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Assignment 6 — Views

Introduction

In my sixth course writeup, I will discuss the purpose and usage of Views in SQL. Additionally, I will include how the SQL View command differs and also shares similarities with a Function and Stored Procedure, which were also a part of this module.

SQL View Defined

A View command in SQL is primarily used for the purpose of extracting data for reporting purposes without making alterations to the existing database. A View is a virtual table which oftentimes includes one or multiple conditions to aid the reporting process, such as joins, column aliases, concatenation, choose functions, order by statements and more. By creating a View, which carries a unique name, the user may refer back to the named View at any point using a Select statement, particularly when the database is updated with new data.

Views, Functions and Stored Procedures

Views, Functions and Stored Procedures all serve as important tools where the user may create custom functions that can be stored and used throughout the database management process.

Unlike Views, Functions may use parameters to narrow the command as well as return a single value, such as the total transactions at a grocery store on a particular date or the estimated sales tax from an order.

Stored Procedures may also include one or multiple parameters that can be triggered by the user. However, unlike Functions, Stored Procedures don't necessarily need to return a value and can change database objects.

Summary

In Module 6, we learned about Views, Functions and Stored Procedures and how they share similarities but also differ in ways to generate virtual tables within SQL for extracting and reporting data. By using these commands, the user will have cleaner code and less redundancy during future data reporting, which helps with overall coding performance and security.