Data Admin Concepts & Database Management

Lab 08 – Database Programming

Table of Contents

ata Admin Concepts & Database Management	1
Lab 08 – Database Programming	1
Overview	1
Learning Objectives	2
Lab Goals	2
What You Will Need to Begin	2
Part 1 – Introducing Functions, Views, and Stored Procedures	3
Setup	3
Functions	3
Views	10
Stored Procedures	11
Part 2 – Putting All Together	14
Coding Your Own Functions	14
Coding Your Own Views	17
Coding Your Own Stored Procedures	18
What to Submit	20
Appendix A – VidCast Logical Model Diagram	21

Overview

This lab is the eighth of ten labs in which we will build a database using the systematic approach covered in the asynchronous material. Each successive lab will build upon the one before and can be a useful guide for building your own database projects.

In this lab, we will combine structured query language (SQL) DDL and DML to construct some helpful programming objects for our VidCast database.

Read this lab document once through before beginning.

Learning Objectives

In this lab you will

Demonstrate proficiency in coding and using SQL Server database objects such as Functions,
 Views, and Stored Procedures

Lab Goals

This lab consists of two sections. The first section is a walkthrough of creating programming objects. In the second part of the lab, you will code your own view, functions, and stored procedures to solve the problems presented.



TIP: If you are new to SQL or programming in general, you may benefit from run through of the SQL Tutorial at https://www.w3schools.com/sql/. While not required reading, it can be a helpful resource for new programmers to get some coding in.

What You Will Need to Begin

- This document
- An active Internet connection (if using iSchool Remote lab)
- A blank Word (or similar) document into which you can place your answers. Please include your name, the current date, and the lab number on this document. Please also number your responses, indicating which part and question of the lab to which the answer pertains. Word docx format is preferred. If using another word processing application, please convert the document to pdf before submitting your work to ensure your instructor can open the file.
- To have completed Lab 07 Advanced Querying
- Understanding of database tables and have reviewed the asynchronous material through Week
 8
- One of the following means of accessing a SQL Server installation
 - A connection to the iSchool Remote Lab (<u>https://remotelab.ischool.syr.edu</u>)
 - A local installation of SQL Server (see Developer edition here https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/sql-server/sql-server-downloads-free-trial)
 - Regardless of how you access SQL Server, you will need to use SQL Server Management Studio to do so.

Part 1 – Introducing Functions, Views, and Stored Procedures

Setup

While we can leave the basic SQL coding up to our application developers, we would like to create some programming objects to help them and us out. This is useful in properly securing our database as well as making it user-friendly.

Formatting Note



Look for the "To Do" icon to point out sections of the lab you will need to do to complete the tasks.

Functions

A function is a block of predefined code that (often) accepts inputs as a list of parameters, runs some process, and (often) returns a value. We have already used some functions throughout this course.

GetDate() for example, asks for no input parameters, but has some internal mechanic that figures out what the date and time are currently, and responds with that value. We don't need to know what those internal mechanics are; we just need to know that they work and can just let the function do its thing.

The ISNULL function, defined as ISNULL(expression, result_if_null), accepts an expression, perhaps a column name, the result of some mathematical operation, or even another function call, and, if that expression IS NULL, it will substitute the value sent by way of result if null.

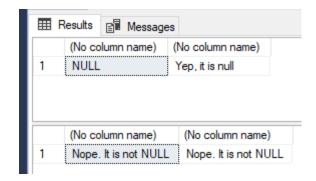
Take it for a spin:



Copy and paste the following code into a blank query editor window. You do not need to be connected to a specific database for this. Be sure to execute all these lines together!

```
-- Declare a variable (we'll talk about variables in a minute)
declare @isThisNull varchar(30) -- Starts out as NULL
SELECT @isThisNull, ISNULL(@isThisNull, 'Yep, it is null') -- See?
-- Set the variable to something other than NULL
SET @isThisNull = 'Nope. It is not NULL'
SELECT @isThisNull, ISNULL(@isThisNull, 'Yep, it is null') -- How about now?
```

Your results should look like the following. Copy a screenshot of your results to your answers doc.



We used the aggregate functions, AVG(), SUM(), MIN(), MAX(), and COUNT(), to perform some math for us that would have been more difficult to do if we had to perform that work on our own. The parameters to these functions were expressions that the DBMS will use to calculate the aggregate.

