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Foundations of Programming: SQL

Assignment 07

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SQL Functions

Introduction

In this paper we describe when to use a SQL user-defined function or UDF as well as the differences between *Scalar*, *Inline*, and *Multi-Statement Functions*.

When to use a UDF?

In SQL, there are many built-in functions. For example, SQL Aggregate functions allow you to calculate Sums, Mins, Max's and averages. SQL also allows user to create custom functions. These are called user-defined functions or UDF's.

Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

A scalar function returns a single value while an inline function will return a table but must contain a single select statement. Multi-statement function will return the results of a table but given column parameters.

Conclusion

In conclusion, UDF's in SQL is a feature that accepts parameters and returns a result given the parameter input and there are three types of UDF's: *Scalar*, *Inline*, and *Multi-Statement Functions*.