

Session: 11

Indexes

Objectives

- Define and explain Indexes
- Explain Storage Structure
- Explain types of Indexes
- Understand Index Management

Introduction 1-2

Indexes are special data structures associated with tables or views that help speed up the query.

Index Type	Description
Clustered	It sorts and stores the data rows of a table or view in order based on the clustered index key. Clustered index is implemented as a B-tree index structure that supports fast retrieval of the rows, based on their clustered index key values.
Nonclustered	Non-clustered index is defined on a table or view that has data in either a clustered structure or on a heap. Each index row in the non-clustered index contains nonclustered key value and a row locator. Locator points to data row in the clustered index or heap having key value. Rows in index are stored in order of the index key values, but the data rows are not guaranteed to be in any particular order unless a clustered index is created on the table.
Unique	Unique index ensures that index key contains no duplicate values and therefore, each row in the table or view is in some way unique. Uniqueness can be a property of both clustered and nonclustered indexes.
Columnstore	Columnstore index stores and manages data by using column-based data storage and column-based query processing in in-memory. Columnstore indexes work well for data warehousing workloads that primarily perform bulk loads and read-only queries. Use the columnstore index to achieve up to 10x query performance gains over traditional row-oriented storage, and up to 7x data compression over the uncompressed data size.
Filtered	Optimized non-clustered index is suited to cover queries that select from a well-defined subset of data. It uses a filter predicate to index a portion of rows in a table. A well-designed filtered index can improve query performance, reduce index maintenance costs, and reduce index storage costs compared with full-table indexes.
Spatial	It provides the ability to perform certain operations more efficiently on spatial objects in a column of geometry data type.
XML	Due to large size of XML columns, queries that search within these columns can be slow. You can speed up these queries by creating an XML index on each column. An XML index can be a clustered or a nonclustered index.

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Introduction 2-2

There are other types of indexes such as Hash, Memory optimize nonclustered, Index with included column, Index on computed columns, and Full text.

> A table scan is not always troublesome, but it is sometimes unavoidable.

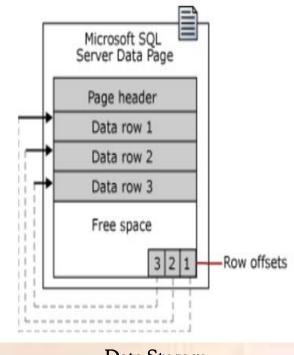
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Overview of Data Storage

- > SQL Server stores data in storage units known as data pages. These pages contain data in the form of rows.
- A page begins with a 96-byte header, which stores system information about the page.

This information includes the following:

- Page number
- > Page type
- > Amount of free space on the page
- Allocation unit ID of the object to which the page is allocated

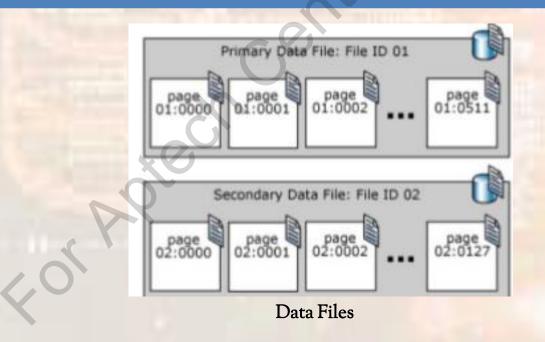


Data Storage

Data Files 1-2

All input and output operations in the database are performed at the page level.

> SQL Server stores data pages in files known as data files. The space allotted to a data file is divided into sequentially numbered data pages.



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Data Files 2-2

There are three different types of data files:

Primary

• A primary data file is automatically created at the time of creation of the database. This file has references to all other files in the database. The recommended file extension for primary data files is .mdf.

