

# WordPress + InnoDB screams for FOREIGN keys

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No more orphaned data in WordPress if you add FOREIGN keys to your InnoDB database.

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I've used database cleanup plugins to find orphaned post meta, comment meta, comment, etc. on a WordPress database in the past.

In case you're using InnoDB<sup>[1]</sup> as your MySQL Engine<sup>[2]</sup>, which is the default from version 5.5, you might want FOREIGN KEYS to prevent this kind of orphanage.

Please do not believe the sounds out there that this degrades performance since it's only in effect when you delete, and with deletion, you do want a clean delete. It does not effect view/read performance at all.

```
--
-- Constraints for table `wp_commentmeta`
--
ALTER TABLE `wp_commentmeta`
ADD CONSTRAINT `comment_id` FOREIGN KEY (`comment_id`)
REFERENCES `wp_comments` (`comment_ID`) ON DELETE CASCADE ON
UPDATE CASCADE;

--
-- Constraints for table `wp_comments`
--
ALTER TABLE `wp_comments`
ADD CONSTRAINT `comment_post_id` FOREIGN KEY
(`comment_post_ID`) REFERENCES `wp_posts` (`ID`) ON DELETE
CASCADE ON UPDATE CASCADE;

--
-- Constraints for table `wp_postmeta`
--
```

sql

```

ALTER TABLE `wp_postmeta`
ADD CONSTRAINT `post_id` FOREIGN KEY (`post_id`) REFERENCES
`wp_posts` (`ID`) ON DELETE CASCADE ON UPDATE CASCADE;

--
-- Constraints for table `wp_posts`
--
ALTER TABLE `wp_posts`
ADD CONSTRAINT `author_id` FOREIGN KEY (`post_author`)
REFERENCES `wp_users` (`ID`) ON DELETE CASCADE ON UPDATE
CASCADE;

--
-- Constraints for table `wp_term_relationships`
--
ALTER TABLE `wp_term_relationships`
ADD CONSTRAINT `term_taxonomy_id` FOREIGN KEY
(`term_taxonomy_id`) REFERENCES `wp_term_taxonomy`
(`term_taxonomy_id`) ON DELETE CASCADE ON UPDATE CASCADE;

--
-- Constraints for table `wp_term_taxonomy`
--
ALTER TABLE `wp_term_taxonomy`
ADD CONSTRAINT `term_id` FOREIGN KEY (`term_id`) REFERENCES
`wp_terms` (`term_id`) ON DELETE CASCADE ON UPDATE CASCADE;

--
-- Constraints for table `wp_usermeta`
--
ALTER TABLE `wp_usermeta`
ADD CONSTRAINT `user_id` FOREIGN KEY (`user_id`) REFERENCES
`wp_users` (`ID`) ON DELETE CASCADE ON UPDATE CASCADE;

```

## Links

1. <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.6/en/innodb-storage-engine.html>
2. <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/refman/5.6/en/storage-engines.html>

Created by Peter Molnar <mail@petermolnar.net>, published at 2014-07-25 12:02 UTC, last modified at 2021-05-11 11:49 UTC , to canonical URL <https://petermolnar.net/article/wordpress-innodb-screams-for-foreign-keys/> , licensed under CC-BY-4.0 .