The dbo. prefix in database object names, can I ignore it?

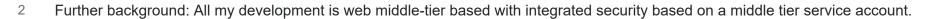Asked 10 years ago   Active 10 years ago   Viewed 20k times

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I am looking for a performant default policy for dealing with the .dbo prefix.

I realize that the dbo. prefix is more than syntactic noise, however I got through the past 8 years of MS based development skipping typing the dbo. prefix and ignoring its function.

Apart from a performance issue with stored proc compile locks is there a downside to skipping typing ".dbo" in SQLqueries and stored procedures?

Further background: All my development is web middle-tier based with integrated security based on a middle tier service account.

sql   🍄 sql-server

edited Aug 13 '09 at 17:33   asked Aug 13 '09 at 17:22

Carl Manaster   camelCase
33.7k   14   89   140

6 Answers

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[dbo].[xxx]

The SQL Server engine always parse the query into pieces, if you don't use the prefix definitely it going search for object in similar name with different users before it uses [dbo]. I would suggest you follow the prefix mechanism not only to satisfy the best practices, also to avoid performance glitches and make the code scalable.

I don't know I answered your question, but these are just my knowledge share

answered Aug 13 '09 at 18:10

🌐 Tamil.SQL

Ok, think I got that. However now I am confused about the relationship between (1) "dbo." as a schema namespace mechanism, (2) the SQL Server database owner role and (3) users who may map to schema prefixes and/or be members of the databAse owner role. – camelCase Aug 14 '09 at 11:38

but context wise if a Group/Role/User owns an object there is no reason he owns/be a member for dbo. They create Schemas only when they need to diversify the permissions to Object. Hope it helped. – Tamil.SQL Aug 14 '09 at 16:02

I dont think that is best practise. Some hosting providers change dbo to something daft.. then what? Change all dbo to their stupid prefix. Who know why.. but they do it and we cannot change it; yay. – Piotr Kula Aug 3 '12 at 13:30

1) SQL Server does not allow schema renaming. 2) the `dbo` schema is created by default. So it is generally quite safe to use it (and I dare say 99.9999% of the time using the `dbo` schema is exactly what you want). – rsenna Jan 8 '14 at 17:23

Most of the time you can ignore it. Sometimes you will have to type it. Sometimes when you have to type it you can just type an extra '.':

9

```
SELECT * FROM [LinkedServer].[Database]..[Table]
```

You'll need to start watching for it if you start using extra schemas a lot more, where you might have two schemas in the same database that both have tables with the same name.

edited Aug 13 '09 at 19:03   answered Aug 13 '09 at 17:26

Joel Coehoorn
320k   100   507   744

The main issue is not security, is name conflict resolution, in the case that your application will ever be deployed side-by-side with another application using the same names in the database.

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If you package and sale your product, I would strongly advise to use schemas, for the sake of your costumers. If you develop for a one particular shoppe, then is not so much of a concern.

answered Aug 13 '09 at 17:32

Remus Rusanu
252k   32   367   496

Doesn't this argue for *not* using the dbo. prefix in all your code? If you leave out the dbo. prefix, then your application can easily be run under a different

Yes you can ignore - for the most part - if you never ever create anything outside the (default) "dbo" schema. One place you can't ignore it is when calling a stored function - that always has to have the "two-part" notation:

3

```
select * from dbo.myFunc
```

However, it is considered a best practise to always use the "dbo." prefix (or other schema prefixes, if your database has several schemas).

Marc

answered Aug 13 '09 at 19:02

marc_s
602k   136   1151
1288

"however I got through the past 8 years of MS based development skipping typing the dbo. prexfix and ignoring its function."

2   This is your answer. If your DB is performing fine you are OK. Best practices don't replace real testing on your actual system. If your performance is fine and maintenance is OK, your time is better spent elsewhere where you can get better bang for your proverbial buck.

edited Aug 13 '09 at 17:33   answered Aug 13 '09 at 17:28

Carl Manaster   Russell Steen
33.7k   14   89   140   **5,369**   5   32   54

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3   Wow... I couldn't disagree more... Best practices are just what the words say. While you are right that you may "get away w it" it's still sloppy amateurish programming. – PseudoToad Aug 18 '12 at 14:57

After working in the oracle world, I would advise against skipping the schema declaration. Remember now that SQL server versions

1   after 7.0 support multiple schemas per database - it is important to distinguish between them to be sure that you are grabbing the proper

do nothing to affect performance by itself - parsing is such a small part of the SQL query as to be insignificant.

answered Aug 13 '09 at 17:31

Chris K
8,182 6 30 56