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Explaining the MySQL EXPLAIN

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AGENDA

- EXPLAIN syntax options
- How to read QEP
- QEP examples
- MySQL optimizer limitations

Slides at <http://j.mp/EM-Explain>



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PURPOSE

EXPLAIN is used for

- Determine Query Execution Plan (QEP)
- Understand MySQL optimizer
- Identify information needed for tuning
- Not providing tuning recommendations



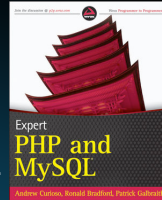
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

RONALD BRADFORD

- 2011 - All time top blog contributor to Planet MySQL
- 2010 - Published Author of Expert PHP & MySQL
- 2010 - Oracle ACE Director (first in MySQL)
- 2009 - MySQL community member of the year
- 22 years of RDBMS experience, 12 years with MySQL
 - MySQL Inc (2006-2008)
 - Oracle Corporation (1996-1999)
- Provide independent consulting - Available NOW



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MYSQL QEP

- Cost Based Optimizer
- No pinning
- Few hints
- Calculated every SQL execution
 - Except Query Cache



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SYNTAX

- **EXPLAIN** SELECT ...
- **EXPLAIN PARTITIONS** SELECT ...
- **EXPLAIN EXTENDED** SELECT ...
- Does not support UPDATE,DELETE

Now supported in MySQL 5.6



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SUPPORT COMMANDS

- SHOW CREATE TABLE
- SHOW INDEXES
- SHOW TABLE STATUS
- INFORMATION_SCHEMA
- SHOW VARIABLES
- SHOW STATUS
- Optimizer Trace - Since 5.6.3



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EXPLAIN USAGE

- Does not execute query

BUT

- May execute portions
- e.g. derived tables

WARNING !!!



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EXPLAIN EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM proposal WHERE post_id=16102176;  
+-----+  
| id | select_type | table | type | possible_keys | key | key_len | ref | rows | Extra |  
+-----+  
| 1 | SIMPLE | proposal | ALL | NULL | NULL | NULL | NULL | 787126 | Using where |  
+-----+
```

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM inventory  
-> WHERE item_id = 16102176\G  
***** 1. row *****  
id: 1  
select_type: SIMPLE  
table: inventory  
type: ref  
possible_keys: item_id  
key: item_id  
key_len: 4  
ref: const  
rows: 1  
Extra:
```

MySQL Client SQL Statement Terminator

;
\G



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ATTRIBUTES

- id
- select_type
- table
- type
- possible_keys
- key
- key_len
- ref
- rows
- Extra

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM inventory  
-> WHERE item_id = 16102176\G  
***** 1. row *****  
id: 1  
select_type: SIMPLE  
table: inventory  
type: ref  
possible_keys: item_id  
key: item_id  
key_len: 4  
ref: const  
rows: 1  
Extra:
```



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ESSENTIAL EXAMPLE

- id
- select_type
- table
- type
- possible_keys
- **key**
- key_len
- ref
- **rows**
- Extra

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM invento
-> WHERE item_id = 16102176\G
***** 1. row ***
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
        table: inventory
         type: ref
possible_keys: item_id
         key: item_id
        key_len: 4
           ref: const
         rows: 1
       Extra:
```



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ESSENTIAL EXAMPLE

- id
- select_type
- table
- type
- possible_keys
- **key**
- key_len
- ref
- **rows**
- Extra

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM invento
-> WHERE item_id = 16102176\G
***** 1. row ***
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
        table: inventory
         type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
         key: NULL
        key_len: NULL
           ref: NULL
         rows: 787338
       Extra: Using where
```



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ESSENTIAL EXAMPLE

- id
- select_type
- table
- type
- possible_keys
- **key**
- key_len
- ref
- **rows**
- Extra

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM invento
-> WHERE item_id = 16102176\G
***** 1. row ***
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
        table: inventory
         type: ref
possible_keys: item_id
         key: item_id
        key_len: 4
           ref: const
         rows: 1
       Extra:
```



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key

- Identify index to be used
- Generally only one per table (*)
- Associated attributes
 - possible_keys
 - key_len

```
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
        table: invento
         type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
         key: NULL
        key_len: NULL
           ref: NULL
         rows: 787338
       Extra: Using w
```



