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Course: IT FDN 130 A Su 24: Foundations of Databases & SQL Programming

Assignment 7: Functions

Explain when you would use a SQL UDF

SQL UDFs (User-defined functions) are useful for returning values or a table of values pertaining to a specific dataset. Whereas built-in functions are useful for simple tasks such as reformatting dates or checking Boolean expressions, UDFs can be written to express or alter data in a way that may not be available as a built-in function.

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

Scalar functions return a scalar expression, whereas inline and multi-statement functions return a table. Inline and multi-statement functions are both known as table-valued functions. Inline table valued functions take a single expression as an input, and can be used in a select statement to return a table with restrictions based on the input. Multi-statement functions are similar but take multiple expressions as inputs. Their syntax is therefore slightly more complex.