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Database Management

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Primary key vs Candidate Key vs Super Key

### Primary Key vs Candidate Key vs Superkey

A primary key is a unique identifier for each record within a database table. A primary key must contain unique values and those values cannot be null. Each table in a database can have a primary key and each table can have only one primary key. A candidate key can be one column or a set of columns that qualify as a unique key in a database. Unlike the primary key there can be multiple candidate keys in one table. Each candidate key can qualify as a primary key. A superkey is similar to a candidate key where it is a set of columns that uniquely identifies a row in a database. The difference between a superkey and a candidate key is that the superkey requires the absolute minimum number of columns to uniquely identify each row.