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key EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM inventory
-> WHERE item_id = 16102176\G
***** 1. row *****
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
      table: inventory
      type: ref
possible_keys: item_id
      key: item_id
     key_len: 4
       ref: const
      rows: 1
     Extra:
```

key MERGE INDEX EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT id FROM users
-> WHERE first = 'west' OR last='west'\G
***** 1. row *****
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
      table: users
      type: index_merge
possible_keys: first,last
      key: first,last
     key_len: 22,22
       ref: NULL
      rows: 2
     Extra: Using union(first,last); Using where
```

```
CREATE TABLE `users` (
  `id` int(10) unsigned NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  `first` varchar(20) NOT NULL,
  `last` varchar(20) NOT NULL,
  `username` varchar(20) NOT NULL,
  `last_login` timestamp NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
  PRIMARY KEY (`id`),
  KEY `first` (`first`),
  KEY `last` (`last`),
  KEY `username` (`username`) ...)
```

possible_keys

- Indexes the optimizer considered
- Why was no index used?
- Too many is not good

- Associated attributes
- key

```
      id: 1
    select_type: SIMPLE
      table: inventory
      type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
      key: NULL
     key_len: NULL
       ref: NULL
      rows: 787338
     Extra: Using v
```

possible_keys EXAMPLE

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	SIMPLE	c	const	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	const	1	Using filesort
1	SIMPLE	i	ALL	customer_id	NULL	NULL	NULL	7	Using where

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	SIMPLE	c	const	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	const	1	
1	SIMPLE	i	ref	customer_id	customer_id	4	const	5	Using where

possible_keys EXAMPLE

```
***** 1. row *****
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: FES
type: ref
possible_keys: FK_ASI,EmpID1,Idx_SID,SuleUnitsEmpSuled,Idx_SUnitID
key: SuleUnitsEmpSuled
key_len: 8
ref: FSU.SUnitId,FS.SID
rows: 26
Extra:
```

```
--
PRIMARY KEY (`ID`),
KEY `FK_ASI` (`ASID`),
KEY `EmpID1` (`EmpID`),
KEY `Idx_Composite` (`ID`,`EmpID`,`SUnitID`,`SID`,`Sou
KEY `Idx_SID` (`SID`),
KEY `SuleUnitsEmpSuled` (`SUnitID`,`SID`),
KEY `Idx_SUnitID` (`SUnitID`),
```



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rows

- Estimated number of table rows (*)
- Associated attributes
 - key

```
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: invento
type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
key: NULL
key_len: NULL
ref: NULL
rows: 787338
Extra: Using w
```



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key_len

- Amount of index used (*)
 - Multi column efficiency
- Associated attributes
 - Extra = Using Index

```
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: invento
type: ALL
possible_keys: inv_id
key: inv_id
key_len: 4
ref: NULL
rows: 1
Extra: Using v
```



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key_len CALCULATIONS

- TINYINT - 1 byte
- SMALLINT - 2 bytes
- INT - 4 bytes
- BIGINT - 8 bytes
- DATE - 3 bytes
- TIMESTAMP - 4 bytes
- DATETIME - 8 bytes
- CHAR(n) - n bytes
- VARCHAR(n) - n bytes
- NULL + 1 byte
- VARCHAR + 2 bytes
- Character set x [1-3] bytes



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key_len EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT user_id,balance,created
-> FROM accounts
-> WHERE id = 42\G
***** 1. row *****
      id: 1
  select_type: SIMPLE
        table: accounts
          type: const
possible_keys: PRIMARY
          key: PRIMARY
      key_len: 8
          ref: const
          rows: 1
        Extra:
```

8 Bytes

```
CREATE TABLE `accounts` (
  `id` BIGINT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT
  ...
  PRIMARY KEY (id)
  ...)
```



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key_len with varchar EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT *
-> FROM categories
-> WHERE name LIKE 'NCAA%';
***** 1. row *****
      id: 1
  select_type: SIMPLE
        table: categories
          type: range
possible_keys: name
          key: name
      key_len: 32
          ref: NULL
          rows: 6
        Extra: Using where
```

30 Bytes + 2 Bytes

```
CREATE TABLE categories (
  id int NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  name VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
  ...
  INDEX (name)
  ...)
```



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key_len with utf8 EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT *
-> FROM categories
-> WHERE name LIKE 'NCAA%';
***** 1. row *****
      id: 1
  select_type: SIMPLE
        table: categories
          type: range
possible_keys: name
          key: name
      key_len: 92
          ref: NULL
          rows: 6
        Extra: Using where
```

(30 * 3) Bytes + 2 Bytes

