SQL Data Compare Defining Custom Keys

You can specify a custom key when the table or view has no built-in key or when the existing key is not suitable for data compare.

The following rules apply to custom keys:

- A custom key can be defined under the xml element `<LeftObject>` or `<RightObject>` of the `<Pair>` element
- A custom key must have a name and one or more columns
- The columns that participate in the custom key should exist in the parent table or view
- The key must be defined for each object in the pair of entities.
- The columns that participate in the custom key must be identical for both objects in the specified pair.

The following xml fragment defines a custom key for the pair of table dbo.Employees:

```
<TablePairs>
     <Pair>
          <LeftObject Name="dbo.Employees">
               <Key Name="Custom_Key">
                    <Column>EmployeeID</Column>
               </Key>
          </LeftObject>
          <RightObject Name="dbo.Employees">
               <Key Name="Custom_Key">
                    <Column>EmployeeID</Column>
               </Key>
          </RightObject>
     </Pair>
</TablePairs>
```

Total compare from data to schema with IDERA SQL Comparison Toolset. Learn more > >

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