

Module 8

Using Built-In Functions



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Module Overview

- Writing Queries with Built-In Functions
- Using Conversion Functions
- Using Logical Functions
- Using Functions to Work with NULL

Lesson 1: Writing Queries with Built-In Functions

- SQL Server Built-In Function Types
- Scalar Functions
- Aggregate Functions
- Window Functions
- Rowset Functions
- Demonstration: Writing Queries Using Built-In Functions

SQL Server Built-In Function Types

- SQL Server functions can be categorized by scope of input and type of output:

Function Category	Description
Scalar	Operate on a single row, return a single value
Grouped Aggregate	Take one or more values but return a single, summarizing value
Window	Operate on a window (set) of rows
Rowset	Return a virtual table that can be used subsequently in a T-SQL statement

Scalar Functions

- Operate on elements from a single row as inputs, return a single value as output
- Return a single (scalar) value
- Can be used like an expression in queries
- May be deterministic or non-deterministic
- Collation depends on input value or default collation of database

Scalar Function Categories

- Configuration
- Conversion
- Cursor
- Date and Time
- Logical
- Mathematical
- Metadata
- Security
- String
- System
- System Statistical
- Text and Image

Aggregate Functions

- Functions that operate on sets, or rows of data
- Summarize input rows
- Without GROUP BY clause, all rows are arranged as one group
- Will be covered later in the course

```
SELECT COUNT(*) AS numorderlines,  
       SUM(qty*unitprice) AS totalsales  
FROM   Sales.OrderDetails;
```

```
numorderlines totalsales  
-----  
2155          56500.91
```

Window Functions

- Functions applied to a window, or set of rows
- Include ranking, offset, aggregate and distribution functions
- Will be covered later in the course

```
SELECT TOP(5) productid, productname, unitprice,  
             RANK() OVER(ORDER BY unitprice DESC) AS  
             rankbyprice  
FROM Production.Products  
ORDER BY rankbyprice;
```

productid	productname	unitprice	rankbyprice
8	Product QDOMO	263.50	1
29	Product VJXYN	123.79	2
9	Product AOZBW	97.00	3
20	Product QHFFP	81.00	4
18	Product CKEDC	62.50	5

Rowset Functions

- Return an object that can be used like a table in a T-SQL statement
- Include OPENDATASOURCE, OPENQUERY, OPENROWSET, and OPENXML
- Beyond the scope of this course

Demonstration: Writing Queries Using Built-In Functions

In this demonstration, you will see how to:

- Use built-in scalar functions

Lesson 2: Using Conversion Functions

- Implicit and Explicit Data Type Conversions
- Converting with CAST
- Converting with CONVERT
- Converting Strings with PARSE
- Converting with TRY_PARSE and TRY_CONVERT
- Demonstration: Using Conversion Functions

Implicit and Explicit Data Type Conversions

- Implicit conversion occurs automatically
 - Follows data type precedence rules
- Use explicit conversion
 - When implicit would fail or is not permitted
 - To override data type precedence
- Explicitly convert between types with CAST or CONVERT functions
- Watch for truncation

Converting with CAST

- Converts a value from one data type to another
 - Can be used in SELECT and WHERE clauses
 - ANSI standard

CAST Syntax:

```
CAST(<value> AS <datatype>)
```

CAST Example:

```
SELECT CAST(SYSDATETIME() AS date);
```

- Returns an error if data types are incompatible:

```
--attempt to convert datetime2 to int  
SELECT CAST(SYSDATETIME() AS int);
```

```
Msg 529, Level 16, State 2, Line 1  
Explicit conversion from data type datetime2 to int is not allowed.
```

Converting with CONVERT

- Converts a value from one data type to another
 - Can be used in SELECT and WHERE clauses
 - CONVERT is specific to SQL Server, not standards-based
- Style specifies how input value is converted:
 - Date, time, numeric, XML, and so on

Syntax:

```
CONVERT (<datatype>, <value>, <optional style no.>)
```

Example:

```
CONVERT(CHAR(8), CURRENT_TIMESTAMP, 112) AS ISO_style;
```

```
ISO_style
```

```
-----
```

```
20120212
```

Converting Strings with PARSE

- PARSE is a new function in SQL Server 2012
- Converts strings to date, time, and number types

PARSE element	Comment
String_value	Formatted nvarchar(4000) input
Data_type	Requested data type output
Culture	Optional string in .NET culture form: en-US, es-ES, ar-SA, and so on

- PARSE example:

```
SELECT PARSE('02/12/2012' AS datetime2  
            USING 'en-US') AS parse_result;
```

