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March 01 ,2022

IFNDA130

Assignment 07

1.Explain when you would use a SQL UDF.

2.Explain are the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

Introduction

Before we precede to answering the questions let us see what built-in Function is
What are Built-In Functions?

In SQL a built-in function is a piece for programming that takes zero or more inputs and returns a value or Built-In functions are used in SQL SELECT expressions to calculate values and manipulate data. These functions can be used anywhere expressions are allowed. Common uses of functions include changing a name to all upper case, ABS() are used to perform calculations, others such as GETDATE() are used to obtain a system value, such as the current data, or others, like LEFT(), are used to manipulate textual data.

1. Explain when you would use a SQL UDF

UDF is a programming construct that accepts parameters, does actions and returns the result of that action. The result either is a scalar value or result set. UDFs can be used in scripts, Stored Procedures, triggers and other UDFs within a database.

2.Explain are the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions.

Scalar Functions

A Scalar UDF accepts zero or more parameters and return a single value. The return type of a scalar function is any data type except text, ntext, image, cursor and timestamp. Scalar functions can be use in a WHERE clause of the SQL Query.

Inline Table Valued Function

An Inline Table Valued Function contains a single statement that must be a SELECT statement. The result of the query becomes the return value of the function. There is no need for a BEGIN-END block in an Inline function.

Multi-Statement Table Valued Function

A Multi-Statement contains multiple SQL statements enclosed in BEGIN-END blocks. In the function body you can read data from databases and do some operations. In a Multi-Statement Table valued function the return value is declared as a table variable and includes the full structure of the table to be returned. The RETURN statement is without a value and the declared table variable is returned.

Summery

To summarize in SQL Server, a function is a stored program that you can pass parameters into and return a value.