SQL Server Tutorial

Part 135 - Difference between sequence and identity in SQL Server

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In this session we will learn

- Difference between sequence and identity in SQL Server

Difference between Sequence & Identity

Identity	Sequence
Identity property is a table column property meaning it is tied to the table	Sequence is a user-defined database object and is not tied to any specific table meaning it's value can be shared by multiple tables.
To generate the next identity value, a row has to be insetred into the table	With sequence object there is no need to insert a row into the table to generate the next sequence value. You can use NEXT VALUE FOR clause to generate the next sequence value.
Maximum value for the identity property cannot be specified. The maximum value will be the maximum value of the correspoding column data type.	With the sequence object you can use the MAXVALUE option to specify the maximum value. If the MAXVALUE option is not specified for the sequence object, then the maximum value will be the maximum value of it's data type.
Identity property does not have any option to automatically restart the identity values	With the Sequence object CYCLE option can be used to specify whether the sequence should restart automatically when the max value (for incrementing sequence object) or min value (for decrementing sequence object) is reached.

Additional Resources

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Resources:

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