

# Re: mySQL Problem

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2007-11/msg00552.html>

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- *From:* "Steve" <[no.one@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:no.one@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 8 Nov 2007 10:23:55 -0600
- 

"Jerry Stuckle" <[jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:8YCdndIBAbkzsq7anZ2dnUVZ\\_hmtnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:8YCdndIBAbkzsq7anZ2dnUVZ_hmtnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxx)

Steve wrote:

"Jerry Stuckle" <[jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jstucklex@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:192dnW2kIL6akq7anZ2dnUVZ\\_sjinZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:192dnW2kIL6akq7anZ2dnUVZ_sjinZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxx)

Steve wrote:

"The Natural Philosopher" <[a@xxx](mailto:a@xxx)> wrote  
in message  
[news:1194484441.81272.6@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1194484441.81272.6@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Darko wrote:

On Nov 7,  
10:37 pm,  
"Steve"  
<[no....@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:no....@xxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote:

"Darko"  
<[darko.maksimo...@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:darko.maksimo...@xxxxxxxxxxx)>  
wrote  
in  
message

[news:1194463439.305946.20240@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1194463439.305946.20240@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

On  
Nov  
7,  
6:19  
pm,

Re: mySQL Problem

"Steve"

<no...@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote:

well  
!!!  
lo-and-behold!!!  
when  
you  
get  
your  
error  
message  
back  
THIS  
time,  
you  
actually  
get  
a  
line  
number  
OTHER  
THAN  
1  
!!!  
now  
THAT  
would  
be  
helpful!  
imagine  
too,  
that  
you  
echo  
this  
out  
to  
the  
browser,  
copy  
it,  
and  
paste  
it  
directly  
into  
your  
mysql  
query

Re: mySQL Problem

browser...then  
execute  
it.  
even  
before  
then,  
you  
might  
have  
discovered  
(since  
you  
can  
now  
READ  
IT)  
that  
there  
is  
something  
wrong  
in  
the  
data  
you're  
inserting.

Having  
yelled  
that  
out,  
haven't  
you  
ever  
noticed  
that  
mysql  
(and  
so  
do  
other  
sql  
servers)  
specify  
precisely  
where  
the  
problem  
is  
—  
this

Re: mySQL Problem

time  
it  
said:

near  
'from,  
size,  
format,  
cat,  
host  
...

you  
obviously  
haven't  
written  
very  
long  
or  
complex  
queries.  
'near'  
and  
ON  
LINE  
x  
are  
\*worlds\*  
apart,  
now  
aren't  
they.

...  
so  
it  
was  
quite  
clear  
that  
it  
had  
had  
problem  
with  
"from".

apparently  
not  
quite

Re: mySQL Problem

as  
clear  
to  
the  
op.  
:)

Considering  
php  
and  
queries  
code  
readability  
you  
are,  
of  
course,  
right,  
since  
a  
programmer  
will  
much  
more  
easily  
read  
the  
code  
formatted  
in  
the  
way  
you  
have,  
but  
considering  
error  
information,

you  
should  
ammend  
that...'considering  
the  
error  
information  
[IN  
THIS  
CASE]!.

Re: mySQL Problem

either  
way,  
it  
should  
be  
formatted  
as  
a  
rule...unless  
you're  
saying  
you  
can  
predict  
your  
errors,  
in  
which  
case  
you  
wouldn't  
make  
mistakes  
anyway.

sql  
servers  
are  
pretty  
precise  
about  
where  
the  
problem  
occurred,  
code  
being  
indented  
or  
not.

really?  
which  
ones?  
what  
is  
'pretty'  
precise?

the

Re: mySQL Problem

indenting  
is  
multipurpose.  
it  
is  
my  
experience  
that  
the  
top  
4  
sql  
servers  
(ms  
sql,  
oracle,  
mysql,  
teradata)  
are  
generally  
\*obtuse\*  
in  
their  
error  
messages...but  
they  
all  
give  
line  
numbers!

don't  
let  
me  
throw  
you  
on  
that  
one...bad  
data  
is  
NOT  
the  
problem  
here.  
there  
are  
things  
called  
RESERVED

Re: mySQL Problem

WORDS.  
one  
of  
those  
would  
be  
the  
word  
'FROM'...as  
in  
"select  
\*  
FROM".  
if  
you  
had  
correctly  
formatted  
your  
sql  
statement,  
the  
line  
number  
in  
error  
would  
have  
been  
line  
6...a  
much  
better  
clue.

