

# RETURNING clause ... have your cake and eat it too!

---

Rucha Deodhar  
Junior Software Engineer  
MariaDB Corporation



---

**But what is RETURNING clause?**

- Returns the result set or the select expression for the inserted, modified/replaced or deleted data.
- Currently used with 3 statements:
  - DELETE RETURNING (MariaDB Server 10.0)
  - INSERT RETURNING (MariaDB Server 10.5)
  - REPLACE RETURNING (MariaDB Server 10.5)

---

**So what expressions can we use?**

Any SQL expressions which can be calculated can be used in the select expression for RETURNING clause. Example:

- Virtual columns, alias
- Expressions with various operators
- Functions
- Subquery an prepared statement

---

**Why do we need it?**

- Sometimes we want to get the data that is modified.
- Trigger actions in your application based on what gets modified or if data gets modified at all.
- Data is created in addition to the one that is explicitly inserted. Example: Autoincrement and default value
- Saves a round trip
- Running less query and getting the same job done!

**How do we use it?**



```
MariaDB [customer_db]> CREATE TABLE customers(customer_id INT NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY,  
-> first_name VARCHAR(10),  
-> last_name VARCHAR(10),  
-> city VARCHAR(15) DEFAULT 'Toronto',  
-> credit_score INT);  
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.001 sec)
```

```
MariaDB [customer_db]> INSERT INTO customers(first_name, last_name, credit_score)  
-> VALUES ('Matilda','Wormwood',810)  
-> RETURNING customer_id, (SELECT IF(credit_score>800,  
-> 'Grant loan',  
-> 'Dont grant loan')  
-> ) AS Decision;  
+-----+-----+  
| customer_id | Decision |  
+-----+-----+  
| 1 | Grant loan |  
+-----+-----+  
1 row in set (0.001 sec)
```

```
MariaDB [customer_db]> INSERT INTO customers(first_name, last_name, credit_score)
->                        VALUES ('Anthony','Stark',800)
->                        RETURNING first_name,last_name,credit_score;
+-----+-----+-----+
| first_name | last_name | credit_score |
+-----+-----+-----+
| Anthony    | Stark     | 800          |
+-----+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.000 sec)
```

```
MariaDB [customer_db]> REPLACE INTO customers(first_name, last_name, credit_score)
-> VALUES ('Agatha','Trunchbull',490) RETURNING *;
```

customer_id	first_name	last_name	city	credit_score
3	Agatha	Trunchbull	Toronto	490

```
1 row in set (0.000 sec)
```

```
MariaDB [customer_db]>
MariaDB [customer_db]> REPLACE INTO customers(first_name, last_name, credit_score)
-> VALUES ('Peter','Pettigrew',250) RETURNING *;
```

customer_id	first_name	last_name	city	credit_score
4	Peter	Pettigrew	Toronto	250

```
1 row in set (0.001 sec)
```

```

MariaDB [customer_db]> DELETE FROM customers WHERE credit_score<700
-> RETURNING customer_id,
-> (SELECT IF(credit_score<500,
-> 'Poor credit score',
-> 'Not in the excellent range')
-> ) AS Decision;
+-----+-----+
| customer_id | Decision          |
+-----+-----+
|          3 | Poor credit score |
|          4 | Poor credit score |
+-----+-----+
2 rows in set (0.002 sec)

```

# Thank You!