



SQL STORED ROUTINES



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SQL Functions

- SQL queries can use sophisticated math operations and functions
 - Can compute simple functions, aggregates
 - Can compute and filter results
- Sometimes, apps require specialized computations
 - Would like to use these in SQL queries, too
- SQL provides a mechanism for defining functions
 - Called User-Defined Functions (UDFs)



SQL Functions (2)

- Can be defined in a procedural SQL language, or in an external language
 - SQL:1999, SQL:2003 both specify a language for declaring functions and procedures
- Different vendors provide their own languages
 - Oracle: PL/SQL
 - Microsoft: Transact-SQL (T-SQL)
 - PostgreSQL: PL/pgSQL
 - MySQL: stored procedure support strives to follow specifications (and mostly does)
 - Some also support external languages: Java, C, C#, etc.
- As usual, lots of variation in features and syntax



What is a User-defined Function?

- Can have parameters
- Returns a value, either
 - A single scalar value
 - Unlike a stored procedure
 - Most data types are legal
 - A table
- Can be called from a SELECT statement
 - Unlike a stored procedure



Syntax

```
CREATE FUNCTION someName (  
    parameters  
) RETURNS someDataType  
BEGIN  
    code  
    RETURN variable | SELECT statement;  
END
```

- Function can take arguments and return values
- Can use SQL statements and other operations in body



Example SQL Function

A SQL function to count how many bank accounts a particular customer has:

```
CREATE FUNCTION account_count(  
    customer_name VARCHAR(20)  
) RETURNS INTEGER  
BEGIN  
    DECLARE a_count INTEGER;  
    SELECT COUNT(*) INTO a_count FROM depositor AS d  
    WHERE d.customer_name = customer_name;  
    RETURN a_count;  
END
```



Example SQL Function (2)

- Can use our function for individual accounts:

```
SELECT account_count('Johnson');
```

- Can include in computed results:

```
SELECT customer_name,  
       account_count(customer_name) AS accts  
FROM customer;
```

- Can include in WHERE clause:

```
SELECT customer_name FROM customer  
WHERE account_count(customer_name) > 1;
```



Arguments and Return-Values

- Functions can take any number of arguments (even 0)
- Functions *must* return a value
 - Specify type of value in RETURNS clause
- From our example:

```
CREATE FUNCTION account_count(  
    customer_name VARCHAR(20)  
) RETURNS INTEGER
```

- One argument named `customer_name`, type is `VARCHAR(20)`
- Returns some `INTEGER` value



Table Functions

- SQL:2003 spec. includes table functions
 - Return a whole table as their result
 - Can be used in FROM clause
- A generalization of views
 - Can be considered to be parameterized views
 - Call function with specific arguments
 - Result is a relation based on those arguments
- Although SQL:2003 not broadly supported yet, most DBMSes provide a feature like this
 - ...in various ways, of course...



Function Bodies and Variables

- Blocks of procedural SQL commands are enclosed with `BEGIN` and `END`
 - Defines a compound statement
 - Can have nested `BEGIN ... END` blocks
- Variables are specified with `DECLARE` statement
 - Must appear at start of a block
 - Initial value is `NULL`
 - Can initialize to some other value with `DEFAULT` syntax
 - Scope of a variable is within its block
 - Variables in inner blocks can shadow variables in outer blocks



Example Blocks and Variables

- Our account_count function's body:

```
BEGIN
    DECLARE a_count INTEGER;
    SELECT COUNT(*) INTO a_count FROM depositor AS d
    WHERE d.customer_name = customer_name;
    RETURN a_count;
END
```

- A simple integer variable with initial value:

```
BEGIN
    DECLARE result INTEGER DEFAULT 0;
    ...
END
```



Assigning to Variables

- Can use SELECT ... INTO syntax
 - For assigning the result of a query into a variable

```
SELECT COUNT(*) INTO a_count
FROM depositor AS d
WHERE d.customer_name = customer_name;
```
 - Query must produce a single row

Note: SELECT INTO sometimes has multiple meanings!
This form is specific to the body of stored routines.

 - e.g. frequently used to create a temp table from a SELECT
- Can also use SET syntax
 - For assigning result of a math expression to a variable

```
SET result = n * (n + 1) / 2;
```



Assigning Multiple Variables

- Can assign to multiple variables using SELECT INTO syntax
- Example: Want both the number of accounts and the total balance

```
DECLARE a_count INTEGER;  
DECLARE total_balance NUMERIC(12,2);  
  
SELECT COUNT(*), SUM(balance)  
INTO a_count, total_balance  
FROM depositor AS d NATURAL JOIN account  
WHERE d.customer_name = customer_name;
```



Another Example

- Simple function to compute sum of 1..N

```
CREATE FUNCTION sum_n(n INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER
BEGIN
    DECLARE result INTEGER DEFAULT 0;
    SET result = n * (n + 1) / 2;
    RETURN result;
END
```