These are all examples of built-in functions; functions made available to us by SQL Server for use in our SELECT statements. We can code our own functions to do many different things for us. Some of the most common uses for user-defined functions are to abstract the calculation of derived attributes and to provide lookups for values based on provided parameters.



TIP: SQL Server provides for the creation and use of two types of user-defined functions: Scalar and Table-valued. This lab only deals with the former. Table-valued functions differ from scalar-valued in that table-valued return tables as results, whereas scalar-valued return single values as results.

Our First User-Defined Function



Code and execute the following code against your IST659 database. The comments are optional, but they're here to outline some basic ideas about how functions are built.

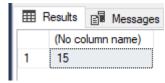
```
11 ☐ CREATE FUNCTION dbo.AddTwoInts(@firstNumber int, @secondNumber int)
12
     RETURNS int AS
13
     BEGIN
         -- First, declare the variable to temporarily hold the result
14
         DECLARE @returnValue int -- the data type matches the "RETURNS" clause
15 <u>=</u>
16
17
         -- Do whatever needs to be done to set that variable to the
18
              correct value
         SET @returnValue = @firstNumber + @secondNumber
19
20
21
         -- Return the value to the calling statement
22
         RETURN @returnValue
23
     END
     GO
24
```



After running the code above, code and execute the following SQL SELECT statement against your database.

SELECT dbo.AddTwoInts(5, 10)

Your results should look like this:



Let's break that function into its lines to see what each does. First, the code again.

```
11 CREATE FUNCTION dbo.AddTwoInts(@firstNumber int, @secondNumber int)
12
    RETURNS int AS
13
    BEGIN
         -- First, declare the variable to temporarily hold the result
14
15 🚊
        DECLARE @returnValue int -- the data type matches the "RETURNS" clause
16
17
        -- Do whatever needs to be done to set that variable to the
             correct value
18
        SET @returnValue = @firstNumber + @secondNumber
19
20
21
         -- Return the value to the calling statement
22
        RETURN @returnValue
23
    END
24
    GO
```

Line #	Purpose
11	CREATE FUNCTION is the DDL starting point for creating functions.
	dbo.AddTwoInts is what we're naming this function. Technically, we're creating a function called AddTwoInts in the dbo schema. We don't need the schema for other objects, but we do for functions.
	(@firstNumber int, @secondNumber int) After we provide the function name, we provide a list of parameters in parentheses, each separated by a comma. To declare a parameter, you give it a name, beginning with the at sign (@) and a data type.
12	

RETURNS int tells SQL Server that this function will be processing information to derive a result of the int data type. This can be whatever data type is appropriate for the task at hand. In our case, we are adding two ints together to create another int, so we set the return data type to int.
AS is the keyword that ends the CREATE FUNCTION clause and tells SQL Server that the line(s) to follow represent the code to be executed when this function is called.
BEGIN tells SQL Server we are about to start a block of code, all of which belong together. If we didn't have the BEGIN and the subsequent END (see line 23), SQL Server would not know to group this code together and would only take the first line following the AS as the whole function.
DECLARE @returnValue int tells SQL Server to create an int-sized area in memory that we're calling @returnValue to temporarily hold a value. In this case, we're creating a variable that will hold the result of our math. The @ is mandatory at the beginning of the variable name in SQL Server.
You can create many variables for many reasons. In most cases, you'll want at least one in a function to hold the value you'd like to return to the calling code. You can name them just about anything you'd like, but it is best for your own sake and for the sake of others who may have to read your code to give them a name that has some meaning.
We have named our variable @returnValue because it is the value to be returned to the calling code. We could just as easily have named it @phil, but, while I'm sure Phil is an alright person, it doesn't make for a very informative variable name.
This does the operation that the function is designed to do and assigns the result to the @returnValue variable.
After setting @returnValue to the appropriate result, we need to RETURN it to the calling code.
This END corresponds to the BEGIN on line 13 and signals to SQL Server that we are done with this block of code.
The GO keyword signals to SQL Server to end the current batch of commands to process and begin anew. This is not required in most cases, but if you don't isolate CREATE FUNCTION, CREATE VIEW, or CREATE PROCEDURE statements by ensuring they are between GO statements, SSMS will interpret the statement as an error stating the CREATE statement must be the only statement in the batch.

If you see an error like the one in the following screenshot, simply add a GO to the line before the CREATE statement.