As  
for  
rude  
yelling  
about  
making  
mistakes  
with  
reserved  
words,  
that  
is  
something  
that  
happens  
to

Re: mySQL Problem

Re: mySQL Problem

many  
people,  
even  
experienced,  
from  
time  
to  
time,  
so  
no  
need  
to  
get  
upset  
about  
it.

rude?  
lol.

you  
even  
infer  
rudeness  
about  
the  
mistake  
itself.  
no,  
i  
capitalized  
FROM  
so  
that  
it  
stood  
out.  
if  
that  
hurt  
your  
ears,  
then  
you  
won't  
hear  
me  
laughing  
right  
now.  
my

Re: mySQL Problem

Re: mySQL Problem

intention  
throughout  
the  
thread  
here  
has  
been  
to  
make  
a  
point  
about  
formatting.  
did  
you  
not  
notice  
that  
even  
though  
i  
told  
him  
what  
the  
problem  
was,  
i  
did  
not  
tell  
him  
how  
to  
fix  
it?  
hmmmm...must  
not  
have  
been  
the  
goal  
of  
my  
post.  
seems  
you've  
missed  
that  
point.

Re: mySQL Problem

I  
once  
named  
two  
variables  
in  
C  
like  
"od"  
and  
"do",  
and  
couldn't  
find  
out  
what  
was  
wrong  
with  
it  
until  
I  
realised  
it  
was  
the  
"do"  
keyword.

christ  
almighty!  
i  
suppose  
you  
proliferate  
the  
use  
of  
variables  
like  
\$tmp  
too.  
what  
a  
goof!  
'do'?  
for  
the  
love  
of  
god,

Re: mySQL Problem

almost  
\*every\*  
language  
has  
a  
\*do\*  
loop  
construct.  
so,  
when  
you  
said,  
'even  
experienced'  
above,  
you  
were  
not  
associating  
yourself  
among  
those.  
:)

Finally,  
it  
is  
not  
"reserved"  
word  
in  
any  
sql,  
as  
you  
can  
indeed  
name  
any  
field  
"from",  
as  
long  
as  
you  
make  
the  
parser  
know  
it.

Re: mySQL Problem

For  
an  
example,  
this  
is  
totally  
legal:  
select  
name,  
img,  
descr,  
"from",  
size,  
format  
from  
table;

why  
yes.  
now  
why  
would  
i  
NOT  
explain  
that  
to  
the  
op?  
must  
not  
have  
been  
the  
purpose  
of  
my  
post.  
what's  
more,  
i'd  
be  
encouraging  
BAD  
behavior.  
if  
you  
think  
that's  
just  
my

Re: mySQL Problem

ho,  
why  
don't  
you  
prepose  
that  
question  
in  
a  
db  
forum...bring  
your  
asbestos  
umbrella,  
cuz  
it'll  
rain  
fire  
from  
the  
first  
response  
to  
the  
last.  
dba's  
are  
kinda  
picky  
that  
way.

just  
as  
long  
as  
you  
keep  
the  
double  
quotes  
around  
key  
words.

ahhhh...you  
assume  
too  
much.  
oracle

Re: mySQL Problem

will  
fart  
on  
your  
double  
quotes.  
it  
likes  
either  
single  
tics  
or  
single  
back  
tics  
( ).  
again,  
you  
just  
killed  
a  
great  
chance  
for  
scalability.  
you  
should  
be  
able  
to  
take  
your  
code  
base  
and  
plop  
it  
down  
in  
front  
of  
any  
db  
and  
nothing  
breaks.  
you've  
forced  
yourself  
to  
reprogram

Re: mySQL Problem

when  
switching  
from  
one  
db  
to  
another...which  
is  
the  
shits  
when  
you're  
prototyping  
on  
your  
local  
pc  
using  
mysql  
and  
pushing  
code  
to  
production  
where  
teradata  
is  
the  
db  
being  
used.

wanna  
keep  
going,  
darko?

