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Foundations of Database
Assignment 07
<https://github.com/dkimwhim/DBFoundations-Module07/tree/master>

Explain Functions

Introduction

In this document, I will be answering two questions:

1. *Explain when you would use a SQL UDF.*
2. *Explain are the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions.*

Explain when you would use a SQL UDF.

If the SQL Server's built-in-functions are insufficient to generate the desired end query, we must build UDF (User Defined Functions). We can incorporate built-in-functions into our UDFs.

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

We use scalar functions to return a single value whereas inline and multi-statement return a table. An inline and multi-statement functions can be similar in their end results with the difference being the syntax and more importantly the use of multiple statements in the latter. In a multi-statement function, the table must be defined at the start.

Summary

Functions provide the customizability in formatting the data to present to end users for reporting and analytical inquiries.

Citations

- <https://database.guide/what-is-a-table-valued-function-in-sql-server/>
- University of Washington IT Foundations 130 Modules