28
29
CREATE FUNCTION dbo. NoGoHere() RETURNS INT AS
BEGIN
Incorrect syntax 'CREATE FUNCTION' must be the only statement in the batch.

Functions That Are More... well... Functional

Among the many helpful tasks that functions can perform are abstracting the calculation of organizational metrics and performing lookups to other data based on inputs.

Abstracting Routine Calculation

Organizations rely on data to make both tactical and strategic decisions. These metrics are often calculated based on events that have happened that impact performance. Because these metrics are based on an organizations rules, they are subject to change with some frequency. Catalysts for those changes can include new management, changes within the organization that require new calculations, or changes in the organization's industry that require us to rethink how we calculate these metrics.

Instead of hand-coding the calculation in every instance it is needed (printed reports, management dashboards, displays mounted throughout the organization's work space, intranets and extranets, etc), we can code the calculation once in a function. Whenever we need to show the metric, we can call the function, passing the appropriate parameters and the output will be the result of the current math.

Our VidCast service is interested in the number of VidCasts created by VidCast users. Let's code a function that counts the number of VidCasts made by a given user and returns the count to the calling code.



Code and execute the following SQL against your database. You should be using the same database built using the code from Lab 6.

```
-- Function to count the VidCasts made by a given User
30 ☐ CREATE FUNCTION dbo.vc VidCastCount(@userID int)
    RETURNS int AS -- COUNT() is an integer value, so return it as an int
31
32
    BEGIN
         DECLARE @returnValue int -- matches the function's return type
33 🖃
34
35
36
             Get the count of the VidCasts for the provided userID and
37
             assign that value to @returnValue. Note that we use the
38
             @userID parameter in the WHERE clause to limit our count
             to that user's VidCast records.
39
40
41
         SELECT @returnValue = COUNT(vc_UserID) FROM vc_VidCast
42
         WHERE vc_VidCast.vc_UserID = @userID
43
         -- Return @returnValue to the calling code.
44
45
         RETURN @returnValue
46
    END
47
    GO
```

After you execute that statement, code and execute the following SQL code against your database:

Your results should look like this:



In your own words, in your answers document, describe what lines 49 through 53 above actually do. Also, how is it that this code knows that the vc_User record with vc_UserID = 20 has 22 vc_VidCast records?

Performing Data Lookups

Often, we have one piece of data and we would like to look up another piece of data in a table. This is a common task when using surrogate keys. A table where a surrogate primary key is used may have

another column that serves as the natural key. A value that identifies the real-world object in real-world terms that may not be a suitable primary key candidate.

For example, our vc_Tag table has a surrogate primary key, vc_TagID, but our users do not care and may not even know about this column. Instead, they will use the values in the column, TagText, to specify or search for tags. This makes TagText a natural key. We can code a function that accepts the tag text as a parameter and looks up the vc_TagID for the vc_Tag record for that TagText.

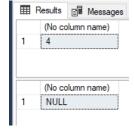


Code and execute the following SQL against your database. You should be using the same database built using the code from Lab 6.

```
55
     GO
     --Function to retrieve the vc TagID for a given tag's text
56
57 ☐ CREATE FUNCTION dbo.vc_TagIDLookup(@tagText varchar(20))
     RETURNS int AS -- vc TagID is an int, so we'll match that
58
59
     BEGIN
         DECLARE @returnValue int -- Matches the function's return
60 F
61
         /*
62
             Get the vc TagID of the vc Tag record whose TagText
63
             matches the parameter and assign that value to @retur
64
65
         SELECT @returnValue = vc_TagID FROM vc_Tag
66
         WHERE TagText = @tagText
67
68
         -- Send the vc_TagID back to the caller
69
70
         RETURN @returnValue
71
     END
     GO
72
```

After you execute that statement, code and execute the following SQL code against your database:

```
75 SELECT dbo.vc_TagIDLookup('Music')
76 SELECT dbo.vc_TagIDLookup('Tunes')
```



In your own words, in your answers document, describe what lines 75 and 76 above actually do. Also, when line 76 executed, we received a NULL from SQL Server. How come?

Views

Views are another programming object we can use to secure and simplify access to the data. As we'll see in a future lab, we can lock down access to certain data points to specific database users using a view. We can also use views to predefine complex SQL SELECT statements and allow programmers (including ourselves) to simply access the views instead of writing queries that might include esoteric JOINs or aggregate functions.

