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Course: [IT FDN 130 A](#)

Module 7: Functions

<https://github.com/emoral8/DBFoundations-Module07>

Intro

This week we went over Functions and how they're used in SQL server. This is a very brief overview of User Defined Functions, the different types, and when one might use them. We'll start by defining the UDF.

SQL UDF

A UDF can be useful when utilizing it to pull reporting data. Since functions can be used to format the data in a certain way, as well as do things like call sums, differences, and other qualifying data; they can be a useful way to easily call up the data in a handy reporting format. While functions in SQL Server don't show up in all software, PowerBi has the capability to see created UDF's - so in many cases, having functions saved into a view is most useful for reporting purposes.

Differences between Scalar, Inline and Multi-Statement Functions

A Scalar Function allows you to return a single value as an expression, it typically has a simple syntax. Inline Function returns a table of data but will only contain one statement. By contrast, a Multi-Statement Function returns a table of data and will contain multiple statements, such as a select statement, an insert statement, etc.

Conclusion

There is much more to be said about User Defined Functions, but this is a jumping off point to help jumpstart that understanding. And while things like saved views are likely more relevant in many use cases, it is still helpful to understand UDF's.