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

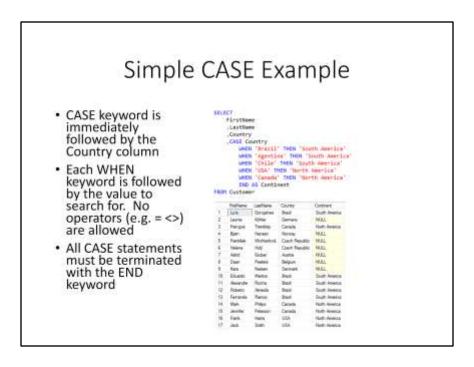
A CASE statement is often, but not always used to create a derived column in a select statement. A CASE statement evaluates one or more conditions. It evaluates these conditions in order, and the first one to evaluate to true is the one that has its result set returned. Conditions are a series of WHEN 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

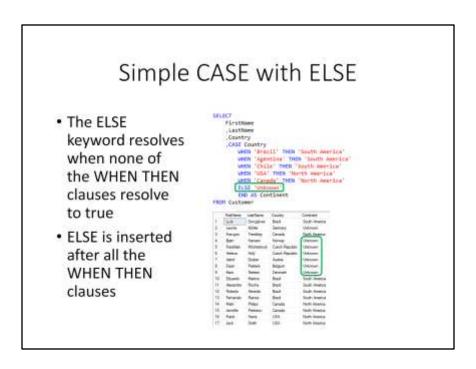
- Syntax is the CASE keyword immediately followed by the column or expression name
- Allows only an equality check
- Checks each WHEN clause against the input expression value
- Returns the result of the first expression to resolve to true
- If no expression returns true then the else result returns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

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Simple CASE expression:
CASE input_expression
sHEW when_expression THEW result_expression [ ...,n ]
[ U.SE wise_result_expression ]
SMD
```

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.



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.



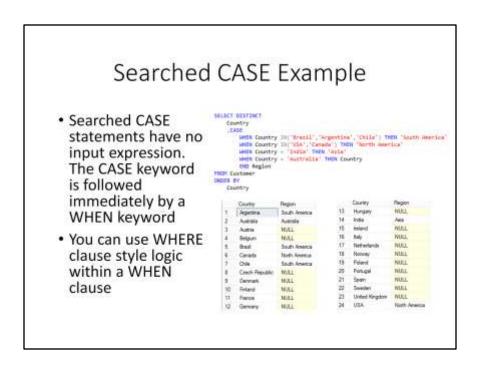
This example is identical to the one on the previous slide except I have include the ELSE clause. I set the ELSE clause equal to "Unknown". This causes all records that didn't have a match in the WHEN THEN clauses to resolve to "Unknown" instead of NULL.

Searched CASE Statement

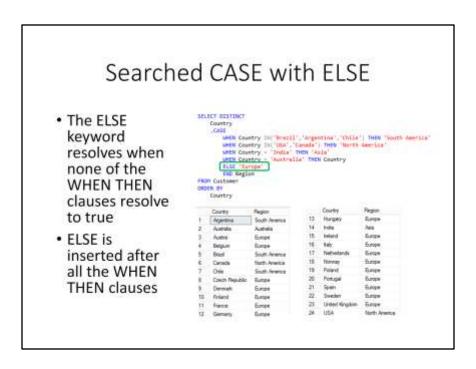
- Evaluates, in the order specified, Boolean expression for each WHEN clause.
- Returns result_expression of the first Boolean_expression that evaluates to TRUE.
- If no Boolean expression evaluates to TRUE, the Database Engine returns the else result expression if an ELSE clause is specified, or a NULL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

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Searched CASE expression:
CASE
MMTM Ecolesm_expression TMTM result_expression [ ...e ]
[ ELSE else_result_expression ]
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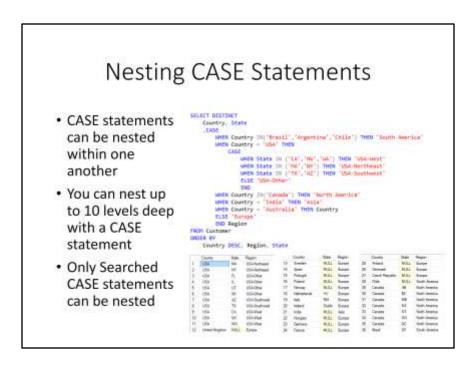
A searched CASE statement allows more flexibility in the WHEN clause. You can use operators and other WHERE clause style logic within each WHEN clause. Also you are not limited to evaluating against a single column. You can evaluate multiple conditions within a single WHEN clause. Syntactically a searched 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.



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.



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 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.