```
CREATE TABLE `categories` (
  `id` int(4) NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT
  `name` VARCHAR(30) NOT NULL,
  ...
  INDEX (name)
  ...
  ) ... DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8
```



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key_len EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT ID, post_title FROM wp_posts WHERE post_type='post' and post_date > '2010-06-01';
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id | select_type | table | type | possible_keys | key | key_len | ref | rows | Extra |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1 | SIMPLE | wp_posts | ref | type_status_date | type_status_date | 62 | const | 1132 | Using where |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

```
CREATE TABLE `wp_posts` (
  ...
  `post_date` datetime NOT NULL DEFAULT '0000-00-00 00:00:00',
  `post_status` varchar(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'publish',
  `post_type` varchar(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'post',
  ...
  PRIMARY KEY (`ID`),
  KEY `type_status_date` (`post_type`, `post_status`, `post_date`, `ID`),
  ) DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8
```

62 + 62 + 8 + 8 Bytes



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key_len EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT ID, post_title FROM wp_posts WHERE post_type='post' and post_date > '2010-06-01';
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	SIMPLE	wp_posts	ref	type_status_date	type_status_date	62	const	1132	Using where

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT ID, post_title FROM wp_posts WHERE post_type='post' AND post_status='publish' AND post_date > '2010-06-01';
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	SIMPLE	wp_posts	range	type_status_date	type_status_date	132	NULL	1	Using where

```
CREATE TABLE `wp_posts` (
  ...
  `post_date` datetime NOT NULL DEFAULT '0000-00-00 00:00:00',
  `post_status` varchar(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'publish',
  `post_type` varchar(20) NOT NULL DEFAULT 'post',
  ...
  PRIMARY KEY (`ID`),
  KEY `type_status_date` (`post_type`,`post_status`,`post_date`,`ID`),
) DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8
```

62 + 62 + 8 + 8 bytes



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select_type

- SIMPLE
- PRIMARY
- SUBQUERY
- DERIVED
- UNION
- DEPENDENT UNION
- UNION RESULT
- UNCACHEABLE QUERY
- UNCACHEABLE UNION

```
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: invento
type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
key: NULL
key_len: NULL
ref: NULL
rows: 787338
Extra: Using w
```



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select_type EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT MAX(id) FROM (SELECT id FROM users WHERE first = 'west') c;
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	PRIMARY	<derived2>	ALL	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	2	
2	DERIVED	users	ref	first	first	22		1	Using where

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT p.* FROM parent p WHERE p.val LIKE '44'
-> UNION
-> SELECT p.* FROM parent p WHERE p.id > 5;
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	PRIMARY	p	range	val	val	12	NULL	1	Using where
2	UNION	p	ALL	PRIMARY	NONE	NONE	NULL	8	Using where
NONE	UNION RESULT	<union1,2>	ALL	NONE	NONE	NONE	NULL	NONE	

2 represents id

1,2 represents id



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select_type EXAMPLE

3 ways to get same query results

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT p.* FROM parent p WHERE p.id NOT IN (SELECT c.parent_id FROM child c);
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	PRIMARY	p	ALL	NONE	NONE	NONE	NULL	7	Using where
2	DEPENDENT SUBQUERY	c	index_subquery	parent_id	parent_id	4		2	Using index

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT p.* FROM parent p LEFT JOIN child c ON p.id = c.parent_id WHERE c.child_id IS NULL;
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	SIMPLE	p	ALL	NONE	NONE	NONE	NULL	7	
1	SIMPLE	c	ref	parent_id	parent_id	4	p.id	2	Using where; Not exists

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT p.* FROM parent p WHERE NOT EXISTS (SELECT parent_id FROM child c WHERE c.parent_id = p.id);
```

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	PRIMARY	p	ALL	NONE	NONE	NONE	NULL	7	Using where
2	DEPENDENT SUBQUERY	c	ref	parent_id	parent_id	4	p.id	2	Using index

Which query is best?