Secondary

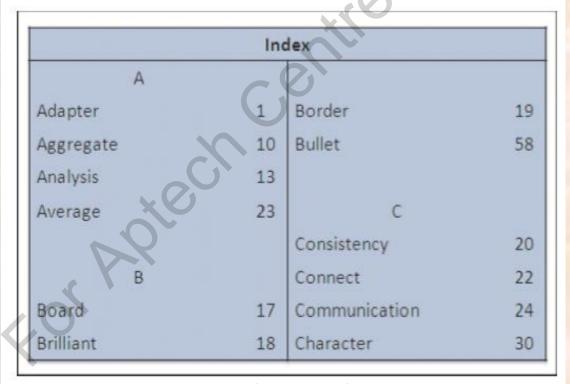
• These are optional user-defined data files. Data can be spread across multiple disks by putting each file on a different disk drive. Recommended file name extension for secondary data files is .ndf.

Transaction Log

• Log files contain information about modifications carried out in the database. This information is useful in recovery of data in contingencies such as sudden power failure or the need to shift the database to a different server. There is at least one log file for each database. The recommended file extension for log files is .ldf.

Requirement for Indexes

- To facilitate quick retrieval of data from a database, SQL Server provides the indexing feature.
- An index in SQL Server database contains information that allows to find specific data without scanning through the entire table.



Index in a Book

Indexes

Records in a table are stored in the order in which they are inserted, this storage is unsorted.

When data is to be retrieved from such tables, the entire table requires to be scanned thus, slowing down the retrieval process.

To speed up data retrieval process, indexes are required.

Index		Employee_Details		
EmployeeID		EmployeeID	EmployeeName	DepartmentID
CN00012	1	CN00016	John Keena	Purchase
CN00015	\rightarrow	CN00015	Smith Jones	Accounts
CN00016	/	CN00020	Albert Walker	Sales
CN00020		CN00012	Rosa Stines	Administrator

Indexes

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Scenario

In a telephone directory, where large amount of data is stored and is frequently accessed, the storage is done in alphabetical order. If such data were unsorted, it would be nearly impossible to search for a specific telephone number.

- Similarly, in a database table having a large number of records that are frequently accessed, the data is to be sorted for fast retrieval.
- When an index is created on the table, the index either physically or logically sorts the records.

Accessing Data Group-wise

> Indexes are useful when data is accessed group-wise.

For example, you make modifications to the conveyance allowance for all employees based on the department they work in.

Employee Name
Jenny Woods
Merry Thomas
John Updeeke
Robert Williamson
Smith Gordon
Albert Wang

Accessing Data Group-wise

Index Architecture

In SQL Server, data can be stored either in a sorted or random manner.

If it is stored in a sorted manner then, data is present in clustered structure.

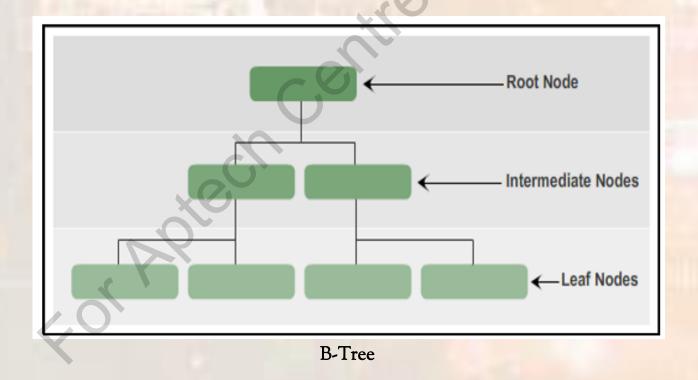
If stored at random then, its present in a heap structure.

	Employee_Details	
EmpID	EmpName	DeptID
CN00020	Rosa Stevens	BN0001
CN00018	John Updeeke	BN0020
CN00019	Smith Gordon	BN0021
CN00012	Robert Tyson	BN0011
EmpID	Employee_Details EmpName	DeptiD
CN00012	Robert Tyson	BN0011
CN00018	John Updeeke	BN0020
CN00019	Smith Gordon	BN0021
CN00020	Rosa Stevens	BN0001
	Clustered Structure	

B-Tree

Each page in an index B-tree is called an index node.

