Gerald Oden

Module 5.2

CSD 310

1. UPPER. You might use UPPER when requesting end user provided input for State Abbreviation in a freetext form. By leveraging UPPER, you can normalize the data when it is being input as freetext. This ensures that data exports, for, example a mail merge, State Abbreviations are in upper case format, suitable for mailing a letter. In the example below, State Abbreviation is used to indicate what the value represents. This could likewise be used in an export to CSV or Excel to include column headers.  
   A screenshot of a computer

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2. FORMAT. You might use FORMAT when displaying dollar amounts using common punctuation on a website with a database backend (Accounting, Purchasing, etc). This allows you to leverage a builtin function to ensure that a dollar amount is displayed in that website in a format that is easily consumed by human end users. It also ensures that fractions of a cent, in this case, are rounded to the nearest dollar. This is also useful, as above, for exporting to a CSV or Excel spreadsheet using Dollars as the column header.  
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3. CURRENT\_TIMESTAMP. You might use CURRENT\_TIMESTAMP in an effort to capture the time when a value was last changed as demonstrated below. In this case, in the event that you are performing a query the UPDATEs or INSERTs a value, it may also become necessary to capture a timestamp to ensure that you know the last time that the value was last modified. Last Modified, below, can be used to sort datasets by their last modified date, ensuring that business tasks that must be performed on a periodic basis are completed in a timely manner.  
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