

clustered index table updates question – please help

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- *From:* "Derek" <gepetto_2000@xxxxxxxxxx>
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i have a table that has no index on a date column and a regular index on a customer_id column. the customer_id will be somewhat volatile, lots of updates and and deletes on this table. this is the design i inherited and i need a little advice.

table (pertinent columns shown here for brevity)
orderqueue (id int identity primary key, customer_id int, queuedate datetime not null default getdate())

clustered index on queuedate (new index i was going to add)
non clustered index on customer_id

queries being issued

```
select * from orderqueue where customer_id is null order by queuedate  
insert into orderqueue (customer_id) values (null)  
update orderqueue set customer_id = @customer_id where customer_id is null  
delete from orderqueue where customer_id = @customer_id
```

the updates/deletes will be about 2:1 to selects. i didn't want to cluster on customer_id/queuedate because i was afraid of blocking on the updates to the cluster index page.

questions

what is the effect on a cluster index when a non-clustered index is updated?

looking at query plan, if the majority of the time is being spent by an update in actual updating of the cluster index data page, is that "good"? one test i ran showed about 35% of the time seeking rows and 65% of the time

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doing

a "Clustered Index Update/Update".

any help is appreciated

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