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Subject: Defining columntype while appending columns  
Posted by [helloWorld22](#) on Thu, 15 Feb 2024 15:25:54 GMT  
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Hi,  
In DW SDK, while I want to define a columntype after initializing new columns, it is throwing exception.

```
firstNewColumn = dwInterface.initializeNewColumns(result.get(t).toArray(new String[0]));  
dwInterface.setColumnType(firstNewColumn,  
IPluginHelper.COLUMN_TYPE_STRUCTURE_FROM_SMILES);
```

The logic is to check if the new column added has a column header "SMILES", if so, then append the column as COLUMN\_TYPE\_STRUCTURE\_FROM\_SMILES.

It works fine when setColumnType is not used. But smiles are shown as String and not structure.

The exception occurs in line  
`dwInterface.setColumnType(firstNewColumn,  
IPluginHelper.COLUMN_TYPE_STRUCTURE_FROM_SMILES);`  
as nullpointer exception.

The exception occurs in `com.actelion.research.datawarrior.plugin.PluginHelper` line:  
`mCoordinateColumn[column] = mTargetTableModel.addNewColumns(1);`

Since `mCoordinateColumn` is not set in `initializeNewColumns`, it is throwing nullpointer exception.

Is it possible to set up a column type while appending column?

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