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Extra

Most Common

- Using where
- Using temporary
- Using filesort
- Using index ****GOOD****
- Using join buffer

```
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: invento
type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
key: NULL
key_len: NULL
ref: NULL
rows: 787338
Extra: Using v
```



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Extra - Using temporary

- Internal Table (MEMORY based)
- Can have multiple per query
- Save to disk impact
- TEXT/BLOB
- Size > min(max_heap_table_size, tmp_table_size)

http://forge.mysql.com/wiki/Overview_of_query_execution_and_use_of_temp_tables



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Extra - Using filesort

- ORDER BY
 - Can be CPU intensive
- Is order via DB necessary?
- Can you leverage an index?



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Extra - Using filesort

EXAMPLE

```
EXPLAIN
SELECT i.invoice_date, i.customer_id, i.invoice_total, c.company, c.state
FROM invoice i INNER JOIN customer c USING (customer_id)
WHERE i.customer_id = 42
ORDER BY i.invoice_date;
```

table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
c	const	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	const	1	Using filesort
i	ref	customer_id	customer_id	4	const	5	Using where

```
CREATE TABLE invoice(
  invoice_id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  invoice_date DATE NOT NULL,
  customer_id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
  invoice_total DECIMAL(10,2) NOT NULL,
  PRIMARY KEY(invoice_id),
  KEY (customer_id)
) ENGINE=InnoDB;
```



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Extra - Using filesort

EXAMPLE

```
EXPLAIN
SELECT i.invoice_date, i.customer_id, i.invoice_total, c.company, c.state
FROM invoice i INNER JOIN customer c USING (customer_id)
WHERE i.customer_id = 42
ORDER BY i.invoice_date;
```

table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
c	const	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	const	1	Using filesort
i	ref	customer_id	customer_id	4	const	5	Using where

```
CREATE TABLE invoice(
  invoice_id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  invoice_date DATE NOT NULL,
  customer_id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
  invoice_total DECIMAL(10,2) NOT NULL,
  PRIMARY KEY(invoice_id),
  KEY (customer_id, invoice_date)
) ENGINE=InnoDB;
```

Modify index, remove per query sorting



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Extra - Using index

- Does not mean using index
- Means using ONLY THE INDEX
- Additional Presentation

Improving Performance with Better Indexes



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Extra - Using index

EXAMPLE

Executed 25-30 thousand (30,000) queries per second

id	select_type	table	key	key_len	id	select_type	table	key	key_len	Extra
1	PRIMARY	c	statu	1	1	PRIMARY	c	adver	4	Using where
1	PRIMARY	e	PRIMA	4	1	PRIMARY	e	statu	1	Using where; Using index
1	PRIMARY	g	campa	4	1	PRIMARY	g	campa	4	Using where
10	DEPENDEN	crb	id ca	4	10	DEPENDEN	crb	id ca	66	Using where
9	DEPENDEN	csb	pub_s	98	9	DEPENDEN	csb	pub_s	98	Using where
8	DEPENDEN	arb	id ad	4	8	DEPENDEN	arb	id ad	26	Using where
7	DEPENDEN	asb	pub_s	34	7	DEPENDEN	asb	id ad	40	Using where; Using index
6	DEPENDEN	pm	id adr	4	6	DEPENDEN	pm	id adr	12	Using index
5	DEPENDEN	tgvl	searc	4	5	DEPENDEN	tgvl	searc	10	Using where; Using index
4	DEPENDEN	st	id sc	4	4	DEPENDEN	st	id sc	4	Using where; Using index
4	DEPENDEN	t	PRIMA	4	4	DEPENDEN	t	PRIMA	4	Using where
3	DEPENDEN	k2	keywo	302	3	DEPENDEN	k2	keywo	302	Using where; Using index
3	DEPENDEN	gk2	PRIMA	100	3	DEPENDEN	gk2	PRIMA	100	Using where
2	DEPENDEN	k1	keywo	302	2	DEPENDEN	k1	keywo	302	Using where; Using index
2	DEPENDEN	gk1	PRIMA	100	2	DEPENDEN	gk1	PRIMA	100	Using where

Before new indexes
executed in 175ms

After new indexes
executed in 5ms



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Extra - Using join buffer

EXAMPLE

id	select_type	table	type	possible_keys	key	key_len	ref	rows	Extra
1	SIMPLE	fs	ref	PRIMARY,sts	sts	768	const	21	Using where; Using temporary; U
1	SIMPLE	fsu	ref	PRIMARY,d,sid	sid	4	fs.sid	21	Using where
1	SIMPLE	fes	ref	sasi,eid,sid,sues,suid	sues	8	fes.suid,fs.sid	26	
1	SIMPLE	ma	ALL	masi	NULL	NULL	NULL	200	Using where; Using join buffer
1	SIMPLE	fas	eq_ref	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	ma.faid	1	Using where; Using index
1	SIMPLE	las	eq_ref	PRIMARY,asai	PRIMARY	4	ma.laid	1	
1	SIMPLE	la	eq_ref	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	las.aid	1	
1	SIMPLE	fp	eq_ref	PRIMARY	PRIMARY	4	ses.eid	1	

No index can be satisfied for join condition.
i.e. full table scan



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Extra cont.

