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ASP.NET MVC - SQL Database

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Visual Web Developer comes with a free SQL database called SQL Server Compact.

The database needed for this tutorial can be created with these simple steps:

- Right-click the **App_Data** folder in the **Solution Explorer** window
- Select **Add, New Item**
- Select **SQL Server Compact Local Database** *
- Name the database **Movies.sdf**.
- Click the **Add** button

* If SQL Server Compact Local Database is not an option, you have not installed SQL Server Compact on your computer. Install it from this link: SQL Server Compact (http://www.microsoft.com/web/gallery/install.aspx?

appid=SQLCE;SQLCEVSTools_4_0)

Visual Web Developer automatically creates the database in the App_Data folder.

Note: In this tutorial it is expected that you have some knowledge about SQL databases. If you want to study this topic first, please visit our SQL Tutorial (/sql/default.asp).

Adding a Database Table

Double-clicking the **Movies.sdf** file in the **App_Data** folder will open a **Database Explorer** window.

To create a new table in the database, right-click the **Tables** folder, and select **Create Table**.

Create the following columns:

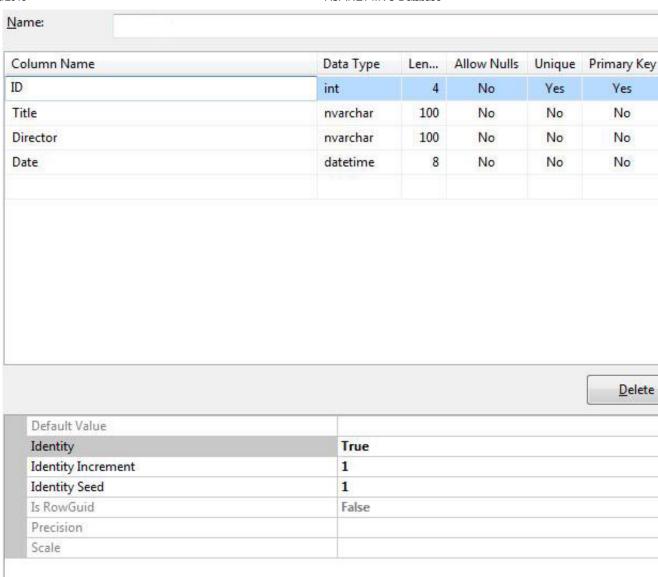| Column	Type	Allow Nulls
ID	int (primary key)	No
Title	nvarchar(100)	No
Director	nvarchar(100)	No
Date	datetime	No

Columns explained:

ID is an integer (whole number) used to identify each record in the table.

Title is a 100 character text column to store the name of the movie.

Director is a 100 character text column to store the director's name.

Date is a datetime column to store the release date of the movie.

After creating the columns described above, you must make the ID column the table's primary key (record identifier). To do this, click on the column name (ID) and select **Primary Key**. Also, in the **Column Properties** window, set the **Identity** property to **True**:

Name:

Column Name	Data Type	Len...	Allow Nulls	Unique	Primary Key
ID	int	4	No	Yes	Yes
Title	nvarchar	100	No	No	No
Director	nvarchar	100	No	No	No
Date	datetime	8	No	No	No

Delete

Default Value	
Identity	True
Identity Increment	1
Identity Seed	1
Is RowGuid	False
Precision	
Scale	

When you have finished creating the table columns, save the table and name it **MovieDBs**.

Note:

We have deliberately named the table "MovieDBs" (ending with s). In the next chapter, you will see the name "MovieDB" used for the data model. It looks strange, but this is the naming convention you have to use to make the controller connect to the database table.

Adding Database Records

You can use Visual Web Developer to add some test records to the movie database.

Double-click the **Movies.sdf** file in the **App_Data** folder.

Right-click the **MovieDBs** table in the Database Explorer window and select **Show Table Data**.

Add some records:

ID	Title	Director	Date
1	Psycho	Alfred Hitchcock	01.01.1960
2	La Dolce Vita	Federico Fellini	01.01.1960

Note: The ID column is updated automatically. You should not edit it.

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