A view is, simply put, a prepackaged SQL SELECT statement. Most of the time, these are read-only structures meant to abstract the intricacies of building complex SELECT statements to make our database easier to use by applications.



Code and execute the following SQL against your database. You should be using the same database built using the code from Lab 6.

After you execute that statement, code and execute the following SQL code against your database:

```
88 SELECT * FROM vc_MostProlificUsers
```



In your own words, in your answers document, describe what lines 79 through 87 above are doing.



TIP: Notice that lines 82 through 85 above are the same as what we previously ran when we tested our user-defined function from before. A good strategy for authoring views is to first get the SELECT statement correct and then just put the CREATE VIEW line before it, execute the whole thing, and your view is done!

Stored Procedures

Stored procedures are like functions in that they perform operations based on provided parameter values, but they are different in that they can perform more complex database activities. For instance, whereas a user-defined function can make no changes to the database in any way, a stored procedure can be used to encapsulate and abstract statements such as INSERT, UPDATE, and DELETE.

For example, we can prohibit a database user from running a SQL UPDATE statement for fear of running an UPDATE without a WHERE clause and causing untold havoc on our data. We can then author a stored procedure to require the necessary criteria be provided and we can code the UPDATE statement within that procedure using that criteria.



Code and execute the following SQL against your database. You should be using the same database built using the code from Lab 6.

After you execute that statement, code and execute the following SQL code against your database:

```
102 ☐ EXEC vc_ChangeUserEmail 'tardy', 'kmstudent@syr.edu'
```

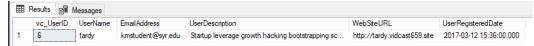
Your results should look like this:

```
® Messages (1 row affected)
```

To see the effect, code and execute the following statement against your database:

```
104 | SELECT * FROM vc_User WHERE UserName = 'tardy'
```

Your Results should look like this:



In your own words, in your answers document, describe what lines 91 through 104 above are doing.

Stored procedures are also helpful in locking down access to INSERTing data in a table. With practice, you should be able to accept many parameters and insert into more than one table, perform lookups using functions, views, or basic select statements.

For now, we will focus on the mechanical elements of using stored procedures to add data to our tables.

@@identity

There are several global variables maintained by SQL Server. @@identity is a particularly helpful variable we can use to keep track of data we've added. Whenever the identity property of a column is triggered, SQL Server puts the value assigned to the column in the variable @@identity. This value is changed every time data are added to a table and the identity property is used.



Code and execute the following SQL against your database. You should be using the same database built using the code from Lab 6.

```
106     INSERT INTO vc_Tag (TagText) VALUES ('Cat Videos')
107     SELECT * FROM vc_Tag WHERE vc_TagID = @@identity
```



Your vc_TagID might be different, but the result is still correct if you only retrieved the Cat Videos tag.

If we use a stored procedure to return the @@identity property after we have performed an INSERT statement, we can use the newly added surrogate primary key value to do other things.



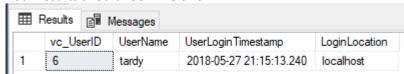
Code and execute the following SQL against your database. You should be using the same database built using the code from Lab 6.

```
110 ☐/* Create a procedure that adds a row to the UserLogin table
111
        This procedure is run when a user logs in and we need
112
        to record who they are and from where they're logging in.
113
114 □ CREATE PROCEDURE vc_AddUserLogin(@userName varchar(20), @loginFrom varchar(50))
115 AS
116 BEGIN
117 🚊 -- We have the user name, but we need the ID for the login table
118
         -- First, declare a variable to hold the ID
119
         DECLARE @userID int
120
         -- Get the vc UserID for the UserName provided and store it in @userID
121
         SELECT @userID = vc_UserID FROM vc_User
122 🖹
123
         WHERE UserName = @userName
124
         -- Now we can add the row using an INSERT statement
125
126 🖹
         INSERT INTO vc_UserLogin (vc_UserID, LoginLocation)
         VALUES (@userID, @loginFrom)
127
128
129 🖹
         -- Now return the @@identity so the calling code knows where
130
         -- the data ended up
         RETURN @@identity
131
132 END
133 GO
```

After successfully running the previous code, code and execute the following code against your database (note: code all of it and execute all of it at the same time or you will get an error).

```
135 DECLARE @addedValue int
      EXEC @addedValue = vc AddUserLogin 'tardy', 'localhost'
136
137 SELECT
138
         vc_User.vc_UserID
          , vc_User.UserName
139
          , vc_UserLogin.UserLoginTimestamp
140
141
         , vc_UserLogin.LoginLocation
142
      FROM vc User
      JOIN vc UserLogin on vc User.vc UserID = vc UserLogin.vc UserID
143
     WHERE vc UserLoginID = @addedValue
144
```

Your results should look like this:



Your UserLoginTimestamp value will be different than the one shown. On your answers doc, explain why this is.

