>> LinkedIn article about Navigation Property



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Understanding Navigation Properties in Entity Framework Core:

When designing a database model **using Entity Framework Core** (**EF Core**), one of the key decisions you'll face is how to configure relationships between entity classes. A critical aspect of this process is determining which navigation properties to include.

What Are Navigation Properties?

Navigation properties are properties in an entity class that reference related entities. **They allow EF Core** to establish relationships between tables in a database.

There are two types of navigation properties:

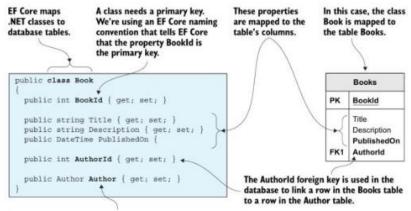
1. **Reference Navigation Property**: Points to a single related entity (a Book property in the Author class).

Example: public Book Book { get; set; }

2. Collection Navigation Property:

Points to a collection of related entities (an ICollection < Author > property in the Book class).

Example: public ICollection<Author> Authors { get; set; }



The Author property is an EF Core navigational property. EF Core uses this on a save to see whether the Book has an Author class attached. If so, it sets the foreign key, Authorld.