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# SSIS (SQL Server Integration Services) Tasks in Control Flow

In SSIS, a task is a unit of work that performs a specific action in the Control Flow of an SSIS package. The Control Flow defines the execution workflow by using tasks and precedence constraints.

# 1. Types of SSIS Tasks & When to Use Them

- Data Flow Task
- ✓ **Purpose:** Moves and transforms data between sources and destinations.
- ✓ When to Use:
  - Extracting data from multiple sources (SQL, Excel, Flat Files, APIs).
  - Performing transformations (e.g., filtering, aggregating, merging).
  - Loading data into a database or data warehouse.
- **Example:** ETL process to load customer sales data into a data warehouse.

# Execute SQL Task

✓ Purpose: Runs SQL queries or stored procedures.

#### ✓ When to Use:

- Creating/dropping tables before or after data processing.
- Running stored procedures for data validation or transformations.
- Inserting, updating, or deleting records.

Example: Deleting old log records from a table before inserting new data.

# File System Task

Purpose: Manages files and folders (copy, move, delete, create).

#### ✓ When to Use:

- Moving processed files to an archive folder.
- Deleting temporary files after execution.
- Creating directories dynamically.

**Example:** Move successfully processed CSV files from an **input** folder to an **archive** folder.

# Script Task

**✓ Purpose:** Executes custom **C#** or **VB.NET** code for complex logic.

#### When to Use:

- Performing advanced calculations not possible with built-in SSIS tasks.
- Sending API requests or handling dynamic file names.
- Custom error handling.

**Example:** Call an external API to fetch exchange rates before loading financial data.

## Send Mail Task

**✓ Purpose:** Sends email notifications.

#### ✓ When to Use:

- Sending alerts for successful or failed package execution.
- Notifying users when a data load is complete.

 $\cancel{x}$  **Example:** Send an email when an ETL process fails with the error details.

## Execute Process Task

**✓ Purpose:** Runs an external application or batch file.

#### ✓ When to Use:

- Running a PowerShell script or command-line utility.
- Executing third-party applications as part of the workflow.
- Example: Run a .bat file to compress files before moving them to a server.

- FTP Task
- Purpose: Uploads/downloads files to/from an FTP server.
- ✓ When to Use:
  - Retrieving external data files from an FTP server.
  - Sending processed files to a remote location.
- **Example:** Download daily sales data from an FTP server for processing.

#### Web Service Task

- ✓ Purpose: Calls a web service and retrieves data.
- ✓ When to Use:
  - Fetching real-time data (e.g., currency exchange rates, weather data).
  - Integrating with external applications that expose web services.
- **Example:** Get stock prices from a financial web service before analysis.

# Execute Package Task

- **✓ Purpose:** Runs another SSIS package within the current package.
- ✓ When to Use:
  - Breaking down large workflows into smaller, reusable packages.
  - Managing dependencies between different ETL processes.
- Example: A master package executes individual packages for Extract, Transform, and Load (ETL) separately.

# Analysis Services Processing Task

- Purpose: Processes SSAS cubes, dimensions, or partitions.
- ✓ When to Use:
  - Refreshing SSAS cubes with the latest data after ETL completes.
- **Example:** After loading new sales data, process the SSAS cube to update reports.

# Data Profiling Task

- **✓ Purpose:** Analyzes data quality by profiling a dataset.
- ✓ When to Use:
  - Checking for missing or duplicate values before loading data.
  - Validating that incoming data meets business rules.
- **Example:** Check if customer email addresses are missing before importing data.

# 2. Using Tasks in Control Flow

# Mow Control Flow Works in SSIS?

- Tasks are executed sequentially or in parallel based on precedence constraints (arrows between tasks).
- Success (Green Line) → Next task runs if the previous task succeeds.
- Failure (Red Line) → Next task runs only if the previous task fails.

- Completion (Blue Line) → Next task runs regardless of success or failure.
- Example Workflow in Control Flow:
- 1 Execute SQL Task  $\rightarrow$  Truncate staging table.
- $\boxed{2}$  Data Flow Task  $\rightarrow$  Load new data from CSV to the staging table.
- $\fill$  **Execute SQL Task**  $\rightarrow$  Run stored procedure to update the main table.
- [4] File System Task → Move the processed file to an archive folder.
- **Send Mail Task** → Send an email notification if the process succeeds.

