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How to: Delete Indexes

Indexes can slow INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETE performance. If you find that an index hinders overall performance or you no longer need it, you can delete it.

✎ **Note**

A new version of Table Designer appears for databases in the SQL Server 2012 format. This topic describes the old version of Table Designer, which you use with databases in earlier formats of SQL Server.

In the new version, you can change a table definition through a graphical interface or directly in a script pane. If you use the graphical interface, the table's definition is automatically updated in the script pane. To apply the SQL code in the script pane, choose the **Update** button. For more information about the new version, see How to: Create Database Objects Using Table Designer.

✎ **Note**

Your computer might show different names or locations for some of the Visual Studio user interface elements in the following instructions. The Visual Studio edition that you have and the settings that you use determine these elements. For more information, see Customizing Development Settings in Visual Studio.

To delete an index

1. In **Server Explorer**, select the database table with indexes you want to delete.

2. From the **Database** menu, click **Open Table Definition**.

3. From the **Table Designer** menu, click **Indexes/Keys**.

4. In the **Indexes/Keys** dialog box, select the index you want to delete.

5. Click **Delete**.

   The index is deleted from the database when you save your table.

✎ **Note**

If you delete an index in **Table Designer** but you do not want to delete it from the database you can close the table without saving changes. This will also discard all other changes made since the table was last saved.

See Also

Reference
Indexes/Keys Dialog Box
Other Resources
Working with Indexes
Working with Keys

Community Additions

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