

# Unique constraint on multiple columns

Asked 9 years, 3 months ago   Active 1 year, 11 months ago   Viewed 183k times

240

55

```
CREATE TABLE [dbo].[user](
    [userID] [int] IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,
    [fcode] [int] NULL,
    [scode] [int] NULL,
    [dcode] [int] NULL,
    [name] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
    [address] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
    CONSTRAINT [PK_user_1] PRIMARY KEY CLUSTERED
    (
        [userID] ASC
    ) ON [PRIMARY]
)
GO
```

How do I add a unique constraint for columns `fcode`, `scode`, `dcode` with `t-sql` and/or management studio ? `fcode`, `scode`, `dcode` must be unique together.

 sql-server    sql-server-2008    ssms

edited Aug 23 '16 at 21:26



Tony L.

10.6k   5   53   54

asked Aug 13 '10 at 6:04



loviji

5,176   17   53   85

9   Does that mean that you can have many of the same `fcode` OR `scode` OR `dcode` but never two records with the same `fcode` AND `scode` AND `dcode`? – Jimbo Aug 13 '10 at 6:13

## 4 Answers

By using the constraint definition on table creation, you can specify one or multiple constraints that span multiple columns. The syntax, simplified from [technet's documentation](#), is in the form of:

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```

CONSTRAINT constraint_name UNIQUE [ CLUSTERED | NONCLUSTERED ]
(
    column [ ASC | DESC ] [ ,...n ]
)

```



Therefore, the resulting table definition would be:

```

CREATE TABLE [dbo].[user](
    [userID] [int] IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,
    [fcode] [int] NULL,
    [scode] [int] NULL,
    [dcode] [int] NULL,
    [name] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
    [address] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
    CONSTRAINT [PK_user_1] PRIMARY KEY CLUSTERED
    (
        [userID] ASC
    ),
    CONSTRAINT [UQ_codes] UNIQUE NONCLUSTERED
    (
        [fcode], [scode], [dcode]
    )
) ON [PRIMARY]

```



edited Dec 29 '16 at 18:22



Nielsvh

866 1 15 29

answered Aug 13 '10 at 6:10



devmake

4,577 1 20 26

If the table is already created in the database, then you can add a unique constraint later on by using this SQL query:

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```

ALTER TABLE dbo.User
ADD CONSTRAINT ucCodes UNIQUE (fcode, scode, dcode)

```

edited Oct 26 '15 at 9:42

answered Aug 13 '10 at 6:34



marc\_s

611k 139 1170  
1301

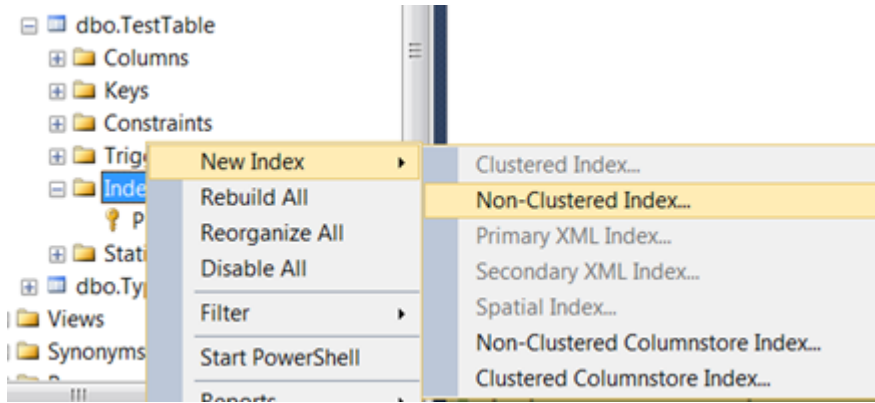
And for [fcode] ASC, [scode] ASC, [dcode] ASC ? – [Kiquenet](#) Nov 22 '16 at 9:50

Or ADD CONSTRAINT ucCodes UNIQUE NONCLUSTERED ? – [Kiquenet](#) Nov 22 '16 at 9:51