# 3. Choosing the Right Task for Your SSIS Package

Task Type	Purpose	When to Use
Data Flow Task	Moves & transforms data	ETL (Extract, Transform, Load)
Execute SQL Task	Runs SQL commands	Running queries or stored procedures
File System Task	Manages files/folders	Moving, copying, deleting files
Script Task	Runs custom code	Complex logic, API calls, automation
Send Mail Task	Sends emails	Notifications on success/failure
Execute Process Task	Runs external apps	Calling PowerShell, batch files
FTP Task	Transfers files via FTP	Download/upload external data
Web Service Task	Calls web services	Fetching live data from APIs
Execute Package Task	Runs another SSIS package	Modularizing large ETL processes
Analysis Services Processing Task	Refreshes SSAS cubes	Updating data models
Data Profiling Task	Checks data quality	Validating missing/duplicate values

## 4. Best Practices for SSIS Tasks & Control Flow

- ✓ Use Precedence Constraints: Control execution based on success, failure, or completion.
- ✓ Optimize Data Flow Tasks: Minimize unnecessary transformations for better performance.
- ✓ Use Execute SQL Task Efficiently: Prefer stored procedures over inline queries for reusability.
- ✓ Modularize with Execute Package Task: Break complex workflows into smaller packages.

- ✓ Handle Errors with Logging & Email Alerts: Capture failures with event handlers and send notifications.
- ✓ Avoid Excessive Script Tasks: Use built-in SSIS tasks when possible to maintain performance.

# Configuring the Execute SQL Task in SSIS

The **Execute SQL Task** allows you to run **SQL queries or stored procedures** within an SSIS package. It's commonly used for:

- Creating, updating, or deleting database records
- Running stored procedures
- Truncating tables before loading data
- Creating tables dynamically

# Configuring Execute SQL Task in SSIS

- 1. Add the Task
  - Drag Execute SQL Task from SSIS Toolbox to Control Flow.
- 2. Configure the Task
  - **Double-click** the task → Set **Connection** (OLE DB, ADO.NET).
  - Enter **SQL Statement** (e.g., TRUNCATE TABLE Sales\_Staging;).
  - ResultSet:
    - o **None** → No output (e.g., INSERT, DELETE).
    - $\circ$  Single Row  $\rightarrow$  If expecting one value (SELECT COUNT(\*)).
    - Full Result Set → For multiple rows.
- 3. Handle Parameters (Optional)
  - Use ? for OLE DB, named parameters for ADO.NET.
  - Map SSIS Variables in Parameter Mapping.
    - Example: DELETE FROM Orders WHERE OrderDate < ?;</li>
    - o Parameter: User::OrderDate, Data Type: DATE.
- 4. Test & Run
  - Click OK, then Execute Task.
  - Check **Progress** tab for errors.

#### **Best Practices**

- ✓ Use parameterized queries.
- ✓ Optimize SQL queries (use stored procedures).
- ✓ Handle errors with event handlers.
- Next: File System Task or Data Flow Task? <a>g</a>

# Configuring the Backup Database Task

- ✓ Connection: Select or create an OLE DB connection to SQL Server.
- Backup Type: Choose Full, Differential, or Transaction Log.
- ✓ Databases:
  - Select one or multiple databases.
  - Use All databases for a full instance backup.
    - ✓ Backup Destination:
  - Select **Disk** or **Tape**.
  - Provide the backup file location (e.g., C:\Backups\MyDB.bak).
    - Options:
  - Append or Overwrite: Choose whether to overwrite existing backups.

# Steps to Configure Script Task in SSIS

- 1 Drag Script Task into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to open the editor.
- $\boxed{3}$  Choose Script Language  $\rightarrow$  C# or VB.NET.
- 4 Select Variables (ReadOnly/ReadWrite) if needed.
- 5 Click **Edit Script** → Write custom **C#** or **VB.NET** code.
- 6 Click Save & Close, then OK.
- 7 **Execute Task** and check the result.

# Steps to Configure Bulk Insert Task in SSIS

- 1 Drag Bulk Insert Task into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to open the editor.
- 4 Specify Destination Table (where data will be inserted).
- Set File Connection  $\rightarrow$  Choose Flat File Source (CSV, TXT).
- **6** Configure Format → Select Delimiter, Row Terminator if needed.
- 7 Adjust Options (e.g., First Row, Keep Nulls, Fire Triggers).
- 8 Click  $OK \rightarrow Execute Task \rightarrow Verify data in the table.$
- Next: Data Flow Task? 🔊

# For Loop Container in SSIS

**Use it when** you need to **execute tasks multiple times** based on a **loop condition** (e.g., iterating over a counter, processing records in batches).

