

SQL Server Tutorial

Part 136 - Guid in SQL Server

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In this session we will learn

- What is a GUID in SQL Server
- When to use a GUID
- Advantages & disadvantages of using a GUID

Link to Dot Net Basics, ASP.NET, C#, ADO.NET and SQL Server video series

<http://www.youtube.com/user/kudvenkat/playlists>

Suggested Videos

Part 133 - sp_depends in SQL Server

Part 134 - Sequence object in SQL Server 2012

Part 135 - Difference between sequence and identity in SQL Server

Guid in SQL Server

If you are in need of the DVD with all the videos and PPT's, please visit
<http://pragimtech.com/order.aspx>

What is a GUID in SQL Server

A GUID is a 16 byte binary data type that is globally unique. GUID stands for Global Unique Identifier. The terms **GUID** and **UNIQUEIDENTIFIER** are used interchangeably

```
Declare @ID UNIQUEIDENTIFIER
```

How to create a GUID

To create a GUID in SQL Server use **NEWID()** function

For example, **SELECT NEWID()** creates a GUID that is guaranteed to be unique across tables, databases, and servers.

Example GUID: 215D55D8-1683-42D8-927C-B151DBE4EE0B

Guid in SQL Server

Advantages:

- A GUID is unique across tables, databases and servers
- Useful if you're consolidating records from multiple SQL Servers into a single table

Disadvantages:

- Size is 16 bytes, where as INT is only 4 bytes
- One of the largest datatypes in SQL Server
- An Index built on a GUID is larger and slower
- Hard to read compared to INT

Summary: Only use a GUID when you really need a globally unique identifier. In all other cases it is better to use an INT data type