

DatabaseGeneratedOption.Identity not generating an Id



Using EntityFramework code-first, I've created a simple `Foo` table. Here's my entity:

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```
public class Foo
{
    [DatabaseGenerated(DatabaseGeneratedOption.Identity)]
    public virtual string Id { get; set; }

    public virtual string Name { get; set; }
}
```

However whenever I try to insert a new row, I get a `Cannot insert the value NULL into column 'Id'`. Why is this happening when I've added a `DatabaseGenerated` attribute? Deleting and recreating my table makes no difference.

c#

asp.net-mvc

entity-framework

edited Feb 26 '14 at 7:01



Stu1986C

923 1 15 28

asked Feb 25 '14 at 22:33



Jonathan

6,057 14 64 94

Does the table that's created show that the `Id` column is marked as `IDENTITY`? What's the underlying database? MS SQL? Oracle? – [D Stanley](#) Feb 25 '14 at 22:44

@DStanley The `Id` column isn't marked as identity. The underlying database is MS SQL. – [Jonathan](#) Feb 25 '14 at 22:49

What version of EF are you using? – [D Stanley](#) Feb 25 '14 at 22:50

Has anything else changed? The schema name? The connection string? – [D Stanley](#) Feb 25 '14 at 22:52

@DStanley I'm using EF6. Nothing else has changed (and I keep recreating the DB, so I'm not sure it would matter if I had). – [Jonathan](#) Feb 25 '14 at 23:17

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Identities for `string` column types are not supported with SQL Server. (How do you expect such a string to look like?) To get this working you could - for example - add a computed column/user defined function in SQL Server that formats a string from an ordinary int identity column - as shown [here](#).

answered Feb 25 '14 at 23:07



Slauma

152k 52 363 389

I was following the lead of asp.net's [IdentityUser](#), which uses a string for the id. column. Any idea how the value is generated in this instance? – Jonathan Feb 25 '14 at 23:15

- 1 @Jonathan: I don't know, but I could imagine it's simply not database generated but a string you have to manually set as a unique value (like a user name or a guid converted to a string). – Slauma Feb 25 '14 at 23:46

Hey Slauma. you are really expert. thanks. ;) – mahdi moghimi May 15 '18 at 8:23



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1. you forgot the `key` attribute. and there is no need to use `virtual` for primary key.

2. as mentioned by Slauma you can't use `Identity` for string datatype.

Try this code:

```
public class Foo
{
    [Key]
    [DatabaseGenerated(DatabaseGeneratedOption.Identity)]
    public int Id { get; set; }

    public virtual string Name { get; set; }
}
```

edited Feb 25 '14 at 23:08

answered Feb 25 '14 at 22:53




Ali Adlavarani

2,646 2 17 40

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though. – [David McLean](#) Oct 8 '14 at 17:19 

I know this is old, but is the `long` data type allowed with the [Key] attribute? – [Sal Alturaigi](#) Dec 13 '16 at 7:37 

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