- 1 Drag For Loop Container into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to open the editor.
- **3** Define Loop Conditions:
  - InitExpression  $\rightarrow$  Set a variable (@Counter = 1).
  - EvalExpression → Condition to continue (@Counter <= 10).

- AssignExpression → Increment (@Counter = @Counter + 1).
  - 4 Place Tasks Inside the Loop (e.g., Execute SQL Task, File Processing).
  - 5 Click → Execute Package.
- ♦ Next: Foreach Loop Container?

# Using Variables in SSIS and Passing to Script Task

Use when you need to store values dynamically and process them in a Script Task.

# Steps to Configure

- 1. Create a Variable
- $\square$  Open SSIS Package  $\rightarrow$  Go to SSIS Variables pane.
- <sup>2</sup> Click **Add Variable** → Set Name (User::MyVariable).
- 3 Choose **Data Type** (e.g., Int32, String).
- 4 Set an **Initial Value** (e.g., "Hello, SSIS!").
- Add Script Task and Pass Variable
- 5 Drag **Script Task** into **Control Flow**.
- 6 Double-click → Click Edit Script.
- 7 In **ReadOnlyVariables**, add User::MyVariable.
- 8 Click Edit Script → Inside Main() method, add:

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using Microsoft.SqlServer.Dts.Runtime;
public void Main()
{
    string myValue = Dts.Variables["User::MyVariable"].Value.ToString();
    MessageBox.Show("Variable Value: " + myValue);
    Dts.TaskResult = (int)ScriptResults.Success;
}
```

- 9 Save & Close → Execute Package.
- Next: Foreach Loop with Variables? 🧭

**Dts** (Data Transformation Services) in SSIS refers to the **Data Transformation Service Package** API, which allows you to interact with SSIS objects within a **Script Task**.

# Foreach Loop Container in SSIS

**Use when** you need to **iterate over a collection** (e.g., files in a folder, rows in a dataset, items in an array).

- 1 Drag Foreach Loop Container into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to open the editor.

- 3 Set Enumerator Type based on the use case:
  - Foreach File Enumerator → Loop through files in a folder.
  - Foreach ADO Enumerator → Loop through dataset rows.
  - Foreach Item Enumerator → Loop through hardcoded values.
    - 4 Configure Enumerator Properties (e.g., select folder path for files).
    - □Create an SSIS Variable (User::FileName) to store the loop value.
    - ©Go to Variable Mappings → Assign the variable to the loop output.
    - □Place Tasks Inside the Loop (e.g., Execute SQL Task, Script Task).
    - **8**□ Click **OK** → **Execute Package**.
- ♦ Next: Need to loop through files or database records?

# Set Connection Manager String Dynamically in SSIS Using a Variable

Use when you need to dynamically set the file path or database connection string.

# Steps to Configure

- 1 Create an SSIS Variable
  - Go to SSIS Variables pane.
  - Click **Add Variable** → Name it (User::MyPath).
  - Set **Data Type** → String.
  - Set Value → e.g., "C:\Data\myfile.csv" (for a file) or "Server=MyServer;Database=MyDB;Integrated Security=True;" (for a database).
- 2 Assign Variable to Connection Manager
  - Right-click **Connection Manager** (e.g., Flat File, OLE DB).
  - Click **Properties** → Find **Expressions**.
  - Click [...] next to Expressions.
  - Select ConnectionString → Set @[User::MyPath].
  - Click OK.
- $\blacksquare$  **Execute Package**  $\rightarrow$  The connection will now use the variable dynamically.
- Next: Need to update it inside a Script Task?

### **Data Flow Task in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to **extract, transform, and load (ETL) data** between sources and destinations.

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component:
  - Drag Flat File Source, OLE DB Source, or another source type.
  - Configure Connection Manager (select file, table, or query).
- 4 (Optional) Add Transformations:
  - Use Derived Column to create new columns.
  - Use Data Conversion to change data types.

- Use **Conditional Split** to filter rows.
- 5 Add a Destination Component:
  - Drag OLE DB Destination, Flat File Destination, etc.
  - Map source columns to destination columns.
- 6 Click **OK** → **Execute Package** to load data.
- Next: Need to handle errors in Data Flow?

#### **OLE DB Source in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to extract data from a **relational database** (SQL Server, Oracle, etc.).

# Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to enter the **Data Flow** tab.
- 3 Drag OLE DB Source into the Data Flow.
- 4 **Double-click OLE DB Source** → Configure:
  - **OLE DB Connection Manager** → Select or create a connection.
  - Data Access Mode:
    - Table or View → Select a table.
    - ∘ **SQL Command** → Write a custom query.
  - **Preview Data** → Verify output.

    - **Execute Package** to extract data.
- Next: OLE DB Destination?

