LAB - Rename Table

In this lab, you will learn how to rename a table using Transact SQL and SQL Server Management Studio.

SQL Server does not have any statement that directly renames a table. However, it does provide you with a stored procedure named `sp_rename` that allows you to change the name of a table.

The following shows the syntax of using the `sp_rename` stored procedure for changing the name of a table:

```
EXEC sp_rename 'old_table_name', 'new_table_name'
```

Note that both the old and new name of the table whose name is changed must be enclosed in single quotations.

Let's see the following example.

First, create a new table named `sales.contr` for storing sales contract's data:

```
CREATE TABLE sales.contr (
    contract_no INT IDENTITY PRIMARY KEY,
    start_date DATE NOT NULL,
    expired_date DATE,
    customer_id INT,
    amount DECIMAL (10, 2)
);
```

Second, use the `sp_rename` stored procedure to rename the `sales.contr` table to `contracts` in the `sales` schema:

```
EXEC sp_rename 'sales.contr', 'contracts';
```

SQL Server returns the following message:

```
Caution: Changing any part of an object name could break scripts and stored procedures.
```
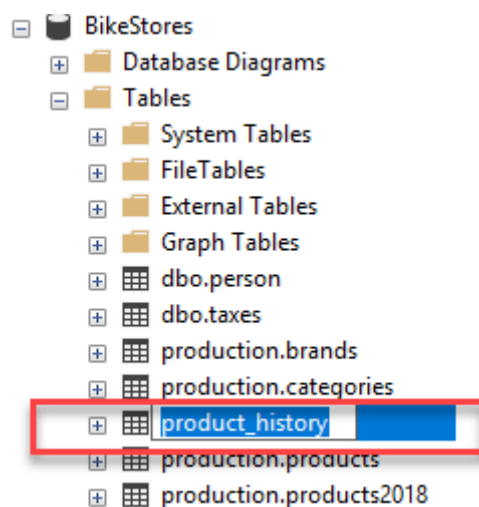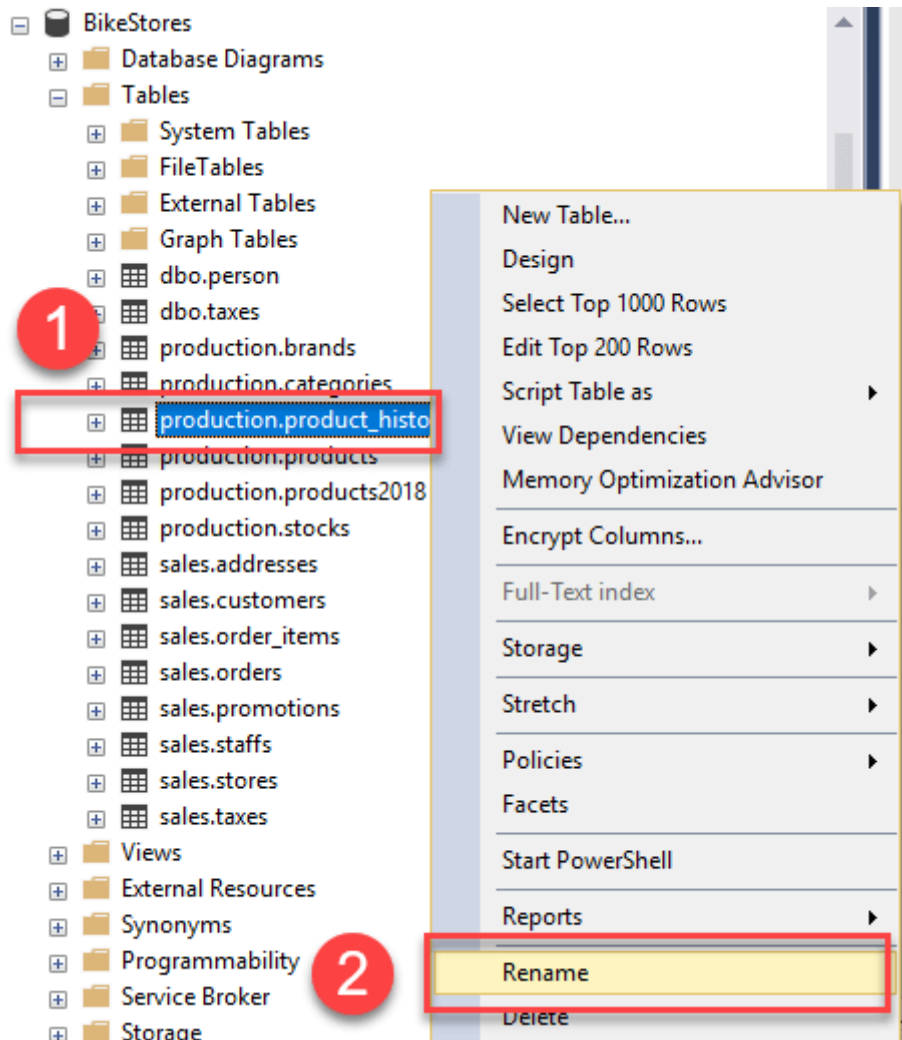
However, it renamed the table successfully.
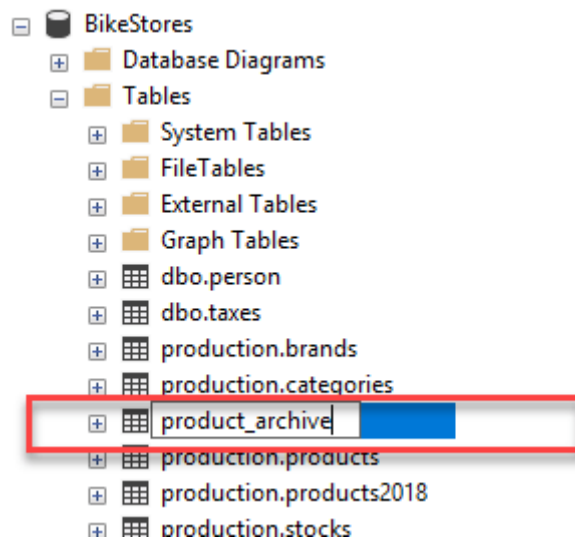
SQL Server rename table using SSMS

Another way to rename a table is to use the function provided by SQL Server Management Studio.

The following example illustrates how to rename the `product_history` table to `product_archive`.

First, right-click on the table name and choose Rename menu item:

Second, type the new name of the table e.g., `product_archive` and press Enter:

In this lab, you have learned how to rename a table in a database using the `sp_rename` stored procedure and SQL Server Management Studio.