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Course: Foundations of Databases & SQL Programming

https://github.com/MVavrichek/DBFoundations

Assignment 7 – Functions

Introduction

In this article I am going to explain

* When you would use a SQL UDF
* The differences and similarities between a Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

SQL UDF

You would use an User Defined Function if you would like to create a custom function that is not a SQL Server built-in function. There are two basic types of functions, functions that return a table of values and functions that return a single value.

Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

Scalar functions are used to return a single value, whereas inline functions and multi-statement functions return a table of values.

Summary

User Defined Functions (UDFs), whether Scalar, Inline, or Multi-Statement functions are all useful tools in helping users to define how they would like have values returned in a customized way.