## **Excel Destination in SSIS**

Use when you need to export data from SSIS to an Excel file.

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source for database data).
- 4 Drag Excel Destination into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Excel Destination.
- 6 **Double-click Excel Destination** → Configure:
  - Excel Connection Manager → Select/Create Excel file (.xlsx).
  - Table or Sheet Name → Select or create a sheet.
  - Mappings → Ensure source columns match destination columns.
    - 7 Click **OK** → **Execute Package** to export data.
- Next: Need dynamic file paths for Excel? <a>g</a>

If there's a conflict between **SQL Server** and **Excel** (usually because Excel drivers are **32-bit only**), you can fix it by disabling **Run64BitRuntime** in SSIS.

## Steps to Fix Excel & SQL Service Conflict in SSIS

- 1 Open SSIS Project in Visual Studio.

- [4] Find **Run64BitRuntime**  $\rightarrow$  Set it to **False**.
- 5 Click **Apply** → **OK**.
- 6 Execute the Package again.
- Next: Need to handle Excel file dynamically?

## Excel file to Data warehouse Dimension

# **Character Map Transformation in SSIS**

Use when you need to modify text data by changing case (uppercase/lowercase), converting symbols, or handling special characters.

# Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Character Map Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Character Map Transformation.
- **6 Double-click Character Map**  $\rightarrow$  Select the **column(s)** to modify.
- 7 Choose **Transformation Type** (e.g., UPPERCASE, lowercase, byte reversal).
- 8 Set New Column Name or Overwrite Existing Column.
- **10 Execute Package** to apply character transformations.

#### **Derived Column Transformation in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to create **new calculated columns** or **modify existing data** in a Data Flow.

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Derived Column Transformation into the Data Flow.
- **5** Connect Source to Derived Column.
- 6 **Double-click Derived Column** → Configure:
  - Select a **column** to modify or **create a new column**.

 Use SSIS expressions for transformations (e.g., calculations, string manipulation).

# **Examples of Derived Column Expressions**

• Convert to UPPERCASE:

UPPER(FirstName)

Concatenate columns:

FirstName + " " + LastName

Replace NULL with default value:

ISNULL(Email)? "NoEmail@domain.com": Email

Calculate Age (assuming DOB column):
 DATEDIFF("Year", DOB, GETDATE())

- [7] Click **OK** → Connect to **Destination Component** (e.g., OLE DB Destination).
- 8 Execute Package to apply transformations.

# **Copy Column Transformation in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to **duplicate a column** while keeping the original data unchanged (e.g., for modifications using other transformations).

## Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to enter the **Data Flow** tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Copy Column Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Copy Column.
- 6 **Double-click Copy Column** → Select column(s) to copy.
- **Rename copied column(s)** if needed (e.g., OriginalColumn\_Copy).
- 8 Click  $OK \rightarrow$  Connect to another transformation (e.g., **Derived Column** or **Character Map**).
- 9 **Execute Package** to apply changes.

## **Data Conversion Transformation in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to **change data types** (e.g., convert string to integer, DT\_DATE to DT\_STR).

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Data Conversion Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Data Conversion.
- 6 **Double-click Data Conversion** → Configure:
  - Select column(s) to convert.
  - Set New Column Name.

- Choose Data Type (e.g., DT\_I4 for Integer, DT\_STR for String).
- Set Length, Precision, Scale if needed.
  - 7 Click OK → Connect to Destination (e.g., OLE DB Destination).
  - **Execute Package** to apply conversions.

#### Sort Transformation in SSIS

**Use when** you need to **sort data** in ascending or descending order before loading into a destination or performing lookups.

# Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 **Double-click** to enter the **Data Flow** tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Sort Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Sort Transformation.
- 6 **Double-click Sort Transformation** → Configure:
  - Check the column(s) you want to sort by.
  - Choose Ascending or Descending order.
  - (Optional) Remove duplicates by checking "Remove rows with duplicate sort values".
    - 7 Click **OK** → Connect to Destination (e.g., **OLE DB Destination**).
    - **Execute Package** to apply sorting.

