

# Cassandra Table Operations



Skills  
Network

Estimated time needed: **10** minutes

## Objectives

After completing this lab you will be able to:

- Create a table in a keyspace by defining a column name and data type
- Extract the details of a table with the DESCRIBE command
- Alter a table by adding columns
- Drop a table by removing it from the keyspace

## About This SN Labs Cloud IDE

This Skills Network Labs Cloud IDE provides a hands-on environment for course and project related labs. It utilizes Theia, an open-source IDE (Integrated Development Environment) platform, that can be run on desktop or on the cloud. To complete this lab, we will be using the Cloud IDE based on Theia and Skills Network-provided Cassandra.

## Important Notice about this lab environment

Please be aware that sessions for this lab environment are not persisted. Every time you connect to this lab, a new environment is created for you. Any data you may have saved in the earlier session would get lost. Plan to complete these labs in a single session, to avoid losing your data.

## Exercise 1 - Getting the environment ready

Open the Cassandra database page by clicking the button below:

[Open Cassandra Page in IDE](#)

On that page, click the Create button to create a Cassandra database.

After creation has finished, click the Cassandra CLI button (below the Create button from the previous step) to connect to the database using the cqlsh CLI.

1. Problem:

*Create a keyspace named **training** using SimpleStrategy and replication factor of 3.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use CREATE KEYSPACE command with appropriate options

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
CREATE KEYSPACE training
WITH replication = {'class': 'SimpleStrategy', 'replication_factor' : 3};
```

## Exercise 2 - Create a table

The below command creates a table named **movies**, in the **training** keyspace.

The **movies** table has three columns:

- 'movie\_id' is an integer and is the primary key.
- 'movie\_name' is a text column.
- 'year\_of\_release' is an integer.

On the cassandra client run the below command.

```
use training;
CREATE TABLE movies(
movie_id int PRIMARY KEY,
movie_name text,
year_of_release int
);
```

Verify that the table got created by listing all tables.

```
describe tables;
```

## Exercise 3 - Describe a table

In the previous exercise you created a table named **movies**.

Let us print more details of it using the describe command.

Describe the table.

```
describe movies
```

## Exercise 4 - Alter a table

In a previous exercise you created a table named **movies**.

Let us modify it by adding a column named 'genre' which is of type 'text'.

Alter the table.

```
ALTER TABLE movies
ADD genre text;
```

Verify the changes using the below command

```
describe movies;
```

## Exercise 5 - Drop a table

To drop the **movies** table run the below command.

```
drop table movies;
```

Verify using the below command. You should get an error.

```
describe movies;
```

## Practice exercises

1. Problem:

*Create a table named **books** with 3 columns; 'book\_id' which is the primary key and of integer type, 'author' which is of type text and 'title' which is of type text.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use the 'create table' command

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
CREATE TABLE books (  
  book_id int PRIMARY KEY,  
  author text,  
  title text  
);
```

2. Problem:

*Add a column 'date\_of\_publication' which is of date type.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use the 'alter table' command

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
ALTER TABLE books  
add date_of_publication date;
```

3. Problem:

*Add a 'column' price which is of type decimal.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use the 'alter table' command

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
ALTER TABLE books  
add price decimal;
```

4. Problem:

*Drop the 'column' price from the **books** table.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use the 'alter table' command with drop option

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
ALTER TABLE books  
drop price;
```

5. Problem:

*Drop the **books** table.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use the 'drop table' command

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
DROP TABLE books;
```

6. Problem:

*Drop the **training** keyspace.*

▼ Click here for Hint

use the 'drop keyspace' command

▼ Click here for Solution

On the cqlsh run the below command.

```
drop keyspace training;
```

7. Problem:

*Disconnect from the cassandra server.*

▼ Click here for Hint

Refer to the [Using the COL Shell \(cqjsh\)](#) lab.

▼ Click here for Solution

Run the below command on the terminal.

```
exit
```

## Authors

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## Other Contributors

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