

SQL Functions

Introduction:

SQL Functions are used to perform calculations and manipulate data. By writing a Function a user can use the same function multiple times without having to re-write the code every time they want a certain result set.

1. Explain when you would use a SQL UDF.

A User Defined Function (UDF) is when a user defines and creates their own function to pull aggregate data from their table/dataset. Some commonly used functions are:

- Min()
- Max()
- Sum()
- Count()
- Avg()

2. Explain the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions.

“...A *scalar function* is one which returns a single value (which could) be a string of text, a number, or a date” ¹

“An *in-line* table-valued function returns a single set of rows”²

“A *multi-statement table-valued function* is a function which returns a table of data”.³

Summary:

This week’s assignment in learning Functions was interesting. It was a bit challenging, which means I watched the video several times. I don’t mind that I needed to watch the videos more than once, because I got a bit more out of the videos each time I viewed them.

This week’s homework really made me stop, and take the questions in small chunks, to come up with the correct function syntax.

References:

1. <https://www.wiseowl.co.uk/blog/s344/scalar-udfs.htm>
2. <https://www.wiseowl.co.uk/blog/s347/in-line.htm>
3. <https://www.wiseowl.co.uk/blog/s347/multi-statement.htm>