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How to specify relationship type in CSV?

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I have a CSV file with data like:

```
1 ID,Name,Role,Project
  1,James,Owner,TST
  2,Ed,Assistant,TST
  3,Jack,Manager,TST
```

and want to create people whose relationships to the project are therein specified. I attempted to do it like this:

```
load csv from 'file:../x.csv' as line
match (p:Project {code: line[3]})
create (n:Individual {name: line[1]})-[r:line[2]]->(p);
```

but it barfs with:

Invalid input '[': expected an identifier character, whitespace, '|', a length specification, a property map or ']' (line 1, column 159 (offset: 158))

as it can't seem to dereference `line` in the relationship creation. if I hard-code that it works:

```
load csv from 'file:../x.csv' as line
match (p:Project {code: line[3]})
create (n:Individual {name: line[1]})-[r:WORKSFOR]->(p);
```

so how do I make the reference?

[csv](#) [neo4j](#) [cypher](#)

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asked Mar 28 at 0:56



ekkis

2,240 ● 4 ● 25 ● 50

2 Answers

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Right now you can't as this is structural information.

2 Either use [neo4j-import](#) tool for that.

Or specify it manually as you did, or use this workaround:



```
load csv with headers from 'file:../x.csv' as line
match (p:Project {code: line.Project})
create (n:Individual {name: lineName})
foreach (x in case line.Role when "Owner" then [1] else [] end |
  create (n)-[r:Owner]->(p)
)
foreach (x in case line.Role when "Assistant" then [1] else [] end |
  create (n)-[Assistant]->(p)
)
foreach (x in case line.Role when "Manager" then [1] else [] end |
  create (n)-[Manager]->(p)
)
```

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answered Mar 28 at 2:39



Michael Huner

asked 4 months ago

viewed 39 times

active 4 months ago

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ugh. that seriously bites. to do foreach loops is as bad as just hard-coding it. yuk!! I guess I'll look into the import tool. thanks – [ekkis](#) Mar 28 at 3:24

I've looked into the import tool. it offers a --into parameter which makes it clear that I need to import into a blank database. jesus, they don't make this easy. it means I can't update an existing database with it, which makes it quite useless. or am I misunderstanding the docs on that parameter? I tried it. it creates a whole new database. very unhappy. – [ekkis](#) Mar 28 at 3:53

1 Another option is to create a separate csv file per relationship type. – [Stefan Armbruster](#) Mar 28 at 10:54

Or to filter your csv file for the rel-type with `WITH line WHERE line.Role = "Manager" ...` – [Michael Hunger](#) Mar 28 at 21:27

thanks for the suggestions guys. in fact I'm generating the code from Excel anyway so I can hard-code the relationship creations. it's just unfortunate that the syntax should be so inflexible, for what is a relatively small lexikon. – [ekkis](#) Mar 29 at 19:53

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▲ Michael's answer stands, however, I've found that what I *can* do is specify an attribute to the relationship, like this:

0




```
load csv from 'file:/.../x.csv' as line
match (p:Project {code: line[3]})
create (i:Individual {name: line[1]})-[:Role { type: line[2] }]->(p)
```

and I can make Neo4j display the type attribute of the relationship instead of the label

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answered Mar 30 at 17:34


 [ekkis](#)
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