

3.9: Common Table Expressions

Directions

Create a new text document and call it “Answers 3.9.” You’ll save your queries, outputs, and written answers in this document.

Step 1: Answer the business questions from step 1 and 2 of task 3.8 using CTEs

(**Task 3.8 Step 1:** Find the average amount paid by the top 5 customers and **Step 2:** Find out how many of the top 5 customers are based within each country).

1. Rewrite your queries from steps 1 and 2 of task 3.8 as CTEs.
2. Copy-paste your CTEs and their outputs into your answers document.
3. Write 2 to 3 sentences explaining how you approached this step, for example, what you did first, second, and so on.

The screenshot shows a SQL IDE interface with a query editor and a data output pane. The query editor contains a SQL query that uses a Common Table Expression (CTE) to calculate the average amount paid by the top 5 customers, grouped by country. The query is as follows:

```
1 WITH Average_total_paid_cte(customer_id, first_name, last_name, city,
2                               country, total_amount_paid) AS
3   (SELECT B.customer_id, B.first_name, B. last_name, D.city, E.country,
4    SUM (A. amount) AS total_amount_paid
5   FROM payment A
6   INNER JOIN customer B ON A.customer_id = B. customer_id
7   INNER JOIN address C ON B.address_id = C.address_id
8   INNER JOIN city D ON C.city_id = D.city_id
9   INNER JOIN country E ON D.country_ID = E. country_ID
10  WHERE city IN ('Aurora', 'Atlixco', 'Xintai', 'Adoni', 'Dhule (Duhlia)',
11                'Kursahiki', 'Pingxiang', 'Sivas', 'Celaya', 'So Leopoldo')
12  GROUP BY B.customer_id, B. first_name, B. last_name, D. City, E.country
13  ORDER BY total_amount_paid DESC
14  LIMIT 5)
15  SELECT AVG(total_amount_paid) AS avg_amount_paid
16  FROM average_total_paid_cte
```

The data output pane shows the result of the query, which is a single row with the average amount paid, 107.35400000000000.

	avg_amount_paid numeric
1	107.35400000000000

Step 2: Compare the performance of your CTEs and subqueries.

1. Which approach do you think will perform better and why?
2. Compare the costs of all the queries by creating query plans for each one.
3. The EXPLAIN command gives you an *estimated* cost. To find out the actual speed of your queries, run them in pgAdmin 4. After each query has been run, a pop-up window will display its speed in milliseconds.
4. Did the results surprise you? Write a few sentences to explain your answer.

The screenshot shows the pgAdmin 4 interface. The main pane displays a SQL query with line numbers 1 through 35. The query uses CTEs to find the top customer by total amount paid in each country and then counts the number of such top customers per country. The results pane on the right shows the output of the query.

```
1 WITH top_customer_count_cte(customer_id, first_name, last_name, city,
2 country, total_amount_paid) AS
3 (SELECT B.customer_id, B.first_name, B.last_name, D.city, E.country,
4 SUM(A.amount) AS total_amount_paid
5 FROM payment A
6 INNER JOIN customer B ON A.customer_id = B.customer_id
7 INNER JOIN address C ON B.address_id = C.address_id
8 INNER JOIN city D ON C.city_id = D.city_id
9 INNER JOIN country E ON D.country_id = E.country_id
10 WHERE city IN('Aurora', 'Atlixco', 'Xintai', 'Adoni', 'Dhule (Dhulia)',
11 'Kursahiki', 'Pingxiang', 'Sivas', 'Celaya', 'So Leopoldo')
12 GROUP BY B.customer_id, B.first_name, B.last_name, D.City, E.country
13 ORDER BY total_amount_paid DESC
14 LIMIT 5),
15 all_customer_count_cte AS
16 (SELECT E.country,
17 COUNT (DISTINCT B.customer_id) AS all_customer_count,
18 COUNT (DISTINCT E.country) AS top_customer_count
19 FROM country E
20 INNER JOIN city D ON E.country_id = D.country_id
21 INNER JOIN address C ON D.city_id = C.city_id
22 INNER JOIN customer B ON C.address_id = B.address_id
23 GROUP BY E.country)
24 SELECT E.country,
25 COUNT (DISTINCT B.customer_id) AS all_customer_count,
26 COUNT (DISTINCT top_customer_count_cte.customer_id) AS top_customer_count
27 FROM country E
28 INNER JOIN city D ON E.country_id = D.country_id
29 INNER JOIN address C ON D.city_id = C.city_id
30 INNER JOIN customer B ON C.address_id = B.address_id
31 LEFT JOIN
32 top_customer_count_cte ON E.country = top_customer_count_cte.country
33 GROUP BY E.country
34 ORDER BY top_customer_count DESC
35 LIMIT 5
```

The results pane shows the following data:

country	all_customer_count	top_customer_count
Mexico	30	2
United States	36	1
India	60	1
Turkey	15	1
American Samoa	1	0

Step 3:

Write 1 to 2 paragraphs on the challenges you faced when replacing your subqueries with CTEs.

Both subqueries and CTE performed similarly, what differed from them was the running time. Both had the same Limit cost of 169.6...169.62 rows=5 and width = 25. The CTE performed a little bit slower by having a time of 64 msec and the subquery 54 msec.

Step 4:

Save your “Answers 3.9” document as a PDF and upload it here for your tutor to review.