

CREATE UNIQUE INDEX fails

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Issue

Create Unique index fails with duplicate key error. For example:

The CREATE UNIQUE INDEX statement terminated because a duplicate key was found for the object name 'dbo.tb1' and the index name 'idx01'. The duplicate key value is (2, aaaaaaaa).

On this case the index that is being created has more than one column.

```
create unique index idx01 on tb1 (col1,col2)
```

Investigation/Analysis

The error message already provides a hint regarding the duplicate value, but note that the index creation stops at the first occurrence. In other words, it will not return all the duplicate values that exist on the table.

On the previous example we were creating the index using two columns. To find all the combinations where the COUNT is bigger than 1 we can run:

```
select col1, col2, count(*) as count_values
from tb1
group by col1, col2
having count(*)>1
```

This will prove that for this example we have more than one duplicate values combined:

col1	col2	count_values
2	aaaaaaa	4
5	aaaaaaa	7

So, for this example:

- for 2, aaaaaaaa we have 4 records

- for 5, aaaaaaaa we have 7 records

Mitigation

The main goal on these cases is for us as Support is to help the customer to have better insights in terms of his data. Since his schema design related the decision must be done by the customer, depending on his business needs.

Different solutions can be (always a customer decision):

- create a non unique index
- cleanup records that have a count bigger than 1
- create a unique index, adding one more column (must make sense from customer business needs)

How good have you found this content?

