SQL Server: Global Temporary tables

techonthenet.com/sql_server/tables/global_temp.php

This SQL Server tutorial explains how to use the **GLOBAL TEMPORARY TABLES** in SQL Server (Transact-SQL) with syntax and examples.

Description

GLOBAL TEMPORARY TABLES in SQL Server (Transact-SQL) are tables that are created distinct within the SQL Server sessions.

Syntax

The syntax for CREATE GLOBAL TEMPORARY TABLE in SQL Server (Transact-SQL) is:

```
CREATE TABLE ##table_name
(
  column1 datatype [ NULL | NOT NULL ],
  column2 datatype [ NULL | NOT NULL ],
  ...
);
```

Parameters or Arguments

table_name
The name of the global temporary table that you wish to create. The name of the global temporary table starts with ## characters.

column1, column2
The columns that you wish to create in the global temporary table. Each column must have a datatype. The column should either be defined as NULL or NOT NULL and if this value is left blank, the database assumes NULL as the default.

Note

> The name of GLOBAL TEMPORARY TABLES are prefixed with ## characters (ie: ##employees).

Example

Let's look at an example of how to create a GLOBAL TEMPORARY TABLE in SQL Server (Transact-SQL).

For example:

```
CREATE TABLE ##employees
( employee_id INT PRIMARY KEY,
  last_name VARCHAR(50) NOT NULL,
  first_name VARCHAR(50),
  salary MONEY
);
```

This example would create a GLOBAL TEMPORARY TABLE called *##employees* in SQL Server which has 4 columns.

- The first column is called *employee* which is created as an INT datatype and can not contain NULL values.
- The second column is called *last_name* which is a VARCHAR datatype (50 maximum characters in length) and also can not contain NULL values.
- The third column is called *first_name* which is a VARCHAR datatype but can contain NULL values.
- The fourth column is called *salary* which is a MONEY datatype which can contain NULL values.
- The primary key for the *#employees* table is the *employee_id* column.

This *##employees* table is stored in tempdb and SQL Server will automatically delete this table when all users referencing the table have disconnected from the SQL Server session.