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SQL UNIQUE Constraint

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SQL UNIQUE Constraint

The UNIQUE constraint ensures that all values in a column are different.

Both the UNIQUE and PRIMARY KEY constraints provide a guarantee for uniqueness for a column or set of columns.

A PRIMARY KEY constraint automatically has a UNIQUE constraint.

However, you can have many UNIQUE constraints per table, but only one PRIMARY KEY constraint per table.

SQL UNIQUE Constraint on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL creates a UNIQUE constraint on the "ID" column when the "Persons" table is created:

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL UNIQUE,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int  
);
```

MySQL:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int,  
    UNIQUE (ID)  
);
```

To name a UNIQUE constraint, and to define a UNIQUE constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int,  
    CONSTRAINT UC_Person UNIQUE (ID,LastName)  
);
```

SQL UNIQUE Constraint on ALTER TABLE

To create a UNIQUE constraint on the "ID" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ADD UNIQUE (ID);
```

To name a UNIQUE constraint, and to define a UNIQUE constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ADD CONSTRAINT UC_Person UNIQUE (ID, LastName);
```

DROP a UNIQUE Constraint

To drop a UNIQUE constraint, use the following SQL:

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP INDEX UC_Person;
```

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP CONSTRAINT UC_Person;
```

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