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Foundations of Databases Class

Assignment 7 - Written Summary for Week 7

<https://github.com/kari683/DBFoundations-Module07>

All About SQL Functions

Introduction

This paper provides an overview of various SQL functions.

SQL UDF

A UDF or “User Defined Function” is a custom function created by the designer and can be used in addition to built-in SQL functions. A UDF is similar to using a view with a Where clause.

A Different Day, A Different Function

A scalar function is one that returns a single value as an expression. If you use a scalar function in a table, it will be applied to each row.

An inline function is similar to a view – it can only contain a single Select statement and the columns define the columns of the returned table. (<https://sqlsunday.com/2013/05/05/table-value-vs-inline-table-functions/>, 2020)

A multi-statement function can consist of multiple statements that are stored in a return variable. The return variable is defined at the top of the function and this specifies the structure of the return table. (<https://database.guide/introduction-to-multi-statement-table-valued-functions-mstvf-in-sql-server/>, 2020)

The differences between an inline function and a multi-statement functions are outlined here: <https://database.guide/difference-between-multi-statement-table-valued-functions-inline-table-valued-functions-in-sql-server/>

Summary

This paper provided an overview of UDFs, scalar, inline and multi-statement functions.