On your answers doc, also identify one way we could simplify the code in the stored procedure above. (Hint: Look back at how we did a lookup with the vc_Tag table)

Part 2 – Putting All Together

In this part, you'll create functions, views, and stored procedures to round out the external model of the VidCast database.

Coding Your Own Functions

In this section, you'll code new user-defined functions to perform specific tasks. In most cases, you've already coded something similar in part 1, so refer to your previous work to see how to solve the problems below.



The code below is the beginning of a function intended to retrieve a vc_UserID from the vc_User table given a specified @userName. Complete the code to assign the correct vc_UserID to @returnValue

```
147 □ /*
         Create a function to retrieve a vc_UserID for a given user name
148
     */
149
150 CREATE FUNCTION dbo.vc_UserIDLookup(@userName varchar(20))
151
     RETURNS int AS
152
     BEGIN
         DECLARE @returnValue int
153
154
155 🚊
         -- TODO: Write the code to assign the correct vc_UserID
                  to @returnValue
156
157
         RETURN @returnValue
158
159
     END
160
     GO
```

After creating the vc_UserIDLookup function, run the following SELECT statement against your database:

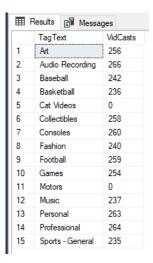
```
SELECT 'Trying the vc_UserIDLookup function.', dbo.vc_UserIDLookup('tardy')
```

Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You'll paste your SQL later.



Author a function called dbo.vc_TagVidCastCount that calculates the count of vc_VidCastIDs for a given vc_TagID. Consult the diagram at the end of this document as a reference for the tables involved.

After you've authored the function and successfully created it, execute the following code against your database:



Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You will paste your SQL later.



Code a function called vc_VidCastDuration that SUMs the total number of minutes of actual duration for VidCasts with a Finished status given a vc_UserID as a parameter. This function should return the SUM as an int.

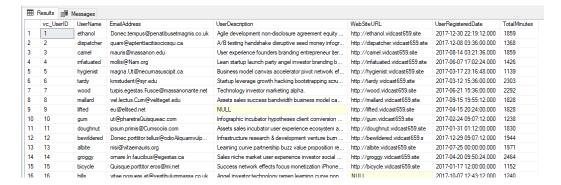
The easiest way to calculate the VidCast duration as a number of minutes for each individual vc_VidCast record is using the built-in DateDiff function:

```
DATEDIFF(n, StartDateTime, EndDateTime)
```

You will need to incorporate the DATEDIFF function into your function to get the correct value. (Hint: Use the dbo.vc_VidCastCount function you created earlier as a starting point.)

Once you've created the function, execute the following SELECT statement against your database:

Your results should look like this (not every row is shown):



Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You don't need to ensure every row is in the screenshot, just the first ten to fifteen rows will be fine. You will paste your SQL later.

Coding Your Own Views

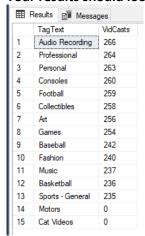
In this section, you'll code new views and alter existing views to perform specific tasks. In most cases, you've already coded something similar in part 1, so refer to your previous work to see how to solve the problems below.



Create a view called vc_TagReport that executes the SELECT statement:

```
SELECT
     vc_Tag.TagText
     , dbo.vc_TagVidCastCount(vc_Tag.vc_TagID) as VidCasts
FROM vc_Tag
```

Code a SELECT statement that returns all rows from this view in descending order of VidCasts.



Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You will paste your SQL later.



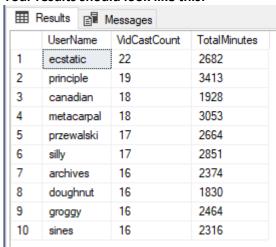
Alter the view called vc_MostProlificUsers, adding a column called TotalMinutes that calls the vc_VidCastDuration function we created earlier in part 2.

