

Journey to SQL Authority with Pinal Dave

SQL, SQL Server, MySQL, Big Data and NoSQL

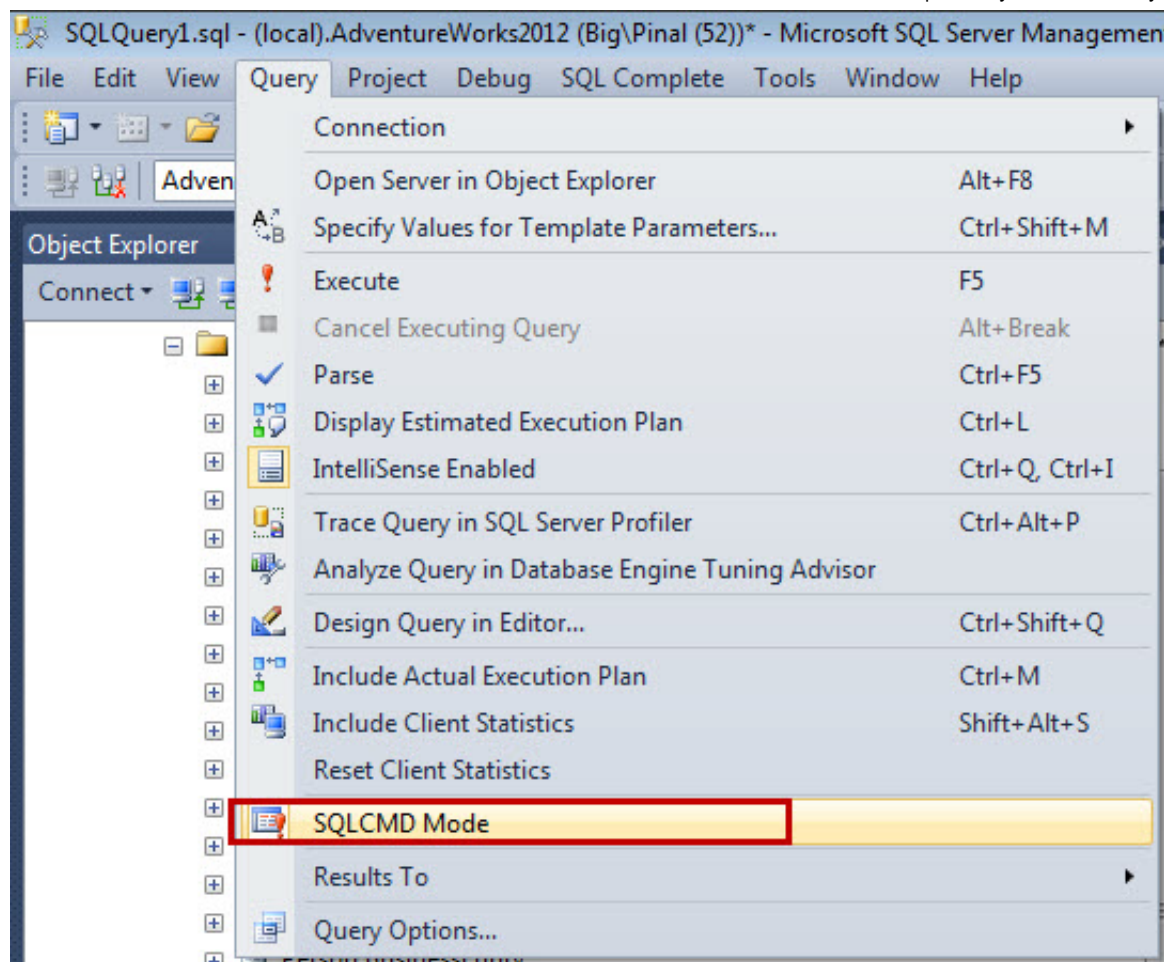
JUNE 28, 2013 BY PINAL DAVE

SQL SERVER – How to Set Variable and Use Variable in SQLCMD Mode

Here is the question which I received the other day on [SQLAuthority Facebook \(http://facebook.com/SQLAuth\)](http://facebook.com/SQLAuth) page. Social media is a wonderful thing and I love the active conversation between blog readers and myself – actually I think social media adds lots of human factor to any conversation. Here is the question -

“I am using *sqlcmd* in SSMS – I am not sure how to declare variable and pass it, for example I have a database and it has table, how can I make the table variable dynamic and pass different value everytime?”

