SQL Style Guide

This style guide is for use within the following courses: DBS211, 311, 610, and 710.

The following is a standard SQL style guide that will allow SQL to be consistent, easy to read, and comply with industry standards.

This guide was developed from the base Mozilla online standards found at: SQL Style Guide - Mozilla Data Documentation

Styles

ALL SQL is to be written utilizing the following rules:

Capitalization

- All reserved keywords, excluding functions, are to be written in ALL CAPS.
  (Examples: SELECT, UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE, FROM, WHERE, JOIN, INNER, OUTER, LEFT, RIGHT, GROUP BY, ORDER BY, INTO, AS, LIMIT, TOP, OFFSET, BEGIN, END, GO, CREATE, ALTER, VIEW, TABLE, PROCEDURE, etc.)
- All built-in functions should be Pascal Case (starts with a capital)
- All user defined objects, such as tables, columns, views, aliases, etc., should be all lower case using _ (underscore) to fill in spaces.

```
SELECT
    field_name1 AS alias1,
    field_name2,
    field_name3
FROM tablename
WHERE
    field_name2 > somevalue
ORDER BY field_name2 DESC;
```

Line Breaks and Indenting

- All Root Keywords are to begin on a new line (SELECT, FROM, WHERE, ORDER BY, JOIN, GROUP BY)
- If there is only a single parameter, then it can follow on the same line, otherwise, parameters are each placed on their own line and indented.
- All indents are to be exactly 4 spaces
- Always include a semi-colon at the end of each statement

Joins

- Always include the join type rather than relying on the default join.
- Multi-table joins should be indented

```
SELECT
    table1.field_name1 AS alias1,
    table1.field_name2,
    table2.field_name3
```

```
FROM
    table1 INNER JOIN table 2
    ON table1.field_name1 = table2.field_name3
WHERE
    table1.field_name2 > somevalue
ORDER BY table1.field_name2 DESC;
```

Parentheses

If the content of parentheses span multiple lines, then

- the opening parenthesis should terminate the previous line
- the closing parenthesis should be on its own line aligned with the line that starting the code block
- the contents of the parentheses should all be indented relative to the external code block

```
CREATE VIEW view_name AS (
    SELECT *
    FROM table_name
);
```

Booleans

Boolean operators should always be placed at the beginning of a new line:

```
SELECT
    <fieldlist>
FROM <table_name>
WHERE
    <condition1>
    AND <condition2>
    OR <condition3>
ORDER BY <fieldname>;
```