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IT Foundations of Database Management

Assignment 07

Introduction

In this assignment, I will discuss the use of SQL user defined functions (UDF) and the differences between scalar inline, and multi-statement functions.

When to use a SQL User Defined Function (UDF)

User defined functions are used when there is a desire to have results returned that are beyond the standard functions. By defining the rules of the function, the user can create functions that can be called to return results that can be far more complex than using stock functions.

Differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

Scalar functions allow for the return of a single value. A scalar function can be called similar to a view. An inline function is a tabular function that will contain only one select statement, therefor limiting the complexity of the values returned. A multi-statement function allows for building of a return table with multiple rows. Tabular functions must be called similarly to tables by using a FROM clause.

Conclusion

Functions allow for a convenient grouping of code that can be called repeatedly against a database. Different UDFs allow for different displays of returned data. By grouping the code together for reuse, it allows for easy execution against variable inputs.