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<https://github.com/mplandon/DBFoundations>

User Defined Functions

# Introduction

This paper will explain a when to use a SQL User Defined Function (UDF) and the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions.

# SQL UDF

A SQL UDF is used to create custom functions and can be used with multiple select statements where you can define the column and data types. A calculation that is repeated throughout a database is an example of when a SQL UDF would be used. A SQL UDF can also be used with a check restraint as shown in meeting date and time demonstration.

# Differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions

The differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement functions are: Scalar functions returns a single value and use Begin and End Block, Inline functions return a table based on a single select statements and do not use the Begin and End Block, Multi-Statement Functions also return a table, but one or more selects statements can be used, the Return Table is Declared, and uses the Begin and End Block.

# Summary

In summary, this paper explained when a SQL UDF would be used. The differences between the three types of SQL UDF: Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement were also explained