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What does ON [PRIMARY] mean?

asked 5 years ago

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I'm creating an SQL setup script and I'm using someone else's script as an example. Here's an example of the script:

```
SET ANSI_NULLS ON
GO
SET QUOTED_IDENTIFIER ON
GO
CREATE TABLE [dbo].[be_Categories](
    [CategoryID] [uniqueidentifier] ROWGUIDCOL NOT NULL CONSTRAINT [DF_be_Categories] PRIMARY KEY CLUSTERED
    (
        [CategoryID] ASC
    )WITH (PAD_INDEX = OFF, STATISTICS_NORECOMPUTE = OFF, IGNORE_DUP_KEY = OFF, ALLOW_ROW_LOCKS = ON [PRIMARY])
GO
```

Does anyone know what the ON [PRIMARY] command does?

sql sql-server database database-design

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edited Dec 4 '15 at 22:48



iliketocode

1,449 ● 4 ● 11 ● 30

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asked May 9 '10 at 15:55



lcono123

1,146 ● 3 ● 9 ● 20

3 Answers

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When you create a database in Microsoft SQL Server you can have multiple file groups, where storage is created in multiple places, directories or disks. Each file group can be named. The PRIMARY file group is the default one, which is always created, and so the SQL you've given creates your table ON the PRIMARY file group.

See [MSDN](#) for the full syntax.

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answered May 9 '10 at 16:00



blowdart

34.2k ● 5 ● 61 ● 118

71 This also means it's usually **useless and can be safely removed** from the script. – [MGOwen](#) Mar 3 '11 at 0:38

Yes, in the same way you can just omit variable initializations to 0 and false, because it's just the default, right? – [Mark Sowul](#) Dec 4 '13 at 15:36

6 @MarkSowul Unless you have a good reason to use this to optimize performance, yes, it's fine to omit it and let the default happen. (Hence the "usually" MGOwen included.) Initializing variables to 0 or false is about ensuring that your code is operating in a known state, which is a logical and correctness concern and not an optimization concern. – [jmc26](#) Feb 25 '15 at 0:08

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It refers to which filegroup the object you are creating resides on. So your Primary filegroup could reside on drive D:\ of your server. you could then create another filegroup called Indexes. This filegroup could reside on drive E:\ of your server.

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answered May 9 '10 at 15:59



[codingbadger](#)

23.9k • 3 • 52 • 81

1 [upvoted for a real world example instead of RTFM](#) – [JumpingJezza](#) Mar 25 '15 at 4:53

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4



ON [PRIMARY] will create the structures on the "Primary" filegroup. In this case the primary key index and the table will be placed on the "Primary" filegroup within the database.

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answered May 9 '10 at 15:59



[Mark S.](#)

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