

SQL Stuff and FOR XML PATH

Adding FOR XML PATH to the end of a query allows you to output the results of the query as XML elements, with the element name contained in the PATH argument.

table:

id	name
1	John
2	Rob
3	Ruben

And the query to get all names in one row

```
SELECT ',' + name  
FROM table_name  
FOR XML PATH ( '')
```

would return

```
,John,Rob,Ruben
```

Now we remove the leading comma with STUFF:

```
SELECT name = STUFF(  
    SELECT ',' + name  
    FROM table_name  
    FOR XML PATH ( '')  
, 1, 1, '' )
```

would return

```
John,Rob,Ruben
```

The STUFF statement literally "stuffs" one string into another, replacing characters within the first string. and the paramaters for STUFF:

- the string to be stuffed
- the location to start deleting characters
- the number of characters to delete

