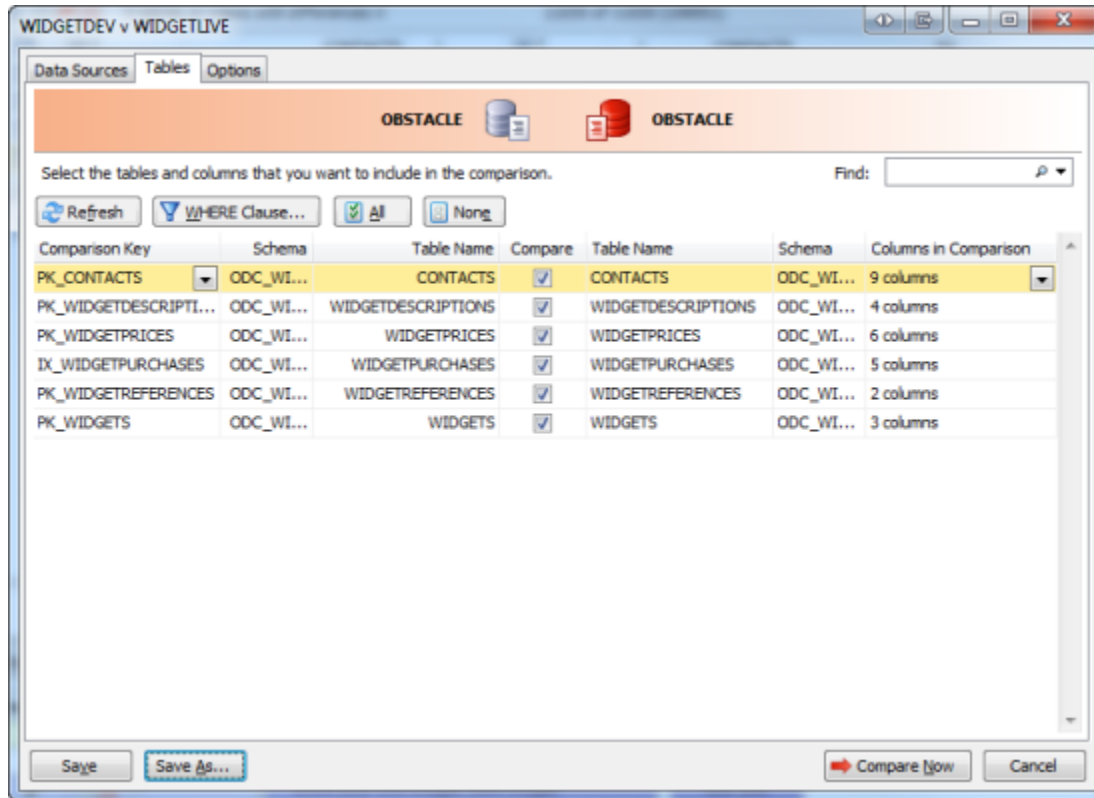# Selecting tables to compare

When you create a project and you have selected your databases, you can specify which tables, views, and columns to compare. You enter this information using the **Tables** tab on the Project Configuration dialog box.

The Tables tab lets you:

- select the comparison key for each table
- select the tables to be compared
- select the columns to be compared

Data Compare for Oracle lists the tables in the source and target. Tables with identical or similar names are displayed side-by-side:

✅ You can filter the specific rows that will be compared by entering a WHERE clause. Filtering can improve the performance of Data Compare for Oracle.

To filter rows, click **WHERE Clause**. The WHERE Clause Editor dialog box is displayed. For more information, see Filtering the comparison results with a WHERE clause.

✅ You can change the order in which the tables are listed by clicking a column header.To sort by multiple columns, click a column header, then hold down Shift and click another column header.

Selecting the comparison key

To match rows in the two data sources, Data Compare for Oracle requires a comparison key for each table.

Data Compare for Oracle automatically selects a comparison key when tables contain a matching primary key, unique index, or unique constraint.

If Data Compare for Oracle is unable to identify a suitable comparison key for a table, *Not Set* is shown in the **Comparison Key** box.

To set the comparison key for an object, click its **Comparison Key** box. A dialog box is displayed on which you can select the columns that will comprise the key:

To select columns to comprise the comparison key, in the **Comparison key** box, select **Custom**:

You can then select the columns using the check boxes in the **Key** column.

Selecting the tables

Select the tables you want to compare using the check boxes in the **Compare** column:

Comparison Key	Schema	Table Name	Compare	Table Name	Schema	Columns in Comparison	
PK_CONTACTS ▼	ODC_WI...	CONTACTS	☑	CONTACTS	ODC_WI...	9 columns	▼
PK_WIDGETDESCRIPTI...	ODC_WI...	WIDGETDESCRIPTIONS	☑	WIDGETDESCRIPTIONS	ODC_WI...	4 columns	
Custom	ODC_WI...	WIDGETPRICELIST	☑	WIDGETPRICELIST	ODC_WI...	3 columns	
PK_WIDGETPRICES	ODC_WI...	WIDGETPRICES	☑	WIDGETPRICES	ODC_WI...	4 of 8 columns	
IX_WIDGETPURCHASES	ODC_WI...	WIDGETPURCHASES	☑	WIDGETPURCHASES	ODC_WI...	5 columns	
PK_WIDGETREFERENCES	ODC_WI...	WIDGETREFERENCES	☑	WIDGETREFERENCES	ODC_WI...	2 columns	
PK_WIDGETS	ODC_WI...	WIDGETS	☑	WIDGETS	ODC_WI...	3 columns	

To select all the check boxes in the Compare column, click 🗹 **All**; to clear them, click 🗔 **None**.

By default, the first time that you run a project all tables and views with identical or similar names are selected for comparison.

If the structure of the databases you are comparing has changed while you are working on the project, click 🔄 **Refresh** to update the Tables tab. For example, if a table has been added to the database, click 🔄 **Refresh** so you can include the new table in the comparison.

ⓘ   If a table has been added to a database since you last ran the project, Data Compare for Oracle doesn't select the table by default.

Selecting columns

Data Compare for Oracle displays the number of columns that will be compared for each table. By default, the first time that you run a project, all columns with identical or similar names are selected for comparison.

You can filter the comparison to consider only specific columns.

To select the columns to compare in a table, click on it in the **Columns in Comparison** column. A dialog box is displayed with check boxes to include or exclude each column:

You cannot exclude any columns that are used for the comparison key (indicated by 🔑).

A warning symbol ⚠ is shown when columns you are comparing cannot be mapped. This occurs if those columns have:

- column names that do not match
- incompatible datatypes

For more information about the datatypes that Data Compare for Oracle can compare, see Which datatypes can be compared?