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**Procedure:** SQL Server - How to check if column exists in table

**Source:** [**LINK**](http://stackoverflow.com/questions/133031/how-to-check-if-column-exists-in-sql-server-table)

**Permalink:** [**LINK**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/sql-server-how-to-check-if-column-exists-in-table/) **(**<http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/sql-server-how-to-check-if-column-exists-in-table/>**)**

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# **SQL Server – How to check if column exists in table**

**SCENARIO**

*I need to add a specific column if it does not exist. I have something like this, but it always returns false:*

IF EXISTS( SELECT \* FROM INFORMATION\_SCHEMA.COLUMNS

WHERE TABLE\_NAME = 'myTableName'

AND COLUMN\_NAME = 'myColumnName')

How can I check if a column exists on a table in **SQL Server**?

**SOLUTION**

**SQL Server 2005** onwards:

if Exists(select \* from sys.columns where Name = N'columnName'

and Object\_ID = Object\_ID(N'tableName'))

begin

-- Column Exists

end

Or, as an alternative, you could use a more concise version, using **COL\_LENGTH**:

IF COL\_LENGTH('table\_name','column\_name') IS NULL

BEGIN

/\*Column does not exist or caller does not have permission to view the object\*/

END

**SOLUTION (Function Version)**

Try something like:

CREATE FUNCTION ColumnExists(@TableName varchar(100), @ColumnName varchar(100))

RETURNS varchar(1) AS

BEGIN

DECLARE @Result varchar(1);

IF EXISTS (SELECT \* FROM INFORMATION\_SCHEMA.Columns WHERE TABLE\_NAME = @TableName AND COLUMN\_NAME = @ColumnName)

BEGIN

SET @Result = 'T'

END

ELSE

BEGIN

SET @Result = 'F'

END

RETURN @Result;

END

GO

GRANT EXECUTE ON [ColumnExists] TO [whoever]

GO

Then use it like this:

IF ColumnExists('xxx', 'yyyy') = 'F'

BEGIN

ALTER TABLE xxx

ADD yyyyy varChar(10) NOT NULL

END

GO

It should work on both **SQL Server 2000** & **SQL Server 2005**.