

6.2

The Subquery in an UPDATE statement

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- Subqueries may be used in an UPDATE statement
- Since it is possible to change many values at once with a subquery, take special care before running an UPDATE statement with a subquery. You might make a copy of the table and data you are trying to change to test with before running your statement on live data.
- It is also possible to run your UPDATE statement inside of a transaction block that allows you to ROLLBACK or undo a statement. We will address the topic of ROLLBACK in a future lesson.

Code Sample:

```
1 UPDATE country
2 SET GNPOld = 0.00
3 WHERE Code IN
4 (SELECT CountryCode FROM countrylanguage WHERE population = 0)
```

Results:

The screenshot shows a database management interface with a toolbar at the top containing icons for file operations, execution, and search. Below the toolbar, a SQL query is entered in a text area:

```
1 • UPDATE country
2   SET GNPOld = 0.00
3   WHERE Code IN
4   (SELECT CountryCode
5    FROM countrylanguage
6    WHERE population = 0)
```

Below the query editor, there is an 'Output' section with a dropdown menu set to 'Action Output'. The output shows a single row of execution results:

#	Time	Action
1	15:14:45	UPDATE country SET GNPOld = 0.00 WHERE Code IN (SELECT CountryCode FROM countrylanguage WHERE population = 0)

UPDATE country

- Update the country table

SET GNPold = 0.00

- Set the value of the GNPold table = 0.00.
- No quotes are required because the GNPold column is a decimal datatype

WHERE Code IN

- Update only the rows where the Code column value is in the results list returned in the subquery show below.

(SELECT CountryCode FROM countrylanguage WHERE population = 0)

- Return a list of values from the CountryCode column from the countrylanguage table that has a population equal to zero.
- If these values match a code in the country table, the row is updated.



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