

Re: need to do a string replace of "asc" to "desc" or "desc" to "asc" first occurrence only

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Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2006-02/msg00178.html>

- *From:* "comp.lang.php" <phillip.s.powell@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 3 Feb 2006 17:37:58 -0800
-

Ok using your function:

```
[PHP]
if (!function_exists('change_first_order_flag')) {
function change_first_order_flag($orderBy){
$tmp = explode('__SPLIT__HERE__', preg_replace("(asc|desc)`i",
'__SPLIT__HERE__$1', $orderBy));
if (count($tmp) > 1) {
// there are at least 2 elements
// therefore, it was in there at least once
if (substr(strtolower($tmp[1]), 0, 3) == 'des') { // it was in
descending order
$tmp[1] = 'as' . substr($tmp[1], 3);
} else { // it was in ascending order
$tmp[1] = 'des' . substr($tmp[1], 3);
}
}
return join($tmp);
}
}
[/PHP]
```

Produced the following MySQL query syntax error:

```
[quote]
Fatal error: You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual
that corresponds to your MySQL server version for the right syntax to
use near 'des, upper(s.student_firs' at line 1 using query:
[/quote]
```

I'll keep looking at it but apparently it chops the ORDER BY clause incorrectly if the original ORDER BY clause contains ".. asc"

Phil

Justin Koivisto wrote:

comp.lang.php wrote:

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```
[PHP]
$orderBy = 's.app_date desc, s.last_name asc, s.first_name asc, s.mi
asc';
if ($_REQUEST['willDesc']) {
$ascArray = array('asc' => 'desc', 'desc' => 'asc'); // ARRAY OF
ALL ORDERING POSSIBILITIES
$junk = preg_match('/([\s\t]+)a[de]sc(,?.*$)/i', $orderBy,
$matchArray);
$orderBy = substr($orderBy, 0, strpos($orderBy, $matchArray[1])) .
' ' . $ascArray[$matchArray[1]] .
substr($orderBy, strpos($orderBy, $matchArray[1]) +
strlen($matchArray[1]), strlen($orderBy));
}
[/PHP]
```

Basic premise:

I have a SQL "ORDER BY" clause that will be configured like \$orderBy 's value. However, the very first occurrence of "desc" might instead be "asc". If the very first occurrence is "asc", it must become "desc"; likewise, if the very first occurrence is "desc", it must become "asc".

I tried Regular Expressions but the pattern failed every single time to match and replace, so I gave up and tried a string function/RegExp code combination, also to no avail.

I am not sure how to make this work so I need help figuring out how to do this.

Thanx
Phil

```
function change_first_order_flag($orderBy){
$tmp = explode(
'__SPLIT__HERE__',
preg_replace(
`^(asc|desc)`i,
'__SPLIT__HERE__$1',
$orderBy
)
);

if(count($tmp)>1){
// there are at least 2 elements
// therefore, it was in there at least once
if(substr($tmp[1],0,3)=='des'){
// it was in descending order
$tmp[1]='as'.substr($tmp[1],3);
```

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```
}else{  
// it was in ascending order  
$tmp[1]='des'.substr($tmp[1],3);  
}  
}  
  
return join($tmp);  
}
```

—
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