Less common

- Impossible WHERE ...
- Distinct
- Not exists
- Select tables optimized away



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Extra EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN SELECT COUNT(*) FROM (SELECT id FROM users WHERE first = 'west') c
***** 1. row *****
      id: 1
    select_type: PRIMARY
      table: NULL
      type: NULL
possible_keys: NULL
      key: NULL
     key_len: NULL
       ref: NULL
        rows: NULL
    Extra: Select tables optimized away
***** 2. row *****
      id: 2
    select_type: DERIVED
      table: users
      type: ref
possible_keys: first
      key: first
     key_len: 22
       ref: 
        rows: 1
```



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Extra cont.

Merge Indexes

- Using sort_union(...)
- Using union(...)
- Using intersect(...)



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SYNTAX

- EXPLAIN SELECT ...
- EXPLAIN PARTITIONS SELECT ...
- EXPLAIN EXTENDED SELECT ...



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EXPLAIN PARTITIONS

EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN PARTITIONS SELECT * from audit_log WHERE yr in
(2011,2012)\G
***** 1. row *****
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: audit_log
partitions: p2,p3
type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
key: NULL
key_len: NULL
ref: NULL
rows: 2
Extra: Using where
```

EXPLAIN EXTENDED

EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN EXTENDED select t1.name from test1 t1 INNER JOIN test2 t2 USING(uid)\G
***** 1. row *****
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: t1
type: ALL
possible_keys: NULL
key: NULL
key_len: NULL
ref: NULL
rows: 1
filtered: 100.00
Extra:
***** 2. row *****
id: 1
select_type: SIMPLE
table: t2
type: eq_ref
possible_keys: PRIMARY
key: PRIMARY
key_len: 98
ref: func
rows: 1
filtered: 100.00
Extra: Using where; Using index
2 rows in set, 1 warning (0.00 sec)
```

EXPLAIN EXTENDED

EXAMPLE

```
mysql> EXPLAIN EXTENDED select t1.name from test1 t1 INNER JOIN
test2 t2 USING(uid) \G

mysql> SHOW WARNINGS\G
***** 1. row *****
Level: Note
Code: 1003
Message: select `book`.`t1`.`name` AS `name` from `book`.`test1`
`t1` join `book`.`test2` `t2` where (convert(`book`.`t1`.`uid` using
utf8) = `book`.`t2`.`uid`)
```

INDEX HINTS

● USE INDEX

Can specify multiple indexes

● IGNORE INDEX

● FORCE INDEX

● FOR

● JOIN | ORDER BY | GROUP BY

SELECT HINTS

- STRAIGHT_JOIN
 - Defines order of tables in QEP



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SELECT HINTS

- SQL_CACHE
- SQL_NO_CACHE
- SQL_CALC_FOUND_ROWS
- SQL_BIG_RESULT
- SQL_SMALL_RESULT
- SQL_BUFFER_RESULT
- HIGH_PRIORITY



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SQL_CALC_FOUND_ROWS EXAMPLE

```
SELECT id,username FROM users WHERE last LIKE 'w%' LIMIT 10;
..
+-----+-----+
10 rows in set (0.00 sec)

SELECT SQL_CALC_FOUND_ROWS id,username FROM users
WHERE last LIKE 'w%' LIMIT 10;
SELECT FOUND_ROWS();
...
10 rows in set (8.81 sec)

mysql> SELECT FOUND_ROWS();
+-----+
| FOUND_ROWS() |
+-----+
|          1671 |
+-----+
1 row in set (0.02 sec)
```



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Conclusion



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CONCLUSION

- Essential tool for SQL analysis
- Not the only information you need
- Other Related Presentations
 - Understanding MySQL Indexes
 - Improving Performance with Better Indexes

Slides at <http://j.mp/EM-Explain>



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$EM = PS^n$

Ronald Bradford

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