
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.
