

Re: simple ALTER TABLE question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming/2005-01/4908.html>

From: Gail Erickson [MS] (gaile_at_online.microsoft.com)

Date: 01/25/05

Date: Tue, 25 Jan 2005 11:17:10 -0800

>Thus, a link to the page where it discusses whether
>you type brackets or braces, etc. would be helpful, in addition to the
>examples. Had I seen that today, I would not have wondered if I put
>brackets around "column" in my syntax just because it was in the
>documentation. Thanks!

Good suggestion. I'll see what I can do.

--

Gail Erickson [MS]

SQL Server Documentation Team

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"AFN" <newsDELETETHECAPSgroupaccount@DELETETHISyahoo.com> wrote in message
news:2hiJd.204\$ell.170@twister.socal.rr.com...

>

> "Gail Erickson [MS]" <gaile@online.microsoft.com> wrote in message

> news:%23DrQMLnAFHA.2076@TK2MSFTNGP15.phx.gbl...

>> >I absolutely hate all the garbage syntax documentation that doesn't

> contain

>> > examples. All the syntax docs show brackets and braces and I don't

>> > know

>> > which ones I leave out when entering text for real.

>>

>> I agree the ALTER TABLE syntax can be particularly daunting with its many

>> options. You might find the topic "Transact-SQL Syntax Conventions"

>> helpful in figuring out what all the brackets and braces mean. Also,

> you'll

>> be happy to hear that we're working hard to add more examples to the

> syntax

>> topics in SQL Server 2005. For example in the ALTER TABLE topic in SQL

>> Server 2000, there are 8 examples. In that same topic in SQL Server

>> 2005,

>> there are 15.

>> --

>> Gail Erickson [MS]

>> SQL Server Documentation Team

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>>

>> "AFN" <newsDELETETHECAPSgroupaccount@DELETETHISyahoo.com> wrote in

>> message

>> news:KVdJd.9\$ell.0@twister.socal.rr.com...

>> >I absolutely hate all the garbage syntax documentation that doesn't

microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming: Re: simple ALTER TABLE question

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> contain
>> > examples. All the syntax docs show brackets and braces and I don't
>> > know
>> > which ones I leave out when entering text for real.
>> >
>> > I just want to add a bit column to an existing table, setting it to 0
>> > by
>> > default on existing/new records.
>> >
>> > I tried:
>> >
>> > ALTER TABLE ADD COLUMN MyNewField BIT SET DEFAULT 0
>> >
>> > but that doesn't work. I tried multiple variations with no luck. I
> know
>> > this is simple but it would be easier if the docs said when to uses
>> > brackets/braces, versus not, and if they gave lots of examples.
>> >
>> >
>>
>
> It's nice to hear from someone involved in the documentation! In this
> case,
> the poblem was the brackets and braces and not knowing if I should type
> them
> or not. SQL is not particularly intuitive (I'm a .NET developer and
> comfortable with syntax issues, but there's much less logic in the SQL
> statements suggested in a single line in this thread) although I don't
> blame
> Microsoft for that :) Thus, a link to the page where it discusses
> whether
> you type brackets or braces, etc. would be helpful, in addition to the
> examples. Had I seen that today, I would not have wondered if I put
> brackets around "column" in my syntax just because it was in the
> documentation. Thanks!
>
>
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