

What size do you use for varchar(MAX) in your parameter declaration?



I normally set my column size when creating a parameter in ADO.NET

175

But what size do I use if the column is `VARCHAR(MAX)` ?



```
cmd.Parameters.Add("@blah", SqlDbType.VarChar, ?????).Value = blah;
```



12

c#

sql-server-2008

ado.net

edited Mar 15 '13 at 12:21



Michał Powaga

18k 6 42 59

asked Jun 10 '09 at 1:08



mrblah

37.8k 125 275 391

4 Answers



In this case you use -1.

267



answered Jun 10 '09 at 1:11



Michał Chanievski

3,923 1 14 15

6 See also MSDN docs: msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb399384.aspx – Rowland Shaw Dec 7 '09 at 14:40

5 is there any performance drawback to setting all parameter lengths to -1, so I dont have to maintain a db-matching list? – Andrew Bullock Jul 23 '14 at 16:02

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For those of us who did not see -1 by Michal Chanievski, the complete line of code:

46

```
cmd.Parameters.Add("@blah", SqlDbType.VarChar, -1).Value = "some large text";
```

edited Apr 18 '13 at 15:45



Lennart

6,583

12

53

68

answered Apr 18 '13 at 15:27



Sam Meshesha

461

4

2

The maximum SqlDbType.VarChar size is 2147483647.

3

If you would use a generic **oledb connection** instead of sql, I found [here](#) there is also a LongVarChar datatype. Its max size is 2147483647.

```
cmd.Parameters.Add("@blah", OleDbType.LongVarChar, -1).Value = "very big string";
```

edited Oct 5 '16 at 14:41

answered Oct 5 '16 at 14:20



Eric Draven

156

6

You do not need to pass the size parameter, just declare `varchar` already understands that it is MAX like:

2

```
cmd.Parameters.Add("@blah", SqlDbType.VarChar).Value = "some large text";
```

answered May 16 '17 at 13:47



Igor Macedo

121

2

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