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MSA, PMOC, PMP®, PRINCE®, PSE-ITSM®, CS, ITIL®, MCP®, MCSD



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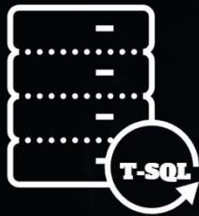
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Database Level 2 Concepts & T-SQL

Common Table Expressions (CTE)

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What are CTEs?

- A Common Table Expression (CTE) in T-SQL is a temporary result set that you can reference within a SELECT, INSERT, UPDATE, or DELETE statement.
- CTEs are useful for breaking down complex queries into simpler parts, making them easier to read and maintain.

CTEs vs Subqueries

- CTEs are often compared to subqueries. While they can be used for similar purposes.
- CTEs offer better readability and can be referenced multiple times in the same query.

CTEs vs Temporary Tables

- CTEs differ from temporary tables in that they are not stored as database objects and only exist during the execution of the query.
- They are generally used for simpler operations or when the result set is not required to be stored permanently.

Best Practices

- **Readability:** Use CTEs to make your SQL queries more readable.
- **Performance:** Be aware that CTEs might not always be the most performant option, especially for large datasets.
- **Recursion Limits:** In recursive CTEs, be cautious of infinite loops. SQL Server imposes a recursion limit which can be configured.



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Thank You

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