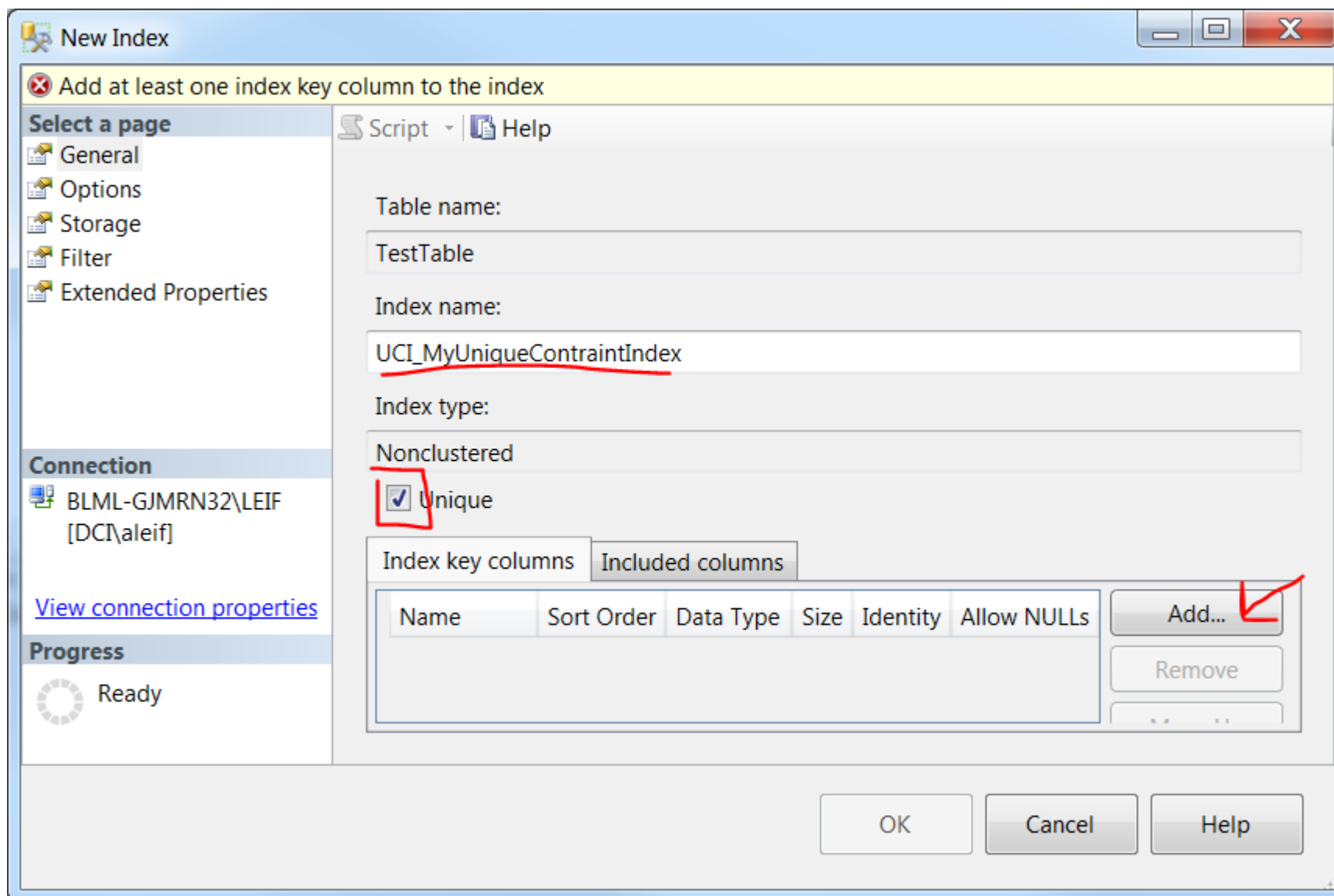
This can also be done in the GUI. Here's an example adding a multi-column unique constraint to an existing table.