Top node of the B-tree is called the root node, whereas the Bottom nodes are called the leaf nodes.



Index B-Tree Structure 1-2

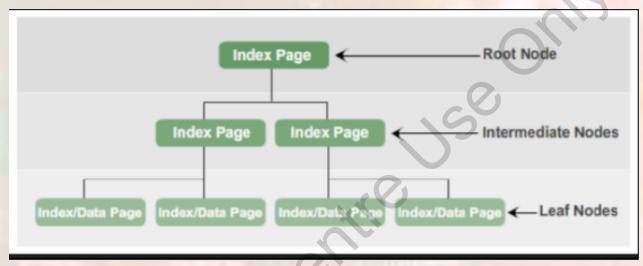
In the B-Tree structure of an index, the root node consists of an index page.

This index page contains pointers present in the first intermediate level.

There can be multiple intermediate levels in an index B-Tree.

The leaf nodes either data pages containing data rows or index pages containing index rows that point to data rows.

Index B-Tree Structure 2-2



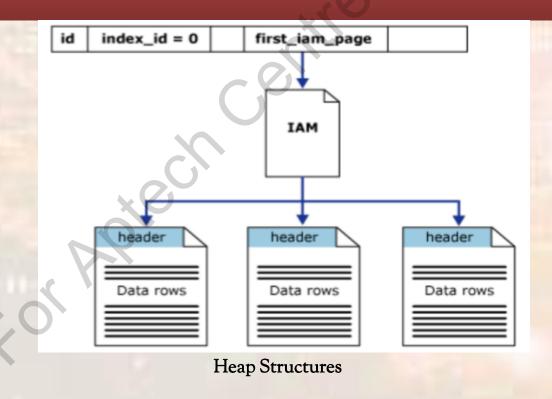
Index B-Tree Structure

Different types of nodes are as follows:

- ➤ Root Node Contains an index page with pointers pointing to index pages at the first intermediate level.
- Intermediate Nodes Contain index pages with pointers pointing either to index pages at the next intermediate level or to index or data pages at the leaf level.
- Leaf Nodes Contain either data pages or index pages that point to data pages.

Heap Structures

- A heap is a table without a clustered index.
- In a heap structure, the data pages and records are not arranged in sorted order.
- The only connection is the information recorded in the Index Allocation Map (IAM) pages.



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Clustered Index Structures 1-2

Clustered indexes are organized as B-Trees. Each page in an index B-tree is called an index node.

Clustered Index

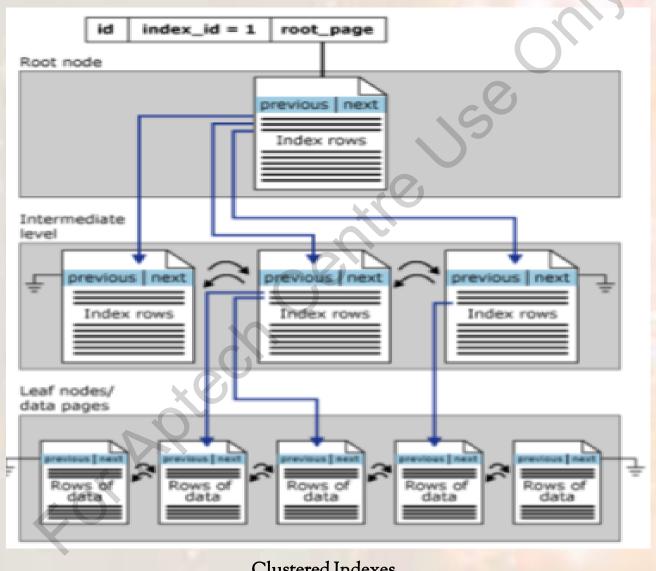
Leaf nodes contain data pages of the underlying table, root, and intermediate level nodes contain index pages holding index rows.

Each index row contains a key value and a pointer to either an intermediate level page in the B-tree or a data row in the leaf level of the index.

By default, a clustered index has a single partition. When a clustered index has multiple partitions, each partition has a B-tree structure that contains the data for that specific partition.

