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Databases & Data Modeling

Assignment 04

**User Defined Functions**

**Introduction**

User defined functions are useful when you want to reuse code. You can create Views, Functions, or Stored Procedures. Each of these have their own benefits and are used for different reasons.

Explain why Views are an important part of a RDMS.

Views are an important part of a RDMS because they allow for saving single select statements and easy retrieval of the data. Creating views allow for the user to write complicated code once and then reuse it without going back to copy and paste it in. By creating a view you can easily call this view and execute the code without rewriting it.

Explain the differences between a view and a custom table function (UDF).

Views are useful when you are trying to save a single select statement, however when you want to save more statements or use parameters you must use a UDF. Custom table functions return a table and can take parameters. These aspects make it more useful than views in some cases.

Explain the differences between a view and a stored procedure.

Stored procedures are similar to views but they have much more flexibility as to what they can do. They can print or return select statements, and you can pass arguments as well. Whereas a view is much more simple and is just a simple saved select statement. Stored procedures are used when writing very complex code.

**Conclusion**

Using UDFs makes writing SQL code so much easier and efficient. By creating these different UDFs we can utilize the different aspects of them and save code to be used later.