

CASE Statements

- Simple CASE Expression
- Searched CASE Expression
- Nesting CASE Statements

This presentation will cover CASE statements. I will talk about the two types of CASE statements as well as nesting case statements.

CASE Definition

- A CASE statement evaluates a list of conditions and returns the first condition that resolves to true
- The statement can contain one or more WHEN conditions. WHEN...THEN condition is similar to an IF...THEN condition
- If no condition resolves to true then the ELSE condition resolves. If there is no ELSE condition then the statement returns NULL
- The CASE statement has two syntax modes
 - Simple CASE expression
 - Searched CASE expression

A CASE statement is often, but not always used to create a derived column in a select statement. A CASE statement evaluates one or more conditions. It evaluates these conditions in order, and the first one to evaluate to true is the one that has its result set returned. Conditions are a series of WHEN THEN statements which perform similarly to an IF THEN statement. CASE statements also allow for an ELSE condition which is the default if none of the WHEN THEN conditions resolve to true. If no ELSE condition is provided then the default will be a NULL value. CASE statements come in two versions, the Simple CASE and the Searched CASE.

Simple CASE Statement

- Syntax is the CASE keyword immediately followed by the column or expression name
- Allows only an equality check
- Checks each WHEN clause against the input expression value
- Returns the result of the first expression to resolve to true
- If no expression returns true then the else result returns true

```
Simple CASE expression:  
CASE input_expression  
  WHEN when_expression THEN result_expression [ ...n ]  
  [ ELSE else_result_expression ]  
END
```

The Simple CASE statement checks the values of a single column. If the WHEN value is found then the statement returns the content of the THEN clause. Only equality checks are allowed in a Simple CASE statement.

Simple CASE Example

- CASE keyword is immediately followed by the Country column
- Each WHEN keyword is followed by the value to search for. No operators (e.g. = <>) are allowed
- All CASE statements must be terminated with the END keyword

```
SELECT
  FirstName,
  LastName,
  Country,
  CASE Country
    WHEN 'Brazil' THEN 'South America'
    WHEN 'Argentina' THEN 'South America'
    WHEN 'Chile' THEN 'South America'
    WHEN 'USA' THEN 'North America'
    WHEN 'Canada' THEN 'North America'
  END AS Continent
FROM Customer
```

FirstName	LastName	Country	Continent	
1	Jill	Oranges	South America	
2	Lorne	Killer	Germany	NULL
3	Francis	Twintop	Canada	North America
4	Bern	Hansen	Norway	NULL
5	Harold	Whiteland	Costa Republic	NULL
6	Heena	Indy	Costa Republic	NULL
7	Adolf	Guber	Austria	NULL
8	Osui	Peters	Belgium	NULL
9	Kate	Hansen	Denmark	NULL
10	Glenn	Hansen	Brazil	South America
11	Alexandre	Rocha	Brazil	South America
12	Rodolfo	Hansen	Brazil	South America
13	Fernando	Hansen	Brazil	South America
14	Mark	Phelps	Canada	North America
15	Jennifer	Phelps	Canada	North America
16	Frank	Hansen	USA	North America
17	Jack	Smith	USA	North America

In the example I am searching the Country column for specific country names. If the country name is found then the continent name is returned. There is no ELSE clause in this CASE statement so any Country column names that aren't identified in the WHEN clauses will return as NULL.

Simple CASE with ELSE

- The ELSE keyword resolves when none of the WHEN THEN clauses resolve to true
- ELSE is inserted after all the WHEN THEN clauses

```
SELECT
  FirstName
  , LastName
  , Country
  , CASE Country
    WHEN 'Brazil' THEN 'South America'
    WHEN 'Argentina' THEN 'South America'
    WHEN 'Chile' THEN 'South America'
    WHEN 'USA' THEN 'North America'
    WHEN 'Canada' THEN 'North America'
    ELSE 'Unknown'
  END AS Continent
FROM Customer
```

	FirstName	LastName	Country	Continent
1	John	DeGroot	Brazil	South America
2	Leona	Klein	Germany	Unknown
3	Raynor	Twissley	Canada	North America
4	Sam	Hoyson	Japan	Unknown
5	Isabelah	Wormwood	Costa Rica	Unknown
6	Helena	Holy	Costa Rica	Unknown
7	Isabel	Ortiz	Spain	Unknown
8	David	Palmer	Belgium	Unknown
9	Mark	Burner	Germany	Unknown
10	Shawna	Harris	Brazil	South America
11	Alfonso	Rocha	Brazil	South America
12	Roberto	Hernandez	Brazil	South America
13	Yamir	Ramos	Brazil	South America
14	Mark	Phelan	Canada	North America
15	Jonathan	Parsons	Canada	North America
16	Rene	Rene	USA	North America
17	Jack	Smith	USA	North America

This example is identical to the one on the previous slide except I have include the ELSE clause. I set the ELSE clause equal to “Unknown”. This causes all records that didn’t have a match in the WHEN THEN clauses to resolve to “Unknown” instead of NULL.

