

QGIS Application - Feature request #14477

Add an option to create a sequence for existing integer columns

2016-03-13 10:06 AM - R. R.

Status:	Open	Resolution: Copied to github as #: 22455
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Category:	DB Manager	
Pull Request or Patch supplied:		
Easy fix?:	No	
Description		
Please add an option to create a sequence for existing integer columns in the DB Manager. Changing the type to serial in the 'Field properties' dialogue isn't working.		

History

- #1 - 2016-03-26 02:06 AM - Jürgen Fischer
- Subject changed from DB Manager - Add an option to create a sequence for existing integer columns to Add an option to create a sequence for existing integer columns
- #2 - 2016-06-21 12:21 PM - R. R.
- File database\_error.png added
- File edit\_table\_edit\_column.png added

Wouldn't it be better to remove 'serial' and 'bigserial' until someone has implemented this feature?

[https://issues.qgis.org/attachments/10061/edit\\_table\\_edit\\_column.png](https://issues.qgis.org/attachments/10061/edit_table_edit_column.png)

[https://issues.qgis.org/attachments/10062/database\\_error.png](https://issues.qgis.org/attachments/10062/database_error.png)

#3 - 2016-06-22 01:32 AM - Jukka Rahkonen

Can you do the same simply in PostgreSQL? I found this discussion <https://www.postgresql.org/message-id/4505.1288879499%40sss.pgh.pa.us> The conclusion by the developers was

We've looked at that in the past and decided there were enough corner cases that it wasn't clearly a good idea. In particular, what do you do with the existing data in the column? What do you do if there's already a DEFAULT expression for the column, throw it away? In particular, what of the special case that the column is in fact already a serial, so the default is pointing at an existing sequence?

Making such a change to an existing table can be done manually <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/9490014/adding-serial-to-existing-column-in-postgres>

It feels like users should really understand what they are going to do for their database and pgSQL is just the right tool.

There are many other impossible alternatives in the Edit column-Field properties-Type drop down menu and it would be hard to analyze which changes could be done and which ones not (if data hold in bigint can fit into smallint, if varchar is plain numbers without leading zeros and could be converted into integer etc.).

The title of this issue is "Add an option to create a sequence for existing integer columns".  
I would close it as Won't fix because it is not a good idea.

About the suggestion "Wouldn't it be better to remove 'serial' and 'bigserial'" I am not sure. Perhaps it would be more better to let users try and throw an uniform error message "Type could not be changed from [a] into [b]" in case of failure and list possible additional messages from the database after that.

**#4 - 2017-05-01 12:46 AM - Giovanni Manghi**  
- *Easy fix? set to No*

**#5 - 2017-10-17 02:20 AM - Jürgen Fischer**  
- *Description updated*

Files			
edit_table_edit_column.png	22 KB	2016-06-21	R. R.
database_error.png	22.2 KB	2016-06-21	R. R.