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Foundations of Database Management

Assignment 06

**SQL Views, Functions, and Stored Procedures**

**Introduction**

In this paper I will be discussing the differences in uses between views, functions, and stored procedures. After highlighting a few use cases for views, I will discuss the similarities and differences between the three.

**Views in SQL**

Views in SQL serve as an easy way to bring up a previously written select statement. This can be very helpful if the select statement is complex, or if the end user only needs certain specific data out of the database. They can also function as a layer of security, where one can allow certain users to interact with a view, but not with the table the view is looking at.

**Differences in Usage**

Views, functions, and stored procedures all work very similarly in SQL Server. All three of them are code snippets that are saved in the database and called later, when the programmer doesn’t want to write out complex code multiple times. Views must be select statements, whereas functions and stored procedures usually aren’t. Functions are generally more simplistic than stored procedures, in that they must return a value and can only have input parameters. However, functions can be called from anywhere, while a stored procedure has a few uses where it can’t be called, like from inside functions. Overall, the idea between these three concepts is very similar.