## **Audit Transformation in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to **track metadata** about the package execution (e.g., machine name, execution time, user, package ID).

## Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Audit Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Audit Transformation.
- **6 Double-click Audit Transformation** → Configure:
  - Select the Audit Type (e.g., ExecutionInstanceGUID, PackageID, UserName).
  - Rename the Output Column Name if needed.
    - 7 Click  $OK \rightarrow Connect$  to Destination (e.g., OLE DB Destination).
    - **Execute Package** to capture metadata.

#### **Multicast Transformation in SSIS**

Use when you need to send the same data to multiple destinations for parallel

processing.

# Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Multicast Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Multicast Transformation.
- 6 Drag multiple Destination Components (e.g., OLE DB Destination, Flat File Destination, Excel Destination).
- Connect Multicast Output to Each Destination.
- **8** Configure Each Destination Separately.
- Execute Package to distribute data across multiple destinations.

# **Conditional Split Transformation in SSIS**

**Use when** you need to **route data into multiple outputs** based on conditions (e.g., filter sales by region, separate valid and invalid data).

# Steps to Configure

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add a Source Component (e.g., OLE DB Source).
- 4 Drag Conditional Split Transformation into the Data Flow.
- 5 Connect Source to Conditional Split Transformation.
- 6 **Double-click Conditional Split** → Configure:
  - **Define conditions** using SSIS expressions.
  - Example conditions:
    - Sales > 1000 → "High Sales"
       SalesAmount > 1000
    - Region = 'USA' → "US Sales" Region == "USA"
    - o Default output for unmatched data.
      - 7 Click  $OK \rightarrow$  Connect Each Output to a Destination (e.g., OLE DB Destination).
      - **Execute Package** to apply data routing.

# **Union All Transformation in SSIS**

Use when you need to combine multiple data sources into a single output (similar to SQL UNION ALL, but without removing duplicates).

- 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow.
- 2 Double-click to enter the Data Flow tab.
- 3 Add multiple Source Components (e.g., OLE DB Source, Flat File Source).

- 4 Drag Union All Transformation into the Data Flow. 5 Connect each Source to Union All Transformation. 6 Double-click Union All → Ensure column mappings are correct (data types must match). 7 Click  $OK \rightarrow Connect$  the Union All output to a Destination (e.g., OLE DB Destination). 8 Execute Package to merge the data. Merge Join Transformation in SSIS Use when you need to combine data from two sorted sources based on a common key (similar to SQL JOIN). Steps to Configure 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow. 2 **Double-click** to enter the **Data Flow** tab. Add two Source Components (e.g., OLE DB Source, Flat File Source). 4 Sort both sources using Sort Transformation: • Enable sorting on the join key column in both sources. 5 Drag Merge Join Transformation into the Data Flow. **Connect both sorted sources** to Merge Join Transformation.  $\square$ **Double-click Merge Join**  $\rightarrow$  Configure: • Select Join Type (INNER JOIN, LEFT OUTER JOIN, FULL OUTER JOIN). • Ensure **correct column mapping** for the join key. • Choose columns to include in the output. 8 Click OK → Connect the output to a **Destination Component** (e.g., OLE DB Destination). **Execute Package** to join the data. Next: Need to merge unsorted data? Use Merge Transformation! Merge Transformation in SSIS Use when you need to combine two sorted datasets with the same structure into a single output (similar to SQL UNION, but keeps sorting). Steps to Configure 1 Drag Data Flow Task into Control Flow. 2 **Double-click** to enter the **Data Flow** tab. 3 Add two Source Components (e.g., OLE DB Source, Flat File Source).
- Sort both sources using Sort Transformation:
   Enable sorting on the merge key column in both sources.
   Drag Merge Transformation into the Data Flow.
   □Connect both sorted sources to Merge Transformation.
   □Double-click Merge → Ensure column mappings match (same data types).

8 Click  $\rightarrow$  Connect the output to a **Destination Compone**nt (e.g., OLE DB Destination) **Execute Package** to merge the data.

#### **Enable Data Viewer in SSIS**

Use when you need to inspect data flow between transformations for debugging.

- 1 Open Data Flow Task in SSIS.
- 2 Right-click the Data Flow Path (blue arrow) between two components.
- 3 Click "Enable Data Viewer".
- 4 A magnifying glass icon appears on the path, indicating the Data Viewer is enabled.
- $\blacksquare$  Run the package  $\rightarrow$  A pop-up window will display the data at that point.
- 6 Click "Detach" to continue execution or "Stop Debugging" to analyze further.