

## Re: Cascade updates on primary keys..

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2004-12/3444.html>

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Date: Fri, 17 Dec 2004 15:29:51 -0600

"Samuel R. Neff" <blinex@newsgroup.nospam> wrote in message  
news:91d6s0pdr7l99249d5nbl4nm4ku29n7433@4ax.com...

>

> *When the primary key is used as a foreign key in another table, then*

> *the use of a compound primary key is both wasteful and*

> *non-normalized--it duplicates data unnecessarily.*

>

It's not "non-normalized" because the rules for normalization take no notice of whether a key is simple or compound. It just doesn't affect the normalization.

It's not "wasteful" because what you loose in storing the longer foreign key on the table, you often make up for in having fewer total indexes on the tables. Also it simplifies and dramatically speeds filtering the related table by the compound key columns.

EG

```
select sum(amount)
from order_details
where customer = 1
```

instead of

```
select sum(amount)
from order_details
where order_id in ( select id
                    from order
                    where customer = 1)
```

David