Converting with TRY_PARSE and TRY_CONVERT

- TRY_PARSE and TRY_CONVERT:
 - New in SQL Server 2012
 - Return the results of a data type conversion
 - Like PARSE and CONVERT, they convert strings to date, time and numeric types
 - Unlike PARSE and CONVERT, they return a NULL if the conversion fails

TRY_PARSE Example:

```
SELECT TRY_PARSE('SQLServer' AS datetime2  
    USING 'en-US') AS try_parse_result;
```

```
try_parse_result  
-----  
NULL
```

Demonstration: Using Conversion Functions

In this demonstration, you will see how to:

- Use functions to convert data

Lesson 3: Using Logical Functions

- Writing Logical Tests with Functions
- Performing Conditional Tests with IIF
- Selecting Items from a List with CHOOSE
- Demonstration: Using Logical Functions

Writing Logical Tests with Functions

- ISNUMERIC tests whether an input expression is a valid numeric data type
 - Returns a 1 when the input evaluates to any valid numeric type, including FLOAT and MONEY
 - Returns 0 otherwise

```
SELECT ISNUMERIC('SQL') AS isnnumeric_result;
```

```
isnnumeric_result  
-----  
0
```

```
SELECT ISNUMERIC('101.99') AS isnnumeric_result;
```

```
isnnumeric_result  
-----  
1
```

Performing Conditional Tests with IIF

- IIF returns one of two values, depending on a logical test
- Shorthand for a two-outcome CASE expression

IIF Element	Comments
Boolean_expression	Logical test evaluating to TRUE, FALSE, or UNKNOWN
True_value	Value returned if expression evaluates to TRUE
False_value	Value returned if expression evaluates to FALSE or UNKNOWN

```
SELECT    productid, unitprice,  
          IIF(unitprice > 50, 'high','low') AS pricepoint  
FROM Production.Products;
```

Selecting Items from a List with CHOOSE

- CHOOSE returns an item from a list as specified by an index value

CHOOSE Element	Comments
Index	Integer that represents position in list
Value_list	List of values of any data type to be returned

- CHOOSE example:

```
SELECT CHOOSE (3, 'Beverages', 'Condiments', 'Confections')  
AS choose_result;
```

```
choose_result  
-----  
Confections
```

Demonstration: Using Logical Functions

In this demonstration, you will see how to:

- Use logical functions

Lesson 4: Using Functions to Work with NULL

- Converting NULL with ISNULL
- Using COALESCE to Return Non-NULL Values
- Using NULLIF to Return NULL If Values Match
- Demonstration: Using Functions to Work with NULL

Converting NULL with ISNULL

- ISNULL replaces NULL with a specified value
- Not standard; use COALESCE instead
- Syntax:

ISNULL Element	Comment
expression_to_check	Return expression itself if not NULL
replacement_value	Returned if expression evaluates to NULL

```
SELECT custid, city, ISNULL(region, 'N/A') AS region, country
FROM Sales.Customers;
```

custid	city	region	country
7	Strasbourg	N/A	France
9	Marseille	N/A	France
32	Eugene	OR	USA
43	Walla Walla	WA	USA
45	San Francisco	CA	USA

Using COALESCE to Return Non-NULL Values

- COALESCE returns the first non-NULL value in a list
 - With only two arguments, COALESCE behaves like ISNULL
 - If all arguments are NULL, COALESCE returns NULL
- COALESCE is standards-based
- Example:

```
SELECT custid, country, region, city,  
       country + ',' + COALESCE(region, ' ') + ', ' + city as location  
FROM Sales.Customers;
```

- Results:

custid	country	region	city	location
17	Germany	NULL	Aachen	Germany, , Aachen
65	USA	NM	Albuquerque	USA,NM, Albuquerque
55	USA	AK	Anchorage	USA,AK, Anchorage
83	Denmark	NULL	Århus	Denmark, , Århus

Using NULLIF to Return NULL If Values Match

- NULLIF compares two expressions
 - Returns NULL if both arguments are equal
 - Returns the first argument if the two arguments are not equal

emp_id	goal	actual
1	100	110
2	90	90
3	100	90
4	100	80

```
SELECT emp_id, NULLIF(actual,goal) AS actual_if_different  
FROM dbo.employee_goals;
```

emp_id	actual_if_different
1	110
2	NULL
3	90
4	80

Demonstration: Using Functions to Work with NULL

In this demonstration, you will see how to:

- Use functions to work with NULL