**21.1. Primary Keys – Overview**

**Primary key**:

1. Primary key is a uniquely identifying each row in a table.
2. Must be a unique value
3. Cannot contain NULL values

**MySQL - Auto Increment**:

In MySQL database generally when we are creating a table, we make the id as primary key and make it auto increment.

CREATE TABLE student (  
id int(11) NOT NULL AUTO\_INCREMENT,  
first\_name varchar(45) DEFAULT NULL,  
last\_name varchar(45) DEFAULT NULL,  
email varchar(45) DEFAULT NULL,  
PRIMARY KEY (id)  
)

**Hibernate Identity - Primary Key**:

In Hibernate when we build a class we may use of an annotation, **@Id.** This **@Id** basically tells Hibernate, thisgiven field is a primary key. This field maps the column in the database table, and the column name is id. We basically leave it up to the database to actually generate a primary key for us.

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