

Handling Null/Empty Values in SQL

The attached User Guide shows how '' and null value is handle in composite datasource.

Different datasources have different interpretations for EMPTY (' ') and NULL value.

Q. What is the differences between '' and NULL value?

1. A '' value is a "field-formatted" value with no significant data in it.
2. A NULL value represents the absence of a value for a record in a field.
3. Null has no bounds; it can be used for string, integer, date, etc. fields in a database. Empty string is just regarding a string; it is a string like 'abcdef' but without length.

Example on '' value:

SQL Statement:

```
CREATE TABLE Employee(empName VARCHAR(20), empTel VARCHAR(20), empAdd  
VARCHAR(20));
```

```
INSERT INTO Employee VALUES('Ken','','ABC');
```

Output:

```
mysql> select * from employee;  
+-----+-----+-----+  
| empName | empTel | empAdd |  
+-----+-----+-----+  
| Ken     |      | ABC    |  
+-----+-----+-----+
```

Example on NULL value:

SQL Statement:

```
CREATE TABLE Employee(empName VARCHAR(20), empTel VARCHAR(20), empAdd  
VARCHAR(20));
```

```
INSERT INTO Employee VALUES('Ken',null,'ABC');
```

Output:

```
mysql> select * from employee;
+-----+-----+-----+
| empName | empTel | empAdd |
+-----+-----+-----+
| Ken     | NULL   | ABC    |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

Note: It is recommended to use Null value to indicate that no data is available.