

Re: SQL7: case sensitivity

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming/2004-04/3045.html>

From: Lars Broberg (*lars.b_at_elbe-data.nothing.se*)

Date: 04/19/04

Date: Mon, 19 Apr 2004 10:24:25 +0200

PMFJI,

In SQL Server 7 you specify the collation on the SERVER level (this is changed in SQL Server 2000 where you can specify it down to column level).

--

Lars Broberg

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Remove "nothing." when replying to private e-mail!

"Steve Kass" <skass@drew.edu> wrote in message

news:%23RbPl9cJEHA.208@tk2msftngpl13.phx.gbl...

> Jochen,

>

> While upper and lower case characters are stored differently in SQL
> Server tables, and their binary representations can be distinguished. But
> distinguished doesn't mean distinct from the point of view of a UNIQUE
> constraint. It is the database collation that determines whether x = y
> evaluates to true or to false for two strings x and y, and the comparison
> x = y is what's used to determine if non-null strings are to be considered
> as distinct or not. If a case-insensitive collation is in place (this is
> the default instance collation, which extends to databases for which no
> collation was specified upon creation), then x = y evaluates to true if x
> and y differ only in case, and you will see a violation of the unique
> constraint if you try to put such values in a unique-indexed column.

>

> I believe that in SQL Server 7 you can specify the collation on a
> per-database level, so you may wish to store this data in a database with
> a case-sensitive collation.

>

> However, I don't know what rules Unix uses to determine if two strings
> are identical or not. If Unix makes a binary comparison of the strings,
> you could consider storing the filenames in a varbinary(...) column
> instead of varchar(...).

>

> Steve Kass

> Drew University

>

> Jochen Daum wrote:

>

>>Hi,

>>

>>I have a table, which is supposed to store filenames stored on a Unix
>>filesystem. I seem to be having problems with case sensitivity there:

>>

>>I can store two files, with the same name and different spellings, eg.

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```
>>test1.txt and Test1.txt
>>
>>But I cannot set a unique index on the columns that stores the
>>filename, it reports duplicates for this file.
>>
>>Can someone point me to options?
>>
>>Thanks in advance,
>>
>>Jochen
>>
>>
>>
>
```