

Hands-on Lab: Keys and Constraints in MySQL using phpMyAdmin



Estimated time needed: 20 minutes

Introduction

In this lab, you will learn how to add keys to create relationships between the tables and use constraints to enforce rules on the data entry in the MySQL database service using the phpMyAdmin graphical user interface (GUI) tool.

Software used in this lab

In this lab, you will use [MySQL](#). MySQL is a relational database management system (RDBMS) designed to store, manipulate, and retrieve data efficiently.



To complete this lab, you will utilize the MySQL relational database service available as part of IBM Skills Network Labs' (SN Labs) Cloud IDE. SN Labs is a virtual lab environment used in this course.

Database used in this lab

For this lab, you will use the eBooks database.

The following entity relationship diagram (ERD) shows the current status of the schema of the eBooks database used in this lab:

Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to use the MySQL phpMyAdmin to:

- Create primary and foreign keys
- Add constraints to data columns

Exercise

In this exercise, you will learn how to add keys to create relationships between the tables. You will use constraints to enforce rules on the data entry in the MySQL database service using the phpMyAdmin graphical user interface (GUI) tool.

1. Click the Skills Network extension button on the left side of the window.

2. Open the DATABASES menu and click MySQL.
3. Click Create. MySQL may take a few moments to start.

The screenshot shows the Skills Network Toolbox interface. On the left, the 'DATABASES' menu is expanded, and 'MySQL INACTIVE' is highlighted with a red box and a circled '2'. Below it, 'PostgreSQL INACTIVE' is also highlighted with a circled '2'. At the bottom of the menu, the 'Launch Application' button is highlighted with a red box and a circled '1'. On the right, the 'MySQL' panel shows the 'Create' button highlighted with a red box and a circled '3'. The panel also displays the MySQL version (8.0.22) and the phpMyAdmin version (5.0.4).

4. Open the phpMyAdmin tool in a new tab in your browser.

The screenshot shows the MySQL panel in the Skills Network Toolbox. The 'MySQL' status is now 'ACTIVE'. The 'Create' button is disabled, and the 'Delete' button is active. Below the buttons, there is a section titled 'You can manage MySQL via:' with a 'phpMyAdmin' button and a link icon. A red arrow points to the link icon. Below this, there is a section titled 'Or to interact with the database in the terminal, select one of these options:' with buttons for 'MySQL CLI' and 'New Terminal'.

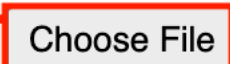
5. You will see the phpMyAdmin GUI tool.
6. Download the **eBooks** MySQL dump file (containing the eBooks database table, definitions, and data) to your local computer storage.
 - [eBooks_mysql_dump.sql](#)
7. Go to the **Import** tab. Click **Choose File** and load the **eBooks_mysql_dump.sql** file. Next, uncheck **Enable foreign key checks** and select SQL as the **Format**. Then click **Go**.

Importing into the current server

File to import:

File may be compressed (gzip, bzip2, zip) or uncompressed.

A compressed file's name must end in **[format].[compression]**. Example: **.sql.zip**

Browse your computer: **2**  eBooks_mysql_dump.sql (Max: 2,048KiB)

You may also drag and drop a file on any page.

Character set of the file:

Partial import:

☒ Allow the interruption of an import in case the script detects it is close to the PHP timeout

Skip this number of queries (for SQL) starting from the first one:

Other options:

☐ Enable foreign key checks **3**

Format:

4

Format-specific options:

☒ Do not use `AUTO_INCREMENT` for zero values

8. The system will notify you that the import has successfully finished. Select the database **eBooks** to expand the image (if necessary, click the + icon beside **eBooks**). You will see the list of tables from the eBooks database.

9. **Primary Keys:** Creating a primary key on a table automatically creates an index on the key. You will create a primary key for the **author** table to identify every row in the table uniquely. You will set the **author_id** column of the **author** table as a primary key.

- In the tree view, click the **authors** table.
- Switch to the **Structure** tab and make sure you are inside the **Table structure** subtab.
- Check the **author_id** column.
- Click the **Primary** option.

phpMyAdmin

Server: mysql:3306 » Database: eBoo

Browse **Structure** SQL

Table structure **Relation view**

#	Name	Type	Collatio
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1	author_id	int	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	first_name	varchar(100)	utf8mb4
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	middle_name	varchar(50)	utf8mb4
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	last_name	varchar(100)	utf8mb4

Check all With selected:

Print Move columns Normalize

Add 1 column(s) after last_nam

Indexes ?

No index defined!

10. **Auto-increment:** You will set the auto-increment feature for the primary key of the **author** table.

- In the tree view, click the **authors** table. Switch to the **Structure** tab and make sure you are inside the **Table structure** subtab.
- Check the **author_id** column.
- Click the **Change** option.
- Check **A_I** option (A_I = Auto_Increment).
- Click **Save**.

← Server: mysql:3306 » Database: eBooks » Table: authors

Browse
 Structure
 SQL
 Search
 Insert
 Export

Name	Type	Length/Values	Default
author_id	INT		None

Structure

11. **Null constraints:** You will restrict the **first_name** column of the **authors** table from having a NULL value.

- In the tree view, click the **authors** table. Switch to the **Structure** tab and make sure you are inside the **Table structure** subtab.
- Check the **first_name** column.
- Click the **Change** option.
- Uncheck the **Null** option.
- Click **Save**.

12. **Foreign keys:** You will create a foreign key for the **book_authors** table by setting its **author_id** column as a foreign key to establish a relationship between the **book_authors** and **authors** tables.

- In the tree view, click the **book_authors** table. Switch to the **Structure** tab and make sure you are inside the **Relation view** subtab.
- If necessary, click **Add constraint** to create a new foreign key constraint placeholder.
- Fill in the placeholders as shown in the following image.
- Click **Save**.

CASCADE means that when rows are deleted or updated in the parent table, the corresponding rows in the child table will also be deleted or updated.

RESTRICT means that rows cannot be deleted or updated in the parent table if there are corresponding rows in the child table.

13. After creating/adding all the above necessary primary keys, foreign keys, and constraints, the schema of the complete eBooks database will look like the following ERD diagram:

Note: You don't need to generate any ERD diagram like below for this lab. By comparing the earlier eBooks schema ERD (shown in the section "Database Used in this Lab") and this complete eBooks schema ERD, just try to understand how all the operations you did above made the eBooks database complete.

Congratulations! You have completed this lab, and you are ready for the next topic.

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