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SELECT INTO

<https://www.postgresql.org/docs/8.1/static/sql-selectinto.html>

Name

SELECT INTO -- define a new table from the results of a query

Synopsis

```
SELECT [ ALL | DISTINCT [ ON ( expression [, ...] ) ] ]
      * | expression [ AS output_name ] [, ...]
      INTO [ TEMPORARY | TEMP ] [ TABLE ] new_table
      [ FROM from_item [, ...] ]
      [ WHERE condition ]
      [ GROUP BY expression [, ...] ]
      [ HAVING condition [, ...] ]
      [ { UNION | INTERSECT | EXCEPT } [ ALL ] select ]
      [ ORDER BY expression [ ASC | DESC | USING operator ] [, ...] ]
      [ LIMIT { count | ALL } ]
      [ OFFSET start ]
      [ FOR { UPDATE | SHARE } [ OF table_name [, ...] ] [ NOWAIT ] ]
```

Description

SELECT INTO creates a new table and fills it with data computed by a query. The data is not returned to the client, as it is with a normal **SELECT**. The new table's columns have the names and data types associated with the output columns of the **SELECT**.

Parameters

TEMPORARY or TEMP

If specified, the table is created as a temporary table. Refer to [CREATE TABLE](#) for details.

new_table

The name (optionally schema-qualified) of the table to be created.

All other parameters are described in detail under [SELECT](#).

Notes

[CREATE TABLE AS](#) is functionally similar to `SELECT INTO`. `CREATE TABLE AS` is the recommended syntax, since this form of `SELECT INTO` is not available in ECPG or PL/pgSQL, because they interpret the `INTO` clause differently. Furthermore, `CREATE TABLE AS` offers a superset of the functionality provided by `SELECT INTO`.

Prior to PostgreSQL 8.1, the table created by `SELECT INTO` included OIDs by default. In PostgreSQL 8.1, this is not the case — to include OIDs in the new table, the [default_with_oids](#) configuration variable must be enabled. Alternatively, `CREATE TABLE AS` can be used with the `WITH OIDS` clause.

Examples

Create a new table `films_recent` consisting of only recent entries from the table `films`:

```
SELECT * INTO films_recent FROM films WHERE date_prod >= '2002-01-01';
```

Compatibility

The SQL standard uses `SELECT INTO` to represent selecting values into scalar variables of a host program, rather than creating a new table. This indeed is the usage found in ECPG (see [Chapter 30](#)) and PL/pgSQL (see [Chapter 36](#)). The PostgreSQL usage of `SELECT INTO` to represent table creation is historical. It is best to use `CREATE TABLE AS` for this purpose in new code.

See Also

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