

Properties and property attributes (Location class)

A domain class is - first and foremost - a set of typed properties. These properties require annotations, as explained on this related page: [domain object class](#).

Our `Location` includes string properties

- `Street`
- `Number`
- `City`

String properties should be attributed to give `dbschema.exe` important clues on how these properties should be constrained in the database. After all, `domain objects` can be persisted. What's more `BOC controls` also enforce those constraints.

As you might guess, `[StringProperty]`'s property `MaxLength` specifies the maximum string length. The `Street`'s maximum length is not only generated into the database script (see `dbschema.exe`), it is also enforced by `re-form`, or, the particular `BOC control` receiving a `Street` value in an edit form. The `BOC control` will not let the user input a string longer than 60 characters.

`re-motion` derives the characteristics of nullability directly from the .NET types. `string`s are nullable, but what if don't want that for our application? An address without a `Street` name is not any good, that's why we override the `string` type's nullability with the property `Nullable=false` in the `[StringProperty]` attribute.

`Country`? clearly is nullable, so a `country` enum is not mandatory, neither in the database nor in edit forms. `int` - the type of the `ZipCode` property - is mandatory, and that's how it is mapped to both the database schema and the user interface.

The `[DBColumn]` attribute *renames* the property for the database. If not told otherwise, `re-store` takes the name of the property as name for the column in the database. The table itself is named after the class.

For our `Location` class this means that the `Location` table will contain these columns:

- `Street`
- `City`
- `Country`
- `ZipCode`
- there won't be a `Number` column, because we renamed it; the column will be named `LocationNumber`

Note that all properties here are `virtual`. This is not an accident, this is a requirement, as explained here: [FIXME](#).

The `[MultiLingualResources]` attribute is discussed in a later section, when we cover globalization: [FIXME](#).