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Intro

Functions provide a ton of flexibility for a database administrator. They can abstract complect joins and Select statements to single lines of code.

SQL UDFs

One would use a SQL user defined function when the built in functions in SQL don’t satisfy the needs of the database administrator. They can return scalar functions and tables built off complex select statements in a efficient manner.

Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

An inline function is a query in the FROM clause. A Multi-statement function returns a table as output. A scalar function returns a single value.

Summary

Functions provide a ton of flexibility. Their flexibility can be too much, though, and care is needed to know its limits and reaches.