

# SQL - NOT NULL CONSTRAINT

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By default, a column can hold NULL values. If you do not want a column to have a NULL value then you need to define such constraint on this column specifying that NULL is now not allowed for that column.

A NULL is not the same as no data, rather, it represents unknown data.

## Example:

For example, the following SQL creates a new table called CUSTOMERS and adds five columns, three of which, ID and NAME and AGE, specify not to accept NULLs:

```
CREATE TABLE CUSTOMERS (  
    ID      INT          NOT NULL,  
    NAME    VARCHAR (20) NOT NULL,  
    AGE     INT          NOT NULL,  
    ADDRESS CHAR (25) ,  
    SALARY  DECIMAL (18, 2),  
    PRIMARY KEY (ID)  
);
```

If CUSTOMERS table has already been created, then to add a NOT NULL constraint to SALARY column in Oracle and MySQL, you would write a statement similar to the following:

```
ALTER TABLE CUSTOMERS  
    MODIFY SALARY  DECIMAL (18, 2) NOT NULL;
```