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Intro

A SQL view is considered a "Named" statement, where the code is stored in a database. Functions and Stored Procedures are similar having a "Named" component, but they perform differently. The power of SQL lies in its ability to adapt to the needs of the programmer, but the subtlety lies in how similarly functioning statements differ, giving the precision and utility for the needed use.

Why SQL Views?

SQL Views specially are "Named" Select statements that are an important tool as your project complexity increases, retaining saved versions increases in importance. Named statements can be saved in the database. Views are also designed to be un-sortable. This use is key for providing data to the variously privileged groups but retaining the integrity of the data. The most important use for SQL views is customization when reporting data. A SQL view allows a user to partition data based on rows, splitting the data as needed.

View, Function, and Stored Procedures

SQL Views, Functions and Stored statements are all related but have specific variances amongst themselves. For example, Views and Functions are both "Named" *select* statements, but a Stored Procedure is not restricted to being just a selection statement. Views cannot have their query changed as it executes while the Function may. Yet, the Function may take longer to program and in most cases a View is more efficient. Store Procedures allow for more dynamic results than View and Function and gives the option to affect the database without necessarily returning a value.

Summary

SQL Views, Functions and Stored Procedures allow for a multitude of methods to interact with a database. From the simple View to the dynamic Stored Procedure. These provide many options to manage the logic of a database.