

# SET IDENTITY\_INSERT

<b>Source</b>	<a href="http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188059.aspx">http://msdn2.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms188059.aspx</a>
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## SET IDENTITY\_INSERT

Allows explicit values to be inserted into the identity column of a table.

### Transact-SQL Syntax Conventions

#### Syntax

```
SET IDENTITY_INSERT [ database_name . [ schema_name ] . ]  
table { ON | OFF }
```

#### Arguments

*database\_name*

Is the name of the database in which the specified table resides.

*schema\_name*

Is the name of the schema to which the table belongs.

*table*

Is the name of a table with an identity column.

#### Remarks

At any time, only one table in a session can have the IDENTITY\_INSERT property set to ON. If a table already has this property set to ON, and a SET IDENTITY\_INSERT ON statement is issued for another table, SQL Server 2005 returns an error message that states SET IDENTITY\_INSERT is already ON and reports the table it is set ON for.

If the value inserted is larger than the current identity value for the table, SQL Server automatically uses the new inserted value as the current identity value.

The setting of SET IDENTITY\_INSERT is set at execute or run time and not at parse time.

#### Permissions

User must own the object, or be a member of the **sysadmin** fixed server role, or the **db\_owner** and **db\_ddladmin** fixed database roles.

## Examples

The following example creates a table with an identity column and shows how the SET IDENTITY\_INSERT setting can be used to fill a gap in the identity values caused by a DELETE statement.

```
USE AdventureWorks;

GO

-- Create tool table.

CREATE TABLE dbo.Tool(

    ID INT IDENTITY NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,

    Name VARCHAR(40) NOT NULL

)

GO

-- Inserting values into products table.

INSERT INTO dbo.Tool(Name) VALUES ('Screwdriver')

INSERT INTO dbo.Tool(Name) VALUES ('Hammer')

INSERT INTO dbo.Tool(Name) VALUES ('Saw')

INSERT INTO dbo.Tool(Name) VALUES ('Shovel')

GO

-- Create a gap in the identity values.

DELETE dbo.Tool

WHERE Name = 'Saw'

GO

SELECT *

FROM dbo.Tool

GO
```

```
-- Try to insert an explicit ID value of 3;
-- should return a warning.

INSERT INTO dbo.Tool (ID, Name) VALUES (3, 'Garden shovel')

GO

-- SET IDENTITY_INSERT to ON.

SET IDENTITY_INSERT dbo.Tool ON

GO

-- Try to insert an explicit ID value of 3.

INSERT INTO dbo.Tool (ID, Name) VALUES (3, 'Garden shovel')

GO

SELECT *

FROM dbo.Tool

GO

-- Drop products table.

DROP TABLE dbo.Tool

GO
```

*~~~ End of Article ~~~*