

# Query

A query is a qualified search for information held in the [data sets](#) stored in the [database](#). The qualification can determine which [tables](#) should be searched, which range of values for specified [columns](#) should be included, etc.

For an overview of the conditions that are available in SQL, please refer to [Comparison Operators](#).

`SUM` (total), `MIN` (minimum), `MAX` (maximum), `AVG` (average), and `COUNT` are [aggregates](#) that can also be used, for example, when the sales department needs to know how many orders are still open or the minimum/maximum or average order value in the past year.

A query on one or more tables produces a set of [rows](#) that is itself a table, subject to all the rules for tables in a relational database. This is known as *Closure*. Firebird/InterBase® fully supports closure.

Regularly performed queries, such as a list of all unpaid invoices, or a list of all delivery notes that have gone out in the last week, can be stored as [procedures](#).

Queries are optimized by Firebird/InterBase®. The optimizer chooses which [indices](#) should be used, in order to perform the query as quickly and simply as possible.

## Subquery

A subquery is a second query within a main query. For example, a list of all products costing above the average price is required. This information can be attained by first ascertaining the average price of all products:

```
select avg(price)
  from product
```

and then asking for a list of all products where the price is higher than this figure:

```
select *
  from product
 where price > 25.40
```

It is quicker and easier is to use a subquery:

```
select *
  from product
 where price > (select avg(price)
                from product)
```

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Last update: **2023/07/19 11:07**