Yes, please.

It wasn't my  
intention to  
encourage  
Einstein30000  
to use such  
field  
names as  
"from" or  
"select",  
the idea was  
only that  
such errors

## Re: mySQL Problem

happen  
even to  
experienced  
programmers,  
not  
indicating  
whether  
I consider  
myself one  
or not – it's  
pretty  
relative  
thing, as  
you  
know.

As for "od"  
and "do",  
you should  
first know  
that I am a  
Serb, and  
that  
in Serbian  
language  
"od" means  
"from",  
and "do"  
means "to",  
so "od 1 do  
10" means  
"from 1 to  
10". Thus,  
once  
in a simple  
C program I  
needed such  
"from" and  
"to" helper  
variables,  
and I named  
them "od"  
and "do". It  
would have  
been much  
easier to  
avoid if I  
was writing  
in  
English,  
which I

## Re: mySQL Problem

usually do  
when  
making  
non-test  
programs,  
since then  
it would be  
easier to  
"hear" it as  
the English  
do. But,  
being  
switched to  
Serbian in  
my mind, I  
didn't see  
any  
danger  
coming of  
it, and the  
compiler  
was pretty  
vague about  
the error, as  
you know it  
can be, and  
I hardly  
recognized  
it. This is,  
if you'd  
really like  
to know.

As for  
yelling,  
your  
uppercasing  
"FROM"  
explanation  
doesn't  
mention  
the "your  
sql  
statement is  
F.U.C.K.E.D",  
"well !!!  
lo-and-behold!!!",  
"a line  
number  
OTHER  
THAN 1 !!!

Re: mySQL Problem

now THAT  
would be  
helpful! ",  
"since  
you can  
now READ  
IT", "bad  
data is NOT  
the problem  
here. there  
are  
things  
called  
RESERVED  
WORDS. "  
statements,  
which I  
normally  
considered  
yelling. It's  
just not  
polite to  
address  
people like  
that,  
especially  
ones that  
came for  
advice and  
help.

Regards,  
Darko

I'm with darko here. It took  
me about 5 seconds flat to  
realise what  
was wrong.

No need to blow it across 15  
lines.

Unless you are the sort  
person who can't count  
beyond ten without  
taking their socks off.

## Re: mySQL Problem

Mysql barfs where its parser gets confused..that was at the word 'from' Simple.

right. and no one is arguing the simple nature of identifying the problem here. however, it becomes very difficult, not only to read, but to maintain and debug sql statements that are not well formatted...which helps more quickly identify the root cause when it is less than obvious.

i'm not for or against anyone. i'm for a systemic approach that covers all the bases and is a best practice. that's all. it has little to do with the actual problem faced here with reserved words.

Sorry, Steve – I don't agree with your method of "properly formatting" the SQL. It takes way too much space on the page. It is not "correct" by virtually any programmer I know.

too much space? is there a premium on space in your editor, jerry? would you like me to post a query i have for running financial statistics here? i would be more than willing to un-format it so just a single line in order to save 'virtual' space on the 'virtual' page if you'd like. :)

Don't be an asshole again, Steve. My editor isn't limited, but my screen size is, and that wastes a lot of it.

again? when was i being an asshole at all, jerry? i was sarcastically making a point. one of which is that your screen realestate is far less expensive than spending the time it takes to debug non-functioning queries...especially when the query is more complex than what it seems you've written in the course of your experience. you'd probably start by \*formatting\* said query so you could break it down and isolate the problem. after all of that's done, you probably would spend a fraction of time fixing the actual problem. if it is formatted to begin with, you are less likely to introduce problems, more able to expand a query, and very quickly able to fix whatever else may ail it.

