
Subject: Semicolon in Strings within SQL Multi Query String

Posted by [kong](#) on Sun, 26 Oct 2014 19:10:03 GMT

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When calling function `executeQuery($query)`, it passes `$query` to the function `multiQuery($dbname, $tablename, $query)` in `dml.mysql.class.inc`, which uses the semicolon as the delimiter to split up `$query` into sub-queries for execution by MySQL.

However, this will result in incorrect sub-queries when sub-queries contain strings that themselves contain semicolon characters.

To solve this problem, we need to distinguish between semicolons that are part of strings and semicolons that delimit SQL sub-queries. Hence, would like to propose to make below changes in the source code of `multiQuery` function in `dml.mysql.class.inc`.

Change from

```
if (!is_array($query)) {  
    // split string into an array of individual queries  
    $array = explode(';', $query);  
    $query = '';  
    foreach ($array as $value) {  
        if (!empty($value) AND substr($value, -1, 1) != ';') {  
            $query[] = $value.';'; // replace query terminator  
        } // if  
    } // foreach  
} // if
```

To

```
if (!is_array($query)) {  
    // split string into an array of individual queries  
    $array = explode(';', $query);  
    $query = '';  
    $incomplete_query = '';  
    foreach ($array as $value) {  
        $incomplete_query .= TRIM($value);  
        if (substr_count(str_replace('"\'"', '', $incomplete_query), '"')%2) {  
            // Odd number single quotes means semicolon was part of a string in one SQL
```

sub-query

```
        // Must add back the semicolon and loop to restore the remainder of SQL sub-query  
        $incomplete_query .= ' ';  
    } // if  
    elseif (!empty($incomplete_query)) {  
        $query[] = $incomplete_query.';';  
        $incomplete_query = '';  
    } // elseif  
    } // foreach  
} // if
```

Have not checked whether this problem existed for the other database engines.
