

## Re: identitycolumn as pk

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming/2004-12/0986.html>

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**From:** Ivo Grootjes (IvoGrootjes\_at\_discussions.microsoft.com)

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GUIDS would solve the problem i guess but i see different problems with GUIDS. We are using int(4) identity PK's because they're a good datatype for sqlserver to index. I dont think this is the case with GUIDS or am i totally wrong on this?

Are there any other solutions to this problem or do i have to generate primary keys prior to inserting records?

"Ilya Margolin" wrote:

> Ivo,  
>  
> We had the same problem a while back and resolved it by switching to GUIDs  
> in place of identity. It allowed us to copy data between databases/servers  
> without breaking sweat.  
>  
> Ilya  
>  
> "Ivo Grootjes" <Ivo.Grootjes@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
> news:740F7730-0B08-460A-99BC-ACE525C95B88@microsoft.com...  
>> Hi NG,  
>>  
>> This would be my first post on a newsgroup so bare with me :)  
>>  
>> I'm working on an existing application which uses a database with tables  
>> which have identity columns as primarykeys. The webapplication needs new  
>> functionality which requires 4 tables to be copied from one database to  
>> another. The tables are related to eachother. For instance there's a  
> chapter  
>> table and a publication table. a chapter can contain 0..\* publications.  
> The  
>> chapter table also has a relation toitself (allowing a hierarchical  
>> structure). I'm receiving the data through a asp.net dataset which  
> contains 4  
>> datatables. What i want to do is insert the data in the new database  
> through  
>> 4 batch inserts but since i only know the primarykey after i've inserted a

> > *record i can't do this.*  
> >  
> > *What i'm doing right now to overcome this issue is loop through the*  
> *asp.net*  
> > *datatables and insert the records one by one and store the generated keys*  
> *so*  
> > *i can use them for related records. Because the tables consist of tens of*  
> > *thousands of records this is slow and not the preffered way of doing*  
> *things.*  
> >  
> > *What would be a good solution to this. Should i generate a primarykey*  
> *myself*  
> > *outside of the database and change the database schema? I have the feeling*  
> > *that that is the way to go but i'm not really sure. I think using identity*  
> > *columns as primary keys is a commonly used technique so i bet there must*  
> *be*  
> > *other solutions to this problem. Changing the database schema ultimately*  
> *is*  
> > *an option but we prefer not to.*  
> >  
> > *Can anybody point out some tips, reading material, or anything else which*  
> > *might help me to find a good solution to this problem?*  
> >  
> > *Thank in advance*  
>  
>  
>