

CPSC 4620 – Van Scoy

Database Naming Conventions

GENERAL

1. Beware of reserved words...as in DON'T use them as a name!

TABLE NAMES

2. Always lower case
3. Always singular

Examples:

contact (a table of contact details for people/users)

event (a table of events)

order (a table of customer orders)

... etc ...

Why? The plural version of a table isn't always a case of adding an 's' (so we remove this ambiguity by keeping it singular), but more importantly this approach 'agrees' with our convention on column names ...

COLUMN (FIELD) NAMES

1. EVERY column name to be preceded by the name of the table (including foreign keys)
2. Capitalize first letter of each word (CaMeL case)
3. Acronyms remain capitalized

Example:

For the table name contact, the column names might be:

ContactID (primary key)

ContactFirstName

ContactLastName

ContactCatID (this is a foreign key from the 'cat' (category) table)

Why? In answer to convention 1: we do this to ensure, 100%, that every single column name on the entire database (assuming no tables from external sources have been introduced) are unique. You *never* have to worry about explicitly referring to 'duplicate' column names in the same db.