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Course: Foundations of Databases & SQL Programming

DB Foundation, Assignment 06

Topics:

1. Explain when you would use a SQL View.
2. Explain the differences and similarities between a View, Function, and Stored Procedure.

Introduction

A great way to make data in an SQL server database more accessible is by using views. A base view is a basic representation of the data in the existing table. The user can see the data but is not able to make any changes to the table. A reporting view is typically used for extracting data for reporting purposes.

Functions and Stored Procedures

Views and functions share some similarities but are also very different. A view displays data from a query but does not store any data. A function can also return data similar to a view, but it can also accept parameters. A stored procedure is a batch of code that can be saved and used when applicable. A store procedure can also return values based on parameters.

Summary

Views are an abstraction of existing data that is derived from a query and returned to the user. Using functions and stored procedures allows the user to develop complex reporting views for reporting.