Sidney Hutchison

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IT FDN 130 A: Foundations of Databases & SQL Programming

Assignment 07

https://github.com/SidHutch/DBFoundations-Module7

SQL Functions

Introduction

In this document I will discuss functions in SQL. Using functions gives you more options when querying your data, to give you the results you are looking for.

When to Use a SQL User-Defined Function (UDF)

If you want to do the same process multiple times, it could be a good idea to use a function that does that process for you so that you do not need to rewrite the code for that process every time.

SQL has many built in functions that you can use but you can also customize your own function, called a User-Defined Function or UDF. Creating a UDF is helpful when the built in functions do not do exactly what you are looking to achieve.

Differences Between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

A Scalar Function returns a single value from the statement, and parameters are often used to specify which specific singular value you want to return. An Inline Function allows you to return a table, but this function only includes one Select statement within it so it is typically not very complex. A Multi-Statement Function includes multiple Select statements within it, allowing you to pull information from various sources and return a table with all that information included.

Summary

Functions are useful tools when using SQL, and understanding the functions that already exist as well as how to create your own User-Defined Function is important so that you can use these tools in your queries.