Searched CASE Statement

- Evaluates, in the order specified, *Boolean_expression* for each WHEN clause.
- Returns *result_expression* of the first *Boolean_expression* that evaluates to TRUE.
- If no *Boolean_expression* evaluates to TRUE, the Database Engine returns the *else_result_expression* if an ELSE clause is specified, or a NULL value if no ELSE clause is specified.

```
Searched CASE expression:  
CASE  
  WHEN Boolean_expression THEN result_expression [ ...* ]  
  { ELSE else_result_expression }  
END
```

A searched CASE statement allows more flexibility in the WHEN clause. You can use operators and other WHERE clause style logic within each WHEN clause. Also you are not limited to evaluating against a single column. You can evaluate multiple conditions within a single WHEN clause. Syntactically a searched CASE is identical to a simple CASE except there is no input expression after the CASE keyword, also you have more options with the search conditions.

Searched CASE Example

- Searched CASE statements have no input expression. The CASE keyword is followed immediately by a WHEN keyword
- You can use WHERE clause style logic within a WHEN clause

```
SELECT DISTINCT
  Country
, CASE
  WHEN Country IN ('Brazil', 'Argentina', 'Chile') THEN 'South America'
  WHEN Country IN ('USA', 'Canada') THEN 'North America'
  WHEN Country = 'India' THEN 'Asia'
  WHEN Country = 'Australia' THEN 'Country'
  END Region
FROM Customer
ORDER BY
  Country
```

	Country	Region		Country	Region
1	Argentina	South America	13	Hungary	NULL
2	Australia	Country	14	India	Asia
3	Austria	NULL	15	Ireland	NULL
4	Belgium	NULL	16	Italy	NULL
5	Brazil	South America	17	Netherlands	NULL
6	Canada	North America	18	Norway	NULL
7	Chile	South America	19	Poland	NULL
8	Czech Republic	NULL	20	Portugal	NULL
9	Denmark	NULL	21	Spain	NULL
10	Finland	NULL	22	Sweden	NULL
11	France	NULL	23	United Kingdom	NULL
12	Germany	NULL	24	USA	North America

In the example I am still checking for a country name, but I am able to use WHERE style logic in the WHEN clauses. In this instance I am using the IN clause in addition to some equal operators. I do not have to limit myself to using the same column either. I can have one WHEN clause referencing country, and the next referencing the email column if the logic made sense to do so.

Searched CASE with ELSE

- The ELSE keyword resolves when none of the WHEN THEN clauses resolve to true
- ELSE is inserted after all the WHEN THEN clauses

```
SELECT DISTINCT
  Country
, CASE
  WHEN Country IN ('Brazil', 'Argentina', 'Chile') THEN 'South America'
  WHEN Country IN ('USA', 'Canada') THEN 'North America'
  WHEN Country = 'India' THEN 'Asia'
  WHEN Country = 'Australia' THEN Country
  ELSE 'Europe'
END Region
FROM Customer
ORDER BY
  Country
```

Country	Region	Country	Region
1 Argentina	South America	13 Hungary	Europe
2 Australia	Australia	14 India	Asia
3 Austria	Europe	15 Ireland	Europe
4 Belgium	Europe	16 Italy	Europe
5 Brazil	South America	17 Netherlands	Europe
6 Canada	North America	18 Norway	Europe
7 Chile	South America	19 Poland	Europe
8 Czech Republic	Europe	20 Portugal	Europe
9 Denmark	Europe	21 Spain	Europe
10 Finland	Europe	22 Sweden	Europe
11 France	Europe	23 United Kingdom	Europe
12 Germany	Europe	24 USA	North America

This example is identical to the previous slide except I added the ELSE clause. This is the catch all when none of the WHEN THEN clauses evaluate to true. The ELSE syntax is identical to that in the simple CASE statement.

Nesting CASE Statements

- CASE statements can be nested within one another
- You can nest up to 10 levels deep with a CASE statement
- Only Searched CASE statements can be nested

```
SELECT DISTINCT
Country, State
FROM Customer
CASE
  WHEN Country IN ('Brazil', 'Argentina', 'Chile') THEN 'South America'
  WHEN Country = 'USA' THEN
    CASE
      WHEN State IN ('CA', 'NV', 'WA') THEN 'USA-West'
      WHEN State IN ('PA', 'NY') THEN 'USA-Northeast'
      WHEN State IN ('TX', 'AZ') THEN 'USA-Southwest'
      ELSE 'USA-Other'
    END
  ELSE 'Europe'
END Region
ORDER BY
Country DESC, Region, State
```

Country	State	Region
USA	CA	USA-West
USA	TX	USA-Southwest
USA	PA	USA-Northeast
USA	NY	USA-Northeast
USA	WA	USA-West
USA	AZ	USA-Southwest
USA	Other	USA-Other
Other	Other	Europe

Nesting CASE expressions is when you put one CASE statement inside of another. This allows you to create some very complex logic conditions within your CASE statement. In the example I am searching for countries and outputting the country's continent when I find a match. However in the case of the USA I added a nested CASE statement that further checks for the state. The output is a region of the united states based on the state location instead of the continent name.

Summary

- Simple CASE Expression
- Searched CASE Expression
- Nesting CASE Statements

This concludes the presentation on CASE statements.