SQL Server Naming Convention

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**REVISION**

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# Introduction

The aim of this document is to present database naming convention used in Dkvo project.

This document is dedicated for a wide audience, including developers, programmers, people who are responsible for tests and authors of the software documentation.

# Standard Naming Convention

## General Rules

* Try to limit the name to 50 characters (shorter is better)
* Avoid using underscores even if the system allows it, except where noted in this document. PascalCase notation achieves the same word separation without them and in fewer characters.
* Use a letter as the first character of the name. Don't start names with underscores or numbers.
* Limit the use of abbreviations. It can lead to misinterpretation of names. E.g. “Account” instead of “Acct”, “Hour” instead of “Hr”.
* Limit the use of acronyms. Some acronyms have more than one meaning e.g. "ASP".
* Make the name readable. They shouldn't sound funny when read aloud.
* Avoid using spaces in names even if the system allows it.
* Consider using schema for group name. E.g. HumanResource.Department, HumanResouce.Employee

## Tables

* Names should be singular and PascalCase. E.g. CustomerOrder instead of CustomerOrders.
* Do not give table name prefix such as “tb” or “tbl\_”.

## Columns

* Names should be PascalCase.
* Primary key should be [TableName] + Id. E.g. Table name is Customer, primary key column is CustomerId.
* Foreign key fields should have the exact same name as they do in the parent table where the field is the primary. E.g. Order and Customer is 1-n relation, Order foreign key is Order.CustomerId.
* If tables have composite keys (more than one field makes up the unique value), it’s recommended that a seeded identity column is created to use as the primary key for the table.
* Bit fields should be given affirmative boolean names like "IsDeleted", "HasPermission", or "IsValid".

## Indexes

* Indexes will remain named as the SQL Server default, unless the index created is for a special purpose, in which case the naming convention for special-purpose indexes follows this structure:
  + [U/N]IX\_[TableName][SpecialPurpose]
  + "U/N" is for unique or non-unique and "IX\_" matches the default prefix that SQL Server assigns indexes.

## Constraints

* The naming convention syntax for constraints looks like this:
  + [constraint type][table name]\_[field name]
* Examples:
  + PkProducts\_Id - primary key constraint on the Id field of the Products table.
  + FkOrders\_ProductId - foreign key constraint on the ProductId field in the Orders table.
  + CkCustomers\_AccountId - check constraint on the AccountId.
  + UnCustomers\_OrderNo – unique field on the OrderNo.

## View

* Views follow many of the same rules that apply to naming tables. The naming convention syntax for views looks like this:
  + v[view name]
  + E.g. vCustomer

## Stored Procedures

* Stored procedures should be named depends on how you want to group them within a listing. The naming convention syntax for views looks like this:
  + usp[stored procedure name]
  + E.g. uspGetCustomers , uspGetCustomerById, uspInsertCustomer

## Functions

* Functions follow the same rules that apply to naming stored procedures. The naming convention syntax for views looks like this:
  + ufn[function name]
  + E.g. ufnGetOpenDate, ufnParseTableToString

## Triggers

* Do not implement business rules in trigger. Trigger should implement audit. The naming convention syntax for views looks like this:
  + usp[trigger name]
  + utrOrderInsert

## Variables

* All variables should be written in camelCase, e.g. “@firstName” or “@city” or “@siteId”.
* Variable names should contain only letters and numbers. No special characters or spaces should be used

## SQL Statement

* Do not use the “Select \*” convention when gathering results from a permanent table, instead specify the field names and bring back only those fields you need; this optimizes query performance and eliminates the possibility of unexpected results when fields are added to a table.
* Use aliases for your table names in most T-SQL statements; a useful convention is to make the alias out of the first or first two letters of each capitalized table name, e.g. “Site” becomes “s” and “SiteType” becomes “st”.

SELECT

a.AuthorId,

t.Title

FROM dbo.Authors a

INNER JOIN dbo.TitleAuthor ta ON

a.AuthorId = ta.AuthorId

INNER JOIN dbo.Titles t ON

ta.TitleId = t.TitleId

WHERE t.Title LIKE '%Computer%'

# References

* <http://www.isbe.net/ILDS/pdf/SQL_server_standards.pdf>
* Adventure Works for SQL Server 2012. <http://msftdbprodsamples.codeplex.com/releases/view/55330>