

SQL FUNCTIONS

Introduction

As discussed in the previous lesson, functions are a set of SQL statements that perform a specific task. Functions accept only input parameters, perform actions, and return the result. Below will briefly describe some types of user defined functions and their results.

When to use a SQL User Defined Function (UDF)

An SQL UDF should be used when you plan to store the function in the database, allowing the function to be called quickly during queries. UDFs also provide for faster execution and allows for complex calculations to be performed.

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

A scalar function returns a single value.

An inline function contains one line of SELECT statements with given parameters and returns a table.

A multi-statement function allows for multiple SELECT statements which then return a table based upon the inputted parameters.

Conclusion

As is the case with SELECT statements and views, functions allow the database user to reuse SQL code and write queries quickly. This ability ensures reliability and data integrity.