
Subject: Re: Enum MySQL datatype
Posted by [AJM](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 08:55:57 GMT
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Your use of the enum datatype is non-standard. You can define a list of values for 'state' as in:

ENUM('working','retired','ill','resigned') which is equivalent to array(0 => 'working', 1 => 'retired', 2 => 'ill', 3 => 'resigned'). The text values are displayed on the screen in a dropdown list (or even a radio group) but it is the numeric values which are actually stored in the database.

If you try to define a list of values for 'action' as in:

ENUM('active','inactive','inactive','inactive') this would be ridiculous as you have repeating values, so does the value 'inactive' equate to the number 1, 2 or 3?

Trying to store both the 'state' and 'action' in a single field is quite wrong IMHO. 'State' is what you should be displaying to the user, but the correlation between 'state' and 'action' should be done separately.
