https://github.com/dtracy2/DBFoundations
Name: David Tracy
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Assignment 7 – Functions

Introduction

In the following paragraphs I will attempt to answer both the questions in the assignment.

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

SQL UDF Use

UDF (User Defined Function) is a method to create a function that will reside in the database and could be called repeatedly to filter data for reports. If you have to spent a lot of time creating a complex group of SQL statements, and you want to preserve your work, pass in variables, then a UDF is the correct answer.

Scalar

Scalar refers to a single value being returned from a UDF. The author must define the variable name and the datatype when creating the function. You must also use the schema name in the scaler udf.

Inline

Inline in a function returns a table of values. RETURNS table is just after the
Create Function xxx(@X char(50))
Returns table
AS
Return(

Multi-Statement

Multi-Statement returns a table, and is comprised of one or more statements the resulting table can be acted upon.

Summary

User Defined Functions, offer the ability to declare and pass in variables and takes SQL to the next level, allowing a flexible approach to gathering data that requires complex code that is easily called and repeatable.

Citations:

None