

# Primary Keys

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## ▼ Design of Primary Keys



### ▼ Design is based on my philosophies on primary keys



## Always use sequence numbers for primary keys

I.E.

- Oracle: Sequence Numbers
- Many times in my career, usage of a real-world business value (*a value from the business universe of discourse*) as a primary key has resulted in painful and costly work because something about the business (or something about the related attribute) has changed, causing a system to break
- Not once in my career has usage of a sequence as a primary key been an issue
- so: always use sequence numbers as primary keys !!!







## Always setup a primary key with one single attribute

- Setting up a primary key as a combination of two or more attributes makes a system brittle.

Because ORM-ish à la TiddlyWiki expects usage of sequence numbers which having nothing to do with a line-of-business universe of discourse, it doesn't make much sense to setup primary keys with verbalization of facts.

So setup of primary keys works like this:

- For a given entity (*for example: BUILDING*), add a "pk" field with a value = the wiki link for the related attribute (*for example: BUILDING's pk = [[BLDG\_SEQ\_NUM]]*)

entity	key
ACCOMMODATION_TYPE  	ACCOM_TYPE_SEQ_NUM
BLDG_SPACE_UNIT  	BSU_SEQ_NUM
BUILDING  	BLDG_SEQ_NUM