Hint: to alter a view, copy and the original code you wrote for part 1 to the end of your SQL file, change the word CREATE to ALTER, code in the new column, and execute the entire ALTER VIEW statement (be sure to execute everything from the ALTER VIEW line through the end of the SELECT statement!

After you have coded and executed the ALTER VIEW, execute the following SQL against your database:

SELECT UserName, VidCastCount, TotalMinutes FROM vc_MostProlificUsers

Your results should look like this:



Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You will paste your SQL later.

Coding Your Own Stored Procedures

In this section, you'll code new stored procedures to perform specific tasks. In most cases, you've already coded something similar in part 1, so refer to your previous work to see how to solve the problems below.



The following is the beginning of a stored procedure to use in adding a row to the vc_Tag table. All but the INSERT statement has been provided for you. Finish this procedure by coding the INSERT statement. Then execute the entire CREATE PROCEDURE block.

```
225 - /*
226
         Create a stored procedure to add a new Tag to the database
227
         Inputs:
228
              @tagText : the text of the new tag
              @description : a brief description of the tag (nullable)
229
230
          Returns:
231
              @@identity with the value inserted
     */
232
233 CREATE PROCEDURE vc_AddTag(@tagText varchar(20), @description varchar(100)
234 E BEGIN
235
         INSERT INTO vc_Tag(TagText, TagDescription) VALUES (@tagText, @descrip
236
          RETURN @@identity
237
     END
     GO
238
```

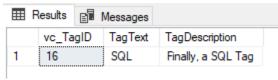
After you have coded and executed the completed procedure, execute the following SQL against your database:

```
DECLARE @newTagID int

EXEC @newTagID = vc_AddTag 'SQL', 'Finally, a SQL Tag'

SELECT * FROM vc_Tag where vc_TagID = @newTagID
```

Your results should look like this:



Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You will paste your SQL later.



Code a stored procedure called vc_FinishVidCast that accepts an int as a parameter that will be a vc_VidCastID that we will need to mark as finished. The act of finishing a VidCast means we must change its EndDateTime to be the current Date and Time (think GetDate()) and change the vc_StatusID to the vc_StatusID for the 'Finished' status.

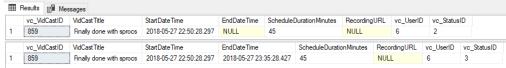
All the work can be done in a single UPDATE statement inside the stored procedure. Be sure to code the WHERE clause!

After you have coded and executed the completed procedure, execute the following SQL against your database:



TIP: Execute all the code from DECLARE @newVC int until the last SELECT statement all at once.

Your results should look like this (your dates, times and IDs may differ):



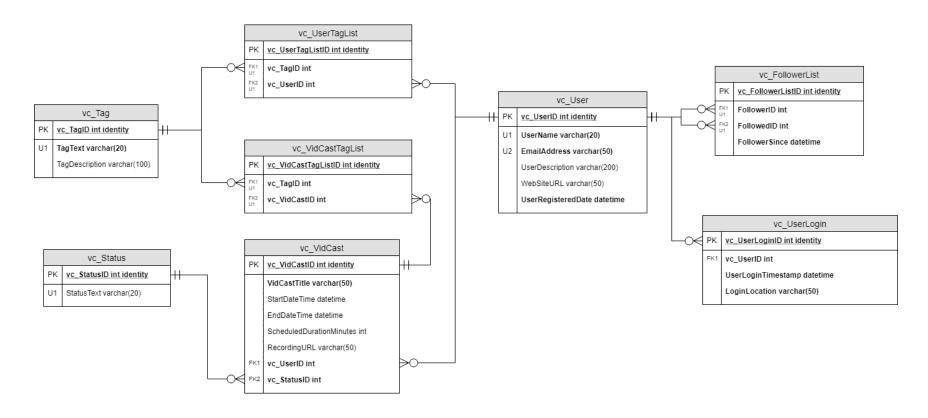
Paste a screenshot of your results in your answers document. You will paste your SQL later.

What to Submit



After completing Part 2, copy and paste the text of your SQL query file at the end of your answers document. Save this document and submit it to the appropriate section on the LMS.

Appendix A – VidCast Logical Model Diagram



For the full diagram, see https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KRqkSvQABuTMXqYAzojTCt9etTSR8Vea/view?usp=sharing