📋 Database design Pattern Name Question (I think it's called the Singleton Pattern)

[o] [2] LPCRoy

[2009-06-23 21:56:16]

[database design-patterns database-design]

[http://stackoverflow.com/questions/1035479/database-design-pattern-name-question-i-think-its-called-the-singleton-pattern]

I've got a table in my database where there can only be 1 row per non-identity attribute tuple. Whenever we insert a row, we first check to see if a row exists with those values, if not, we insert it, otherwise we use the ID from the existing row.

In the example below, there would be a Unique Index on (Id) and (Attr1, Attr2, Attr3)

```
+----+-------+-------+-------+
| Id | Attr1 | Attr2 | Attr3 |
+====+=======+=======+=======+
| 1  |   A   |   A   |   B   |
| 2  |   B   |   A   |   B   |
| 3  |   C   |   A   |   B   |
| 4  |   D   |   A   |   B   |
| 5  |   E   |   A   |   B   |
+----+-------+-------+-------+
```

What is this pattern called?

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[0] [2009-06-23 22:13:12] Cade Roux

There's no particular name for this pattern.

You have a natural primary key candidate on Attr1, Attr2, Attr3 and a surrogate primary key candidate on ID. You can make one the primary key and create a unique index on the other. You can choose either for clustering depending on your needs (I would first consider the surrogate).

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[-1] [2015-05-20 13:29:10] PerformanceDBA

What is this pattern called?

Idiot Pattern.

Un-normalised Pattern.

Too Much Reading Patterns Pattern.

Not enough reading data analysis (Ambler and Fowler do not have any understanding of data).

The Record ID field is a surrogate (not a "surrogate key", please, it has none of the qualities of a Key), it is totally redundant. The field and the index that supports it can be removed, with no loss.

Upsert - **Robert Harvey**
@Robert Harvey. Update or insert what ? - **PerformanceDBA**
NVM, no longer interested. - **Robert Harvey**
@Robert Harvey. *NVM* Evidently not. You are clearly very interested. You have completely changed you answer, and deleted my comment. Upsert may well be the name of the function that he describes, but that has nothing to do with the question he is asking. You have replaced a completely incorrect answer with a completely irrelevant answer. Priceless. - **PerformanceDBA**
Fixed.......... - **Robert Harvey**
Only to your personal benefit. After replacing your incorrect answer, and deleting my comment that pointed that out. - **PerformanceDBA**
I haven't deleted any comments, so I haven't the slightest idea what you're talking about. For a pedant, you really ought to get your facts straight. - **Robert Harvey**

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