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Dec2, 2020

IT FDN 130 A

Assignment 07

1.Explain when you would use a SQL UDF.

SQL User defined function ( UDF) is used as custom functions. Similar to ‘view’, user-defined functions are subroutines made of SQL statements that can be used to encapsulate code for reuse. However, different from ‘view’, function allows the use of parameters to streamline the process.

2.Explain the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions.

These are 3 different types of user defined function.

For Scalar function, it returns a single (scaler) value as a result of actions performed by function. A scalar UDF can accept 0 to many input parameter and will return a single value. It returns one of the scalar ( int, char, varchar etc.) datatypes, but the Text, ntext, image and timestamp data types are not supported.

Differently, for inline function, it returns a variable of data type table whose value is derived from a single select statement. Since the return value is derived from the select statement, there is no begin / end block needed in the create function statement.

For multi-statement function, it returns a table as a result of function actions. It can have one or more than one T-SQL statement.