## Re: mySQL Problem

if it's that big of a deal, buy an editor with code folding.

again, am i an asshole simply because i have been calmly disagreeing with you?

as far as being 'correct by virtually any programmer i [you] know'...that may be as 'virtual' as the space such a query takes up. as for what is reported, documented, and written about code formatting – inclusive of sql – i think you're outnumbered.

Yep, programmers with any sense don't do it that way. The do it similar to:

```
SELECT a,b,c  
FROM x  
WHERE y='z';
```

Or something similar. And in the almost 25 years I've been doing SQL, I can probably count on two hands the number of experienced programmers who write SQL as you did. And hundreds who do it the way I learned.

you know what? me too. however, those handful are the ones from whom i learned the most. they showed me that consistency, simplicity, and manageability are the keys to not only good code, but a successful career.

also, in addition to being an asshole for disagreeing with you, jerry, i'm now a programmer without any sense...and for simply the same reason?! rof.

i'm chuckling even more now though. don't you notice a difference between the example you gave:

```
select a, b, c  
from x  
where y='z'
```

and the real formatting issue being discussed here...in the genre of:

```
select a, b, c from x where y='z'
```

hmmmm...the former being formatted in some way, the latter, not at all. and i'm senseless?

let's take that example though a bit further and say we're dealing with php code. if a function has parameters a, b, and c. you probably write it and call it thusly:

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## Re: mySQL Problem

```
function foo($a, $b, $c)
{
return true;
}
```

i bet though, that when your parameter names are very long and numerous, you either single line them or column-ize them, like this:

```
function foo(
$a ,
$b ,
$c ,
...
)
{
return true;
}
```

and i bet you do the same when defining arrays, right? ask yourself why. probably because it is more legible and maintainable, right? if the only time you do this is when the function's params are way in the right margin, forcing you to scroll to see them all...essentially screen space, i think i'll but a gut.

for the same reasons you should format sql, you format any other language you write in. i'm sure you've written lots of scripts that are over several hundred lines. why would you approach writing sql any differently than other language? just curious jerry. if you have no other explanation than what you've stated, you've hardly made a case...except a 'special case' which is therefore, a logical fallacy.

I never said you shouldn't format SQL. I said the way you did it is stupid.

wow! i should have gotten 'stupid' from "I don't agree with your method..."? i'm really going to have to read your posts with a lot more inferencing than is normally due any other human being. that is, unless you are saying it is stupid now...as opposed to "i said...".

likewise, rather than bash the way i format sql, wouldn't it have been more helpful to address the point of **FORMATTING** sql – which was my point to begin with. further, providing an example of the way **YOU** format sql would have expanded the topic for the op. hell, i may even side with **YOUR** version of formatting sql v. the way I format mine. but, simply leaving it at 'your way is stupid, you're an asshole and senseless for disagreeing with me' doesn't really help anyone...or, your cause – which i have yet to figure out here yet.

## Re: mySQL Problem

But like anyone with no argument, you keep trying to put words into my mouth.

wow jerry, i've been stating MY case. i've not even addressed any of your points. look at your ONE, SINGLE POST in this thread. what POINT (much less points, plural) did you actually make? you said you disagree with me. that's fine. i simply added more reasons for you/anyone to understand why i and others do things the way we do.

so please, quote me and the words you are proposing that i'm putting in your mouth.

i hope you are not projecting on me here from some other thread where some other person has bashed you. as you know, i have no beef with you. and throughout this thread in rebuttal with you and darko, i've been unusually polite. hence my puzzlement of being called an asshole, senseless, and stupid. how did i get your ire up so?

.