

## SQL Unique Constraint

by Sudheer Sharma - Wednesday, November 26, 2008

<http://dwhnotes.com/data-base/sql-constraints/sql-unique-constraint>

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## SQL UNIQUE Constraint

The UNIQUE constraint uniquely identifies each record in a database table.

The UNIQUE and PRIMARY KEY constraints both provide a guarantee for uniqueness for a column or set of columns.

A PRIMARY KEY constraint automatically has a UNIQUE constraint defined on it.

Note that you can have many UNIQUE constraints per table, but only one PRIMARY KEY constraint per table.

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## SQL UNIQUE Constraint on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL creates a UNIQUE constraint on the “P\_Id” column when the “Persons” table is created:

### MySQL:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons
(
P_Id int NOT NULL,
LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
FirstName varchar(255),
Address varchar(255),
City varchar(255),
UNIQUE (P_Id)
)
```

### SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons
(
P_Id int NOT NULL UNIQUE,
LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
FirstName varchar(255),
Address varchar(255),
City varchar(255)
)
```

To allow naming of a UNIQUE constraint, and for defining a UNIQUE constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

### **MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:**

```
CREATE TABLE Persons
(
P_Id int NOT NULL,
LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,
FirstName varchar(255),
Address varchar(255),
City varchar(255),
CONSTRAINT uc_PersonID UNIQUE (P_Id,LastName)
)
```

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## **SQL UNIQUE Constraint on ALTER TABLE**

To create a UNIQUE constraint on the “P\_Id” column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

### **MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:**

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ADD UNIQUE (P_Id)
```

To allow naming of a UNIQUE constraint, and for defining a UNIQUE constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

### **MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:**

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
ADD CONSTRAINT uc_PersonID UNIQUE (P_Id,LastName)
```

---

## To DROP a UNIQUE Constraint

To drop a UNIQUE constraint, use the following SQL:

### MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP INDEX uc_PersonID
```

### SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP CONSTRAINT uc_PersonID
```

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