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Subject: getCount function throws error when sql statement starts with whitespace  
Posted by [kong](#) on Wed, 07 Sep 2016 16:00:52 GMT

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Use the getCount function as described here

[http:// www.tonymarston.net/php-mysql/functions-and-variables.html#notes.getCount](http://www.tonymarston.net/php-mysql/functions-and-variables.html#notes.getCount)

Plug in a \$where string that starts out with some whitespace or tabs (because of certain formatting in sourcecode for example), followed with a SELECT statement, the result is an obscure error like this:

Quote:Fatal Error: Cannot extract token from: '\*' (# 256)

This is caused by similar code across the different DML database classes, such as dml.mysql.clacc.inc:

```
function getCount ($dbname, $tablename, $where)
// get count of records that satisfy selection criteria in $where.
{
    $this->errors = array();

    // connect to database
    $this->connect($dbname) or trigger_error($this, E_USER_ERROR);

    if (preg_match('/^(select )/ims', $where)) {
        // $where starts with 'SELECT' so use it as a complete query
        $this->query = $where;
    } else {
        // does not start with 'SELECT' so it must be a 'where' clause
        if (empty($where)) {
            $this->query = "SELECT SQL_CALC_FOUND_ROWS * FROM $tablename LIMIT 1";
        } else {
            $where = $this->adjustWhere($where);
            $this->query = "SELECT SQL_CALC_FOUND_ROWS * FROM $tablename WHERE
$where LIMIT 1";
        } // if
    } // if
}
```

The preg\_match right after the connect to database checks for \$where to start with select. When \$where starts out with some whitespace it will assume that it is a where clause rather than select, and result in parsing error down the road.

This is easily fixed by adding for example adding this \$where = trim(preg\_replace("/^\s+/u", "", \$where)); to the function getCount in std.table.class.inc