- Lots of extra work in that! To simplify:

```
CREATE FUNCTION sum_n(n INTEGER) RETURNS INTEGER
BEGIN
    RETURN n * (n + 1) / 2;
END
```



Dropping Functions

- Can't simply overwrite functions in the database
 - Same as tables, views, etc.
- First, drop old version of function:

```
DROP FUNCTION sum_n;
```

- Then create new version of function:

```
CREATE FUNCTION sum_n(n INTEGER)  
RETURNS INTEGER  
BEGIN  
    RETURN n * (n + 1) / 2;  
END
```



SQL Procedures

- Functions have specific limitations
 - Must return a value
 - All arguments are input-only
 - Typically cannot affect current transaction status (i.e. function cannot commit, rollback, etc.)
 - Usually not allowed to modify tables, except in particular circumstances
- Stored procedures are more general constructs without these limitations
 - Generally can't be used in same places as functions
 - e.g. can't use in `SELECT` clause
 - Procedures don't return a value like functions do



Exercise

Books(BookID, Title, AuthorID, PublicationYear, Genre)

Authors(AuthorID, Name, BirthYear, Nationality)

Members(MemberID, Name, MembershipStartDate, Email)

Borrowings(BorrowingID, BookID, MemberID, BorrowDate, ReturnDate)

Create a SQL function to ...

1. return the number of books borrowed by member with the given MemberID
2. find books of a specific genre
3. calculate the length of time to borrow a book in days



Thank You!

Defining Views

Views are relations, except that they are not physically stored.

For presenting different information to different users

Employee(ssn, name, department, project, salary)

```
CREATE VIEW Developers AS  
  SELECT name, project  
  FROM Employee  
  WHERE department = "Development"
```

Payroll has access to **Employee**, others only to **Developers**

A Different View

Person(name, city)

Purchase(buyer, seller, product, store)

Product(name, maker, category)

```
CREATE VIEW Seattle-view AS
```

```
SELECT buyer, seller, product, store
```

```
FROM Person, Purchase
```

```
WHERE Person.city = "Seattle" AND  
       Person.name = Purchase.buyer
```

We have a new virtual table:

Seattle-view(buyer, seller, product, store)

A Different View

We can later use the view:

```
SELECT name, store  
FROM   Seattle-view, Product  
WHERE  Seattle-view.product = Product.name AND  
        Product.category = "shoes"
```

What Happens When We Query a View ?

```
SELECT name, Seattle-view.store  
FROM   Seattle-view, Product  
WHERE  Seattle-view.product = Product.name AND  
        Product.category = "shoes"
```



```
SELECT name, Purchase.store  
FROM   Person, Purchase, Product  
WHERE  Person.city = "Seattle" AND  
        Person.name = Purchase.buyer AND  
        Purchase.poduct = Product.name AND  
        Product.category = "shoes"
```

Types of Views

- Virtual views:
 - Used in databases
 - Computed only on-demand – *slower* at runtime
 - Always up to date
- Materialized views
 - Used in data warehouses
 - Precomputed offline – *faster* at runtime
 - May have stale data

Updating Views

How can I insert a tuple into a table that doesn't exist?

`Employee(ssn, name, department, project, salary)`

```
CREATE VIEW Developers AS  
  SELECT name, project  
  FROM Employee  
  WHERE department = "Development"
```

If we make the
following insertion:

```
INSERT INTO Developers  
VALUES("Joe", "Optimizer")
```

It becomes:

```
INSERT INTO Employee  
VALUES(NULL, "Joe", NULL, "Optimizer", NULL)
```


Non-Updatable Views

```
CREATE VIEW Seattle-view AS  
  
    SELECT seller, product, store  
    FROM   Person, Purchase  
    WHERE  Person.city = "Seattle" AND  
           Person.name = Purchase.buyer
```

How can we add the following tuple to the view?

("Joe", "Shoe Model 12345", "Nine West")

We need to add "Joe" to Person first, but we don't have all its attributes

Answering Queries Using Views

- What if we want to *use* a set of views to answer a query.
- Why?
 - The obvious reason...
 - Answering queries over web data sources.
- *Very* cool stuff! (i.e., I did a lot of research on this).

Reusing a Materialized View

- Suppose I have **only** the result of SeattleView:

```
SELECT buyer, seller, product, store
FROM   Person, Purchase
WHERE  Person.city = 'Seattle' AND
       Person.per-name = Purchase.buyer
```

- and I want to answer the query

```
SELECT buyer, seller
FROM   Person, Purchase
WHERE  Person.city = 'Seattle' AND
       Person.per-name = Purchase.buyer AND
       Purchase.product='gizmo'.
```

Then, I can rewrite the query using the view.

Query Rewriting Using Views

Rewritten query:

```
SELECT buyer, seller  
FROM   SeattleView  
WHERE  product= 'gizmo'
```

Original query:

```
SELECT buyer, seller  
FROM   Person, Purchase  
WHERE  Person.city = 'Seattle' AND  
       Person.per-name = Purchase.buyer AND  
       Purchase.product='gizmo'.
```