe you should be using the 'IN' clause not the 'LIKE' clause.

See:

http://www.mysql.com/documentation/mysql/bychapter/manual_Reference.html#IDX1291

and

http://www.mysql.com/documentation/mysql/bychapter/manual_Reference.html#IDX1217

BTW this looks like a potentially very inefficient query if the DB is of any size because of the WHERE clause – it might well have to scan the whole table, depending on your indexing.

You can also use simple joins in the WHERE clause instead of the INNER JOIN syntax:

```
WHERE tus_site.arsi_database_id=site_name_common.sinaco_arsi_database_id  
AND
```

```
tus_site.arsi_database_id=site_name_alternate.sinaalt_arsi_database_id
```

```
AND tus_site.arsi_database_id=oral_history.orhi_arsi_database_id
```

BTW I like to keep the table & column names short – 18 chars or under. It reduces typing and if I can't think of a suitable one in that length I don't know that I can with a longer one.

>

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Five Cats

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