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Database Management

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Distinctions

The distinction between a primary key, candidate key and a superkey are they are similarly sounding but have different roles in a database. A primary key is used when there are multiple relations and is a unique identifier for however many records a database may have. There will always be at least one primary key per record. Candidate keys are minimal in the sense that there are multiple of them per record. They are the columns that make up the table in said records. Lastly, superkeys contain a set of attributes that determine all the other attributes in a relation. Unlike candidate keys, they are not minimal.