Constraints

MAD 202

CONSTRAINTS

- Constraints let you define rules for values allowed in columns

- A column constraint is part of a column definition and imposes a condition on that column only

- A table constraint is declared independently of a column definition and can impose a condition on more than on column in a table.

Constraints

- NOT NULL – prevents nulls from being inserted into a column

- PRIMARY KEY – sets the primary key

- FOREIGN KEY – sets the foreign key

- UNIQUE – prevents duplicate values from being inserted into a column

- CHECK – limits the values that can be inserted into a column by using logical expressions

Constraints

- Assigning names to constraints lets you manage them efficiently

- It allows you to change or delete them later if required

- It is not uncommon to leave a NOT NULL constraint but you should name others
  - If you do not name your constraint, the DBMS will do it for you
  - System assigned names often contain strings of random characters and are cumbersome to use
  - The names also appear in warning, error messages and logs

Constraints

- To name a constraint use the following:

CONSTRAINT *constraint_name*

Where constraint_name is the name of the constraint – the names **must** be unique within a table