The clustered index will also have one LOB_DATA allocation unit per partition if it contains large object (LOB) columns. It will also have one ROW_OVERFLOW_DATA allocation unit per partition if it contains variable length columns that exceed the 8,060 byte row size limit.

Clustered Index Structures 2-2



Clustered Indexes

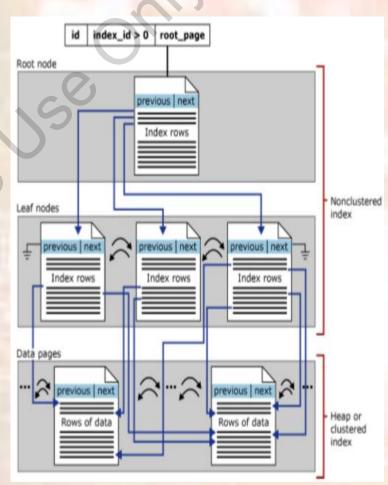
Nonclustered Index Structures

A nonclustered index is defined on a table that has data in either a clustered structure or a heap.

Each index row in the nonclustered index contains a nonclustered key value and a row locator.

Nonclustered indexes have a similar B-Tree structure as clustered indexes, but with the following differences:

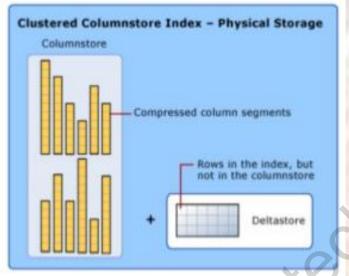
In a nonclustered index structure, the leaf level contains index rows.



Nonclustered Index

Column Store Index

A columnstore index is a feature in SQL Server for storing, retrieving, and managing data by using a columnar data format



Clustered Column Store Index

Columnstore

It is logically organized data as a table with rows and columns and physically stored in a column-wise data format.

Rowstore

It is logically organized data as a table with rows and columns and then, physically stored in a row-wise data format.

Deltastore

It is a holding place for rows that are too few in number to be compressed into the columnstore. The deltastore stores the rows in rowstore format.

Columnstore indexes are mainly used for following reasons:

- To reduce storage costs
- Better performance

Hash Index 1-2

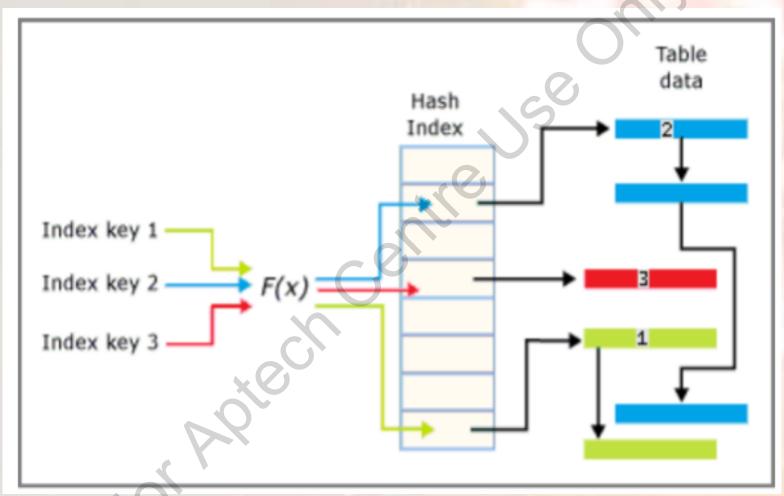
Hash index consists of an array of pointers and each element of the array is called a hash bucket.

- Each entry is a value for an index key, and address of its corresponding row in the underlying memory-optimized table.
- Each entry points to the next entry in a link list of entries, all chained to the current bucket.

The number of buckets must be specified at index definition time:

- ➤ The lower the ratio of buckets to table rows or to distinct values, the longer the average bucket link list will be.
- Short link lists perform faster than long link lists.

Hash Index 2-2



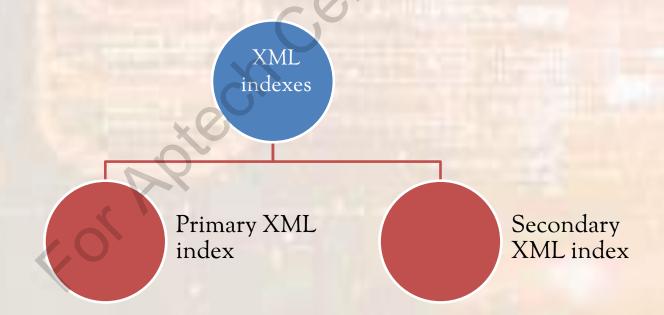
Hash Index Architecture

XML Indexes

XML indexes can be created on xml data type columns.

They index all tags, values, and paths over the XML instances in the column and benefit query performance.

Queries on XML columns are common in your workload. XML index maintenance cost during data modification must be considered.

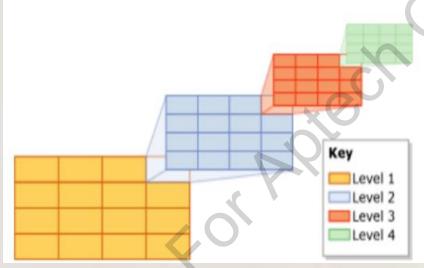


Spatial Indexes

In SQL Server, spatial indexes are built using B-trees, which means that the indexes must represent the 2dimensional spatial data in the linear order of B-trees.



These levels are referred to as level 1 (the top level), level 2, level 3, and level 4.



Four Levels of 4x4 Grids

Full-Text Indexes

Creating and maintaining a full-text index involves populating the index by using a process called a population also known as a crawl.

Types of population

A full-text index supports the following types of population:

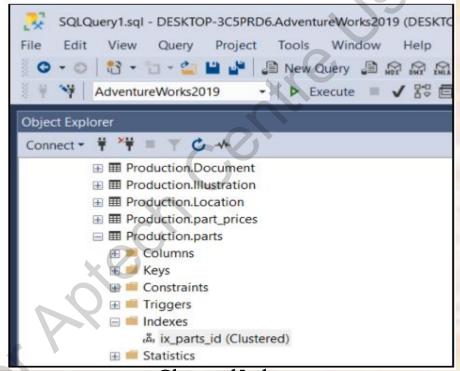
- > Full population
- Automatic or manual population based on change tracking
- Incremental population based on a timestamp

Index Management

Index management allow user to manage indexes in terms various operation such as CREATE, ALTER, DROP, and so on.

Create Clustered Index 1-5

CREATE CLUSTERED index statement allow users to create CLUSTERED index on specified columns and table.



Clustered Index

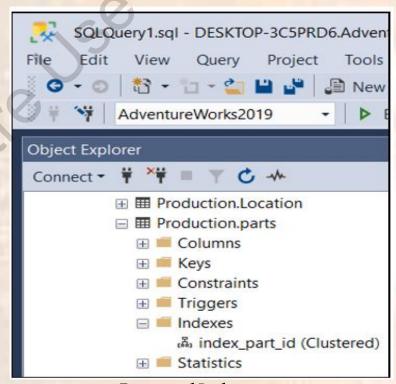
Create Clustered Index 2-5

RENAME INDEX

The sp_rename is a system stored procedure that allows you to rename any user-created object in the current database including table, index, and column.

Syntax

EXEC sp_rename index_name, new_index_name, N'INDEX';



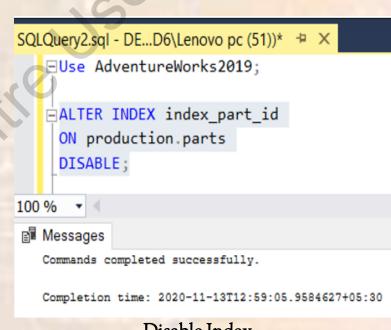
Renamed Index

Create Clustered Index 3-5

DISABLE INDEX

To disable an index, ALTER INDEX statement is used as follows:

Syntax ALTER INDEX index_name ON table_name DISABLE;



Disable Index

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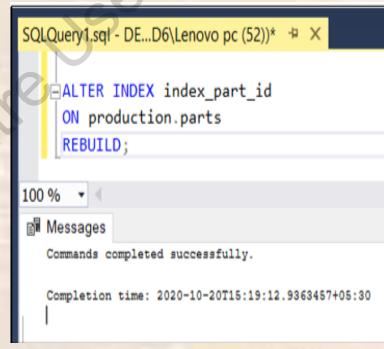
Create Clustered Index 4-5

ENABLE INDEX

This statement uses the ALTER INDEX statement to 'enable' or rebuild an index on a table.

Syntax

ALTER INDEX index_name ON table_name REBUILD;



Enable Index

Create Clustered Index 5-5

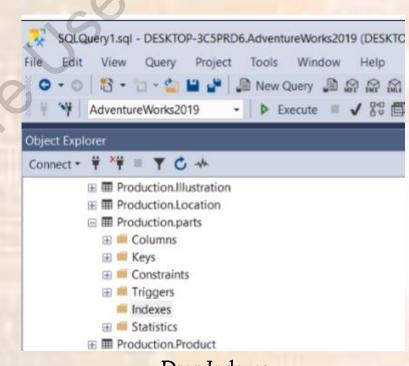
DROP INDEX

DROP INDEX statement removes one or more indexes from the current database.

Following is the syntax for DROP INDEX statement:

Syntax

DROP INDEX [IF EXISTS] index_name
ON table_name;

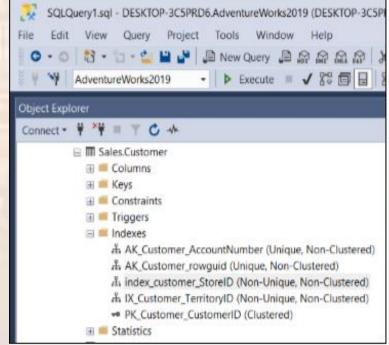


NonClustered Indexes

It improves speed of data retrieval from tables. Unlike a clustered index, it sorts and stores data separately from the data rows in table.

Syntax

CREATE [NONCLUSTERED] INDEX index_name ON table_name(column_list);



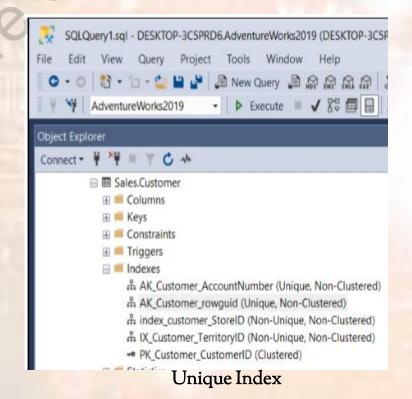
Nonclustered Index

Unique Indexes

- Ensures that index key columns do not contain any duplicate values.
- > It may consist of one or many columns.
- In case the unique index has multiple columns, the combination is unique.

Syntax

CREATE UNIQUE INDEX index_name
ON table_name(column_list);

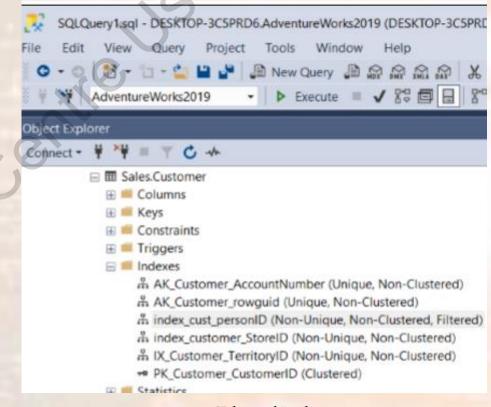


Filtered Indexes

It is a nonclustered index with a predicate that allows to specify which rows should be added to the index.

Syntax

