

dropping columns

Last Updated: 2022-10-20

To add columns to existing tables, or to drop columns from existing tables, use the ALTER TABLE statement with the ADD COLUMN or DROP COLUMN clause. The table must not be a typed table.

About this task

For all existing rows in the table, the value of the new column is set to its default value. The new column is the last column of the table; that is, if initially there are n columns, the added column is column $n+1$. Adding the new column must not make the total byte count of all columns exceed the row size limit.

Procedure

- To add a column, issue the ALTER TABLE statement with the ADD COLUMN clause.
For example:

```
ALTER TABLE SALES  
  ADD COLUMN SOLD_QTY  
  SMALLINT NOT NULL DEFAULT 0
```



- To delete or drop a column, issue the ALTER TABLE statement with the DROP COLUMN clause.
For example:

```
ALTER TABLE SALES  
  DROP COLUMN SOLD_QTY
```




1. Connect to your ObjectServer (for example, OWL) using the SQL interactive interface, as shown in the following table. Your user name is assumed by default, but you are required to enter your password.


Table 1. Starting the SQL interac interface

| Option | Description |
|---------|--|
| UNIX | Enter: \$NCHOME/omnibus/bin, -server OWL |
| Windows | Enter: %NCHOME%\omnibus\bin S OWL |

2. Back up your ObjectServer to a temporary location (for example, /tmp/mybackup) using the ALTER SYSTEM BACKUP command. This precautionary measure ensures that you can restore your system if required.

```
1> alter system backup '/tmp/myb:   
2> go
```

3. List details of your triggers, as stored in the catalog.triggers table:

```
1> describe catalog.triggers;   
2> go
```

The type of key, name, data type, and length of each column in the table are output to the screen.

4. Retrieve the names of all triggers that reference the Country column in the body or the evaluate clause of the trigger:

```
1> select TriggerName from catalog
```

5. Make a note of all listed triggers and remove the Country references by editing each trigger. You can do this from the Trigger Details window (**Action** tab) in the Netcool/OMNIBus Administrator.

6. Repeat steps 3 to 5 to identify any other objects that reference the Country column, and to remove all instances of the reference. The following table lists the database tables that you need to search, the relevant SELECT statements, and the Netcool/OMNIBus Administrator windows that you can use to edit the object.

Table 2. System catalog tables to Netcool/OMNIBus Administrator

| Object type | Table name |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Procedures | catalog.sql_procedures |

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Restriction Filters | catalog.restrictions |
|---------------------|----------------------|

7. Search your probe rules files and remove any references to the column.
8. Search your gateway mapping files `$NCHOME/omnibus/gates/objserv_type` where *type* represents uni or bi. Remove any references to the column.
9. After all the references have been removed, drop the Country column using the `ALTER TABLE ... DROP COLUMN` syntax.