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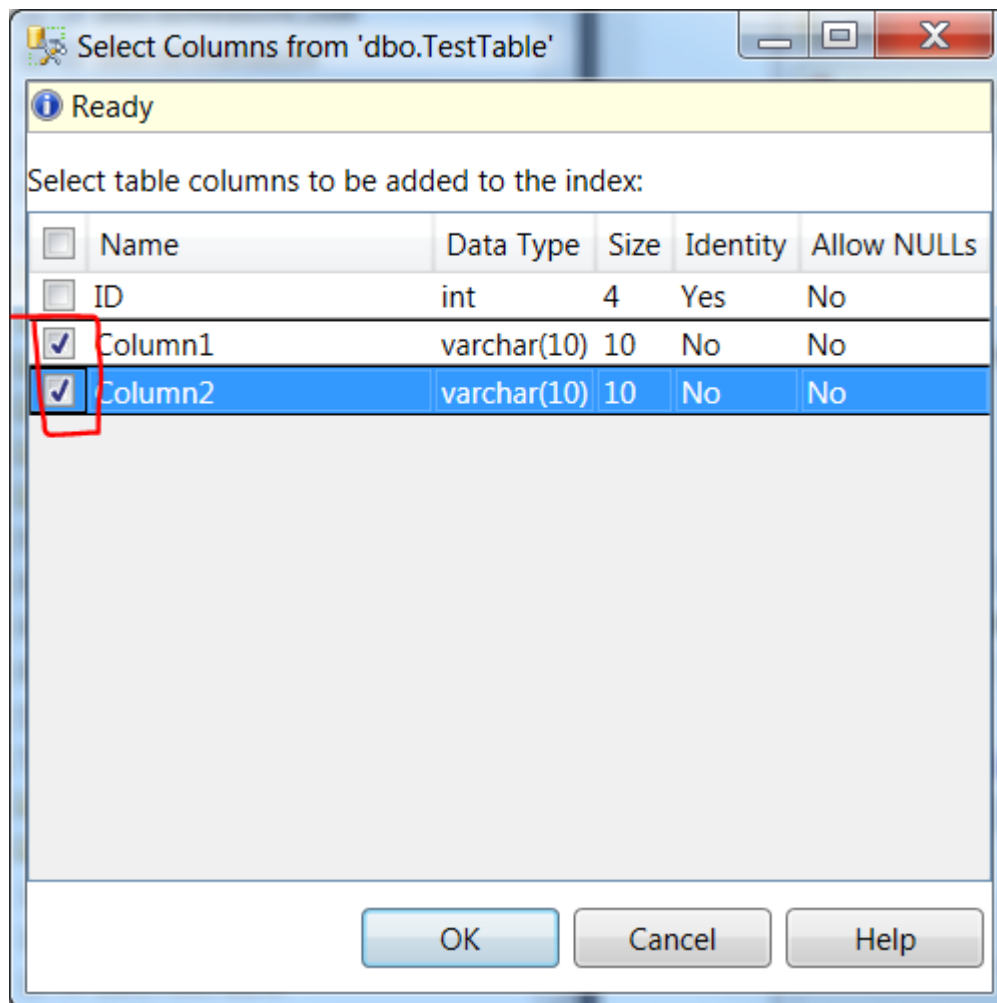
1. Under the table, right click *Indexes*->Click/hover *New Index*->Click *Non-Clustered Index...*



2. A default Index name will be given but you may want to change it. Check *Unique* checkbox and click *Add...* button



3. Check the columns you want included



Click OK in each window and you're done.

answered Aug 18 '16 at 15:03



Tony L.

10.6k

5

53

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USE [TSQL2012]

GO

0

/\*\*\*\*\* Object: Table [dbo].[Table\_1] Script Date: 11/22/2015 12:45:47 PM \*\*\*\*\*/

```
SET ANSI_NULLS ON
GO

SET QUOTED_IDENTIFIER ON
GO

CREATE TABLE [dbo].[Table_1](
    [seq] [bigint] IDENTITY(1,1) NOT NULL,
    [ID] [int] NOT NULL,
    [name] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
    [cat] [nvarchar](50) NULL,
    CONSTRAINT [PK_Table_1] PRIMARY KEY CLUSTERED
(
    [ID] ASC
)WITH (PAD_INDEX = OFF, STATISTICS_NORECOMPUTE = OFF, IGNORE_DUP_KEY = OFF,
ALLOW_ROW_LOCKS = ON, ALLOW_PAGE_LOCKS = ON) ON [PRIMARY],
    CONSTRAINT [IX_Table_1] UNIQUE NONCLUSTERED
(
    [name] ASC,
    [cat] ASC
)WITH (PAD_INDEX = OFF, STATISTICS_NORECOMPUTE = OFF, IGNORE_DUP_KEY = OFF,
ALLOW_ROW_LOCKS = ON, ALLOW_PAGE_LOCKS = ON) ON [PRIMARY]
) ON [PRIMARY]

GO
```

edited Nov 15 '17 at 16:51



Kevin Miranda

151 1 11

answered Nov 22 '15 at 9:54



Muhanned Kamil

9 1

- 
- 12 While this code may answer the question, it would be better to include some context, explaining how it works and when to use it. Code-only answers are not useful in the long run. – [Bono](#) Nov 22 '15 at 10:35
-