

# Error writing to database field doesn't have a default value

If you receive an error like this, it indicates that your database schema may be missing some defaults:

```
Default exception handler: Error writing to database Debug: Field 'idnumber' doesn't have a default value
```

In this example, the error occurred when creating a new user account. To confirm, you can use the XMLDB editor to check your defaults:

Site administration > Development > XMLDB Editor > Check Defaults

This will allow you to run a check on the database and pick up any missing defaults. It will also generate the database SQL to fix this. For example, the check in this scenario found 4 defaults missing on the `mdl_user` table for the columns `idnumber`, `phone1`, `phone2` and `theme`. It provided the following SQL to run on the database to fix:

```
ALTER TABLE mdl_user MODIFY COLUMN idnumber VARCHAR(255) COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci NOT NULL DEFAULT '' after password;ALTER TABLE mdl_user MODIFY COLUMN phone1 VARCHAR(20) COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci NOT NULL DEFAULT '' after emailstop;ALTER TABLE mdl_user MODIFY COLUMN phone2 VARCHAR(20) COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci NOT NULL DEFAULT '' after phone1;ALTER TABLE mdl_user MODIFY COLUMN theme VARCHAR(50) COLLATE utf8mb4_unicode_ci NOT NULL DEFAULT '' after calendartype;
```

Once you run the SQL on the database, you can use the same functionality to confirm that the defaults are now in place.

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