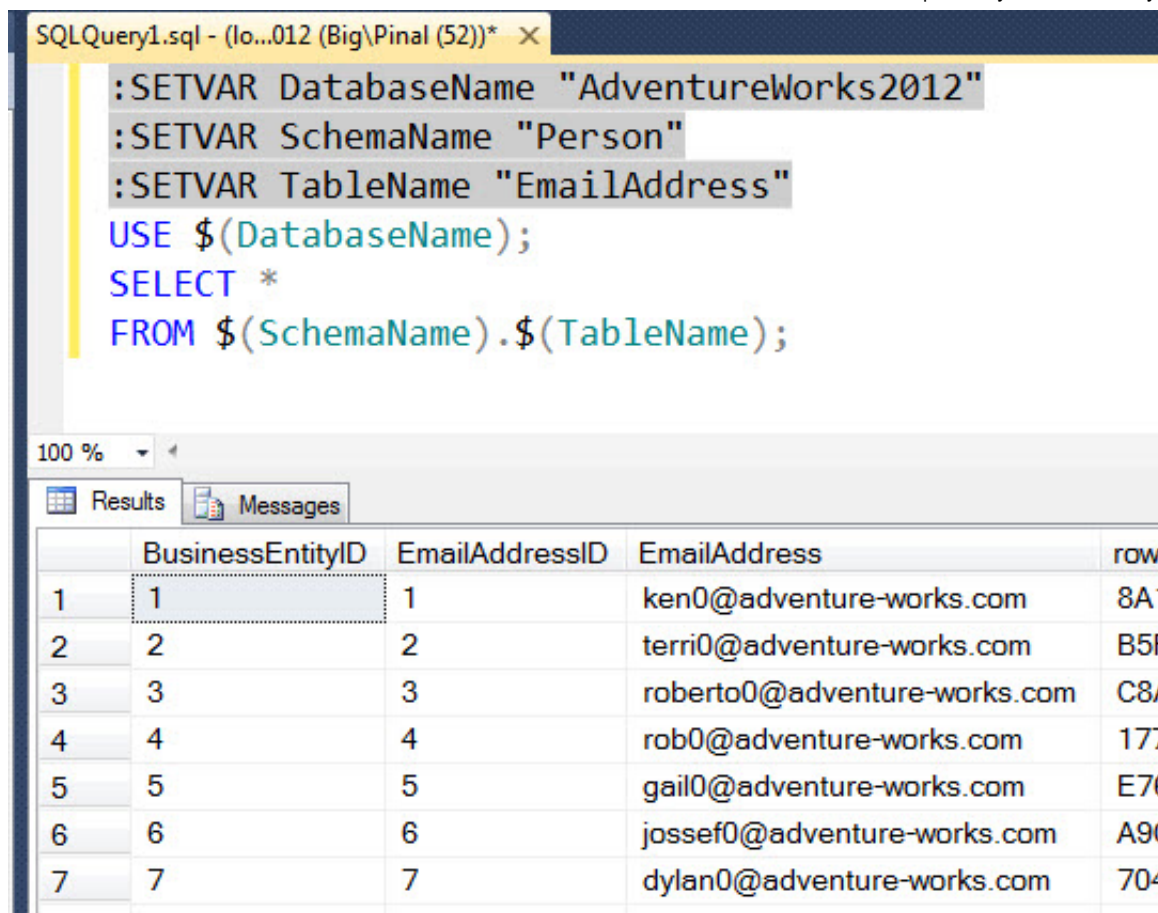
Fantastic question, and here is its very simple answer. First of all, enable sqlcmd mode in SQL Server Management Studio as described in following image.



Now in query editor type following SQL.

```
:SETVAR DatabaseName "AdventureWorks2012"  
:SETVAR SchemaName "Person"  
:SETVAR TableName "EmailAddress"  
USE $(DatabaseName);  
SELECT *  
FROM $(SchemaName).$(TableName);
```

Note that I have set the value of the database, schema and table as a sqlcmd variable and I am executing the query using the same parameters.



The screenshot shows a SQL query window titled "SQLQuery1.sql - (lo...012 (Big\Pinal (52)))". The query is as follows:

```
:SETVAR DatabaseName "AdventureWorks2012"  
:SETVAR SchemaName "Person"  
:SETVAR TableName "EmailAddress"  
USE $(DatabaseName);  
SELECT *  
FROM $(SchemaName).$(TableName);
```

Below the query window, the "Results" tab is active, displaying a table with 7 rows. The columns are BusinessEntityID, EmailAddressID, EmailAddress, and rowguid. The data is as follows:

	BusinessEntityID	EmailAddressID	EmailAddress	rowguid
1	1	1	ken0@adventure-works.com	8A1
2	2	2	terri0@adventure-works.com	B5F
3	3	3	roberto0@adventure-works.com	C8A
4	4	4	rob0@adventure-works.com	177
5	5	5	gail0@adventure-works.com	E76
6	6	6	jossef0@adventure-works.com	A9C
7	7	7	dylan0@adventure-works.com	704

Well, that was it, sqlcmd is a very simple language to master and it also aids in doing various tasks easily.

If you have any other sqlcmd tips, please leave a comment and I will publish it with due credit.

Reference: **Pinal Dave** (<http://blog.sqlauthority.com> (<http://blog.sqlauthority.com/>))

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