Quick Links

Warning: This documentation is for a pre-release version of pgAdmin 4

Contents

Column Dialog ¶

Use the *Column* dialog to add a column to an existing table or modify a column definition.

The *Column* dialog organizes the development of a column through the following dialog tabs: *General*, *Definition*, and *Security*. The *SQL* tab displays the SQL code generated by dialog selections.

Use the fields in the *General* tab to identify the column:

- Use the *Name* field to add a descriptive name for the column. The name will be displayed in the *pgAdmin* tree control. This field is required.
- Store notes about the column in the *Comment* field.

Click the *Definition* tab to continue.

Use the fields in the *Definition* tab to add parameters for the column. (Fields are disabled if inapplicable.)

- Use the drop-down listbox next to *Data Type* to select a data type for the column. For more information on the data types that are

supported by PostgreSQL, refer to Chapter 8 of the Postgres core documentation. This field is required.

- Use the *Length/Precision* and *Scale* fields to specify the maximum number of significant digits in a numeric value, or the maximum number of characters in a text value.
- Use the drop-down listbox next to *Collation* to apply a collation setting to the column.

Click the *Constraints* tab to continue.

Use the fields in the *Constraints* tab to specify constraints for the column. (Fields are disabled if inapplicable.)

- Use the *Default Value* field to specify a default data value.
- Move the *Not Null* switch to the *Yes* position to specify the column may not contain null values. The default is *No*.
- Use the *Type* field to specify the column type (NONE/IDENTITY/GENERATED). The default is *NONE*.

Click the *IDENTITY* type to create Identity column.

Use the following fields to create *IDENTITY* column. Identity columns are applicable for PG/EPAS version 10 and above.

- Use the *Identity* field to specify ALWAYS or BY DEFAULT. This clause is used to determine how the sequence value is given precedence over a user-specified value in an INSERT statement.
- Use the *Increment* field to specify which value is added to the current sequence value to create a new value.
- Provide a value in the *Start* field to specify the beginning value of the sequence. The default starting value is MINVALUE for ascending sequences and MAXVALUE for descending ones.
- Provide a value in the *Minimum* field to specify the minimum value a sequence can generate. If this clause is not supplied or NO MINVALUE is specified, then defaults will be used. The defaults are 1 and -263-1 for ascending and descending sequences, respectively.
- Provide a value in the *Maximum* field to specify the maximum value for the sequence. If this clause is not supplied or NO MAXVALUE is specified, then default values will be used. The defaults are 263-1 and -1 for ascending and descending sequences, respectively.
- Provide a value in the *Cache* field to specify how many sequence numbers are to be preallocated and stored in memory for faster access. The minimum value is 1 (only one value can be generated at a time, i.e., no cache), and this is also the default.
- Move the *Cycled* switch to the *Yes* position to allow the sequence to wrap around when the MAXVALUE or the MINVALUE has been reached by an ascending or descending sequence respectively. If the limit is reached, the next number generated will be the MINVALUE or MAXVALUE, respectively. The default is *No*.

Click the *GENERATED* type to create Generated column.

Use the following fields to create *GENERATED* column. Generated columns are applicable for PG/EPAS version 12 and above.

- Use the *Expression* field to specify the generation expression. It can refer to other columns in the table, but not other generated columns. Any functions and operators used must be immutable. References to other tables are not allowed.

Click the *Variables* tab to continue.

Use the *Variables* tab to to specify the number of distinct values that may be present in the column; this value overrides estimates made by the ANALYZE command. Click the *Add* icon (+) to add a *Name*/*Value* pair:

- Select the name of the variable from the drop-down listbox in the *Name* field.

    - Select *n_distinct* to specify the number of distinct values for the column.
    - Select *n_distinct_inherited* to specify the number of distinct values for the table and its children.

- Specify the number of distinct values in the *Value* field. For more information, see the documentation for [ALTER TABLE](#).

Click the *Add* icon (+) to specify each additional *Name*/*Value* pair; to discard a variable, click the trash icon to the left of the row and confirm deletion in the *Delete Row* popup.

Click the *Security* tab to continue.

Use the *Security* tab to assign attributes and define security labels. Click the *Add* icon (+) to add each security label selection:

- Specify a security label provider in the *Provider* field. The named provider must be loaded and must consent to the proposed labeling operation.
- Specify a a security label in the *Security Label* field. The meaning of a given label is at the discretion of the label provider. PostgreSQL places no restrictions on whether or how a label provider must interpret security labels; it merely provides a mechanism for storing them.
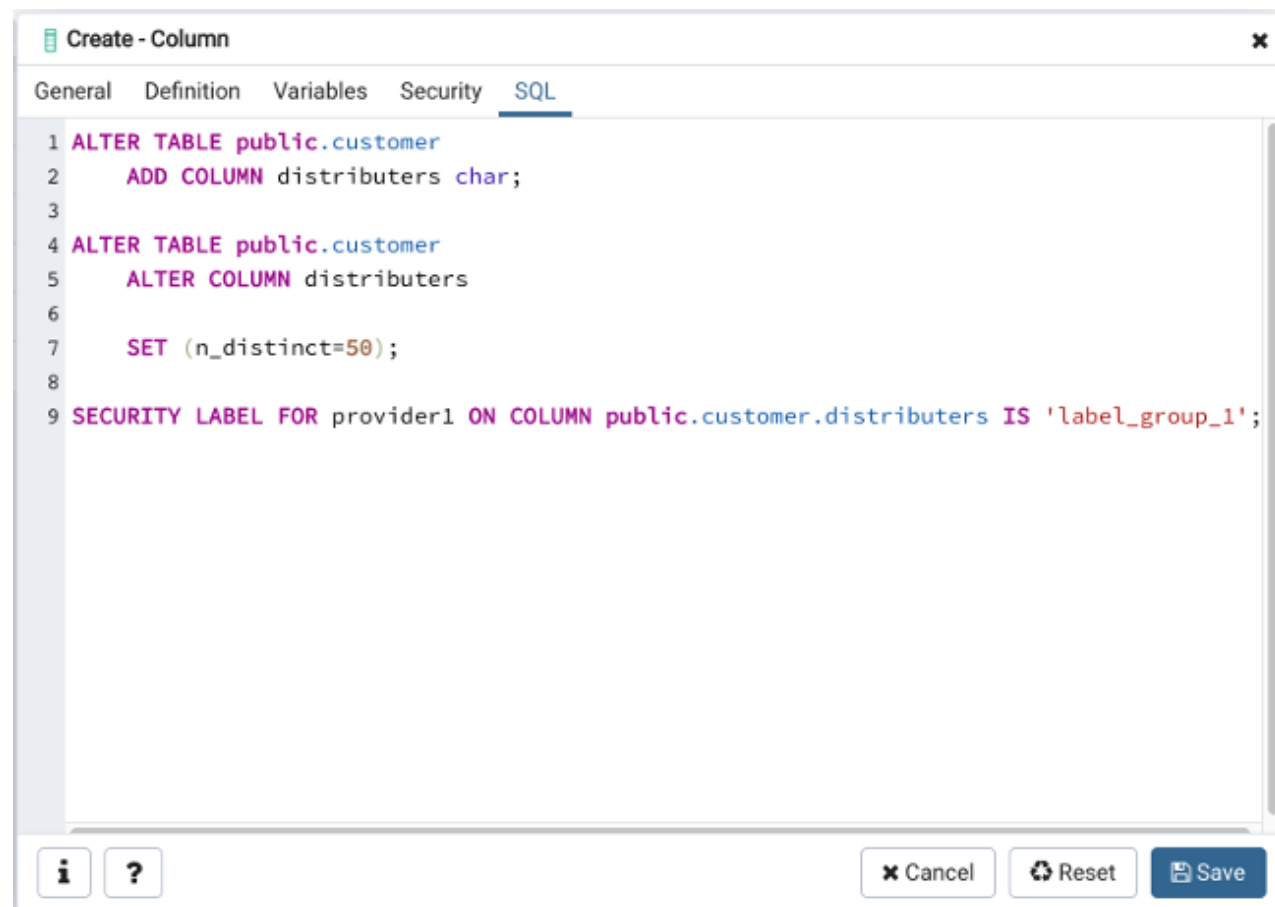
Click the *Add* icon (+) to assign additional security labels; to discard a security label, click the trash icon to the left of the row and confirm deletion in the *Delete Row* popup.

Click the *SQL* tab to continue.

Your entries in the *Column* dialog generate a SQL command (see an example below). Use the *SQL* tab for review; revisit or switch tabs to make any changes to the SQL command.

Example ¶

The following is an example of the sql command generated by user selections in the *Column* dialog:

The example shown demonstrates creating a column named *territory* in the table named *distributors*.

- Click the *Info* button (i) to access online help.
- Click the *Save* button to save work.
- Click the *Cancel* button to exit without saving work.
- Click the *Reset* button to restore configuration parameters.