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# SQL - structured query language

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new standard is known as SAG SQL.

Abbreviation of *structured query language*, and pronounced either *see-kwell* or as separate letters. SQL is a standardized **query language** for requesting information from a **database**. The original version called *SEQUEL* (*structured English query language*) was designed by an **IBM** research center in 1974 and 1975. SQL was first introduced as a commercial **database system** in 1979 by Oracle Corporation.

Historically, SQL has been the favorite query language for database management systems running on **minicomputers** and **mainframes**. Increasingly, however, SQL is being **supported** by **PC** database systems because it supports **distributed databases** (databases that are spread out over several **computer systems**). This enables several **users** on a **local-area network** to **access** the same database simultaneously.

Although there are different dialects of SQL, it is nevertheless the closest thing to a **standard** query language that currently exists. In 1986, **ANSI** approved a rudimentary version of SQL as the official standard, but most versions of SQL since then have included many **extensions** to the ANSI standard. In 1991, ANSI updated the standard. The

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