

Part 5 – Cascading referential integrity constraint

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In this session we will learn

- Cascading referential integrity constraint

Pre-requisite

Part 3 - Creating tables and adding primary and foreign key constraints


Part 4 - Adding a default constraint

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Cascading referential integrity

tblPerson				tblGender	
ID	Name	Email	GenderID	ID	Gender
1	Jade	j@j.com	2	1	Male
2	Mary	m@m.com	3	2	Female
3	Martin	ma@ma.com	1	3	Unknown
4	Rob	r@r.com	NULL		
5	May	may@may.com	2		
6	Kristy	k@k.com	NULL		



Cascading referential integrity constraint allows to define the actions Microsoft SQL Server should take when a user attempts to delete or update a key to which an existing foreign keys points.

For example, If you delete row with ID = 1 from tblGender table, then row with ID = 3 from tblPerson table becomes an orphan record. You will not be able to tell the Gender for this row. So, Cascading referential integrity constraint can be used to define actions Microsoft SQL Server should take when this happens. By default, we get an error and the DELETE or UPDATE statement is rolled back.

Cascading referential integrity

Options when setting up Cascading referential integrity constraint:

- 1. No Action:** This is the default behaviour. No Action specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, an error is raised and the DELETE or UPDATE is rolled back.
- 2. Cascade:** Specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, all rows containing those foreign keys are also deleted or updated.
- 3. Set NULL:** Specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, all rows containing those foreign keys are set to NULL.
- 4. Set Default:** Specifies that if an attempt is made to delete or update a row with a key referenced by foreign keys in existing rows in other tables, all rows containing those foreign keys are set to default values.

Additional Resources

- PRAGIM Home Page:

- <http://www.PragimTech.com>

- Resources:

- ASP.NET Interview Questions
 - <http://www.VenkatASPInterview.Blogspot.com>
 - C# Interview Questions
 - <http://www.VenkatCSharpInterview.Blogspot.com>

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