Difference Between Primary Key and (Unique + Not Null)

In databases, both Primary Key and Unique + Not Null are used to ensure data integrity, but they serve different purposes.

Primary Key

- Uniquely identifies each record (row) in a table.
- Does not allow duplicate values.
- Does not allow NULL values.
- Only one Primary Key is allowed per table.
- Commonly used to create relationships between tables (Foreign Key).

Unique + Not Null

- UNIQUE prevents duplicate values.
- NOT NULL prevents NULL values.
- A table can have multiple UNIQUE constraints.
- Not used by default to define table relationships.

Comparison

Aspect	Primary Key	Unique + Not Null
Duplicates	Not allowed	Not allowed
NULL values	Not allowed	Not allowed
Number per table	Only one	Multiple allowed
Used in relationships	Yes	No (by default)

Conclusion: A Primary Key uniquely identifies each record in a table, while Unique + Not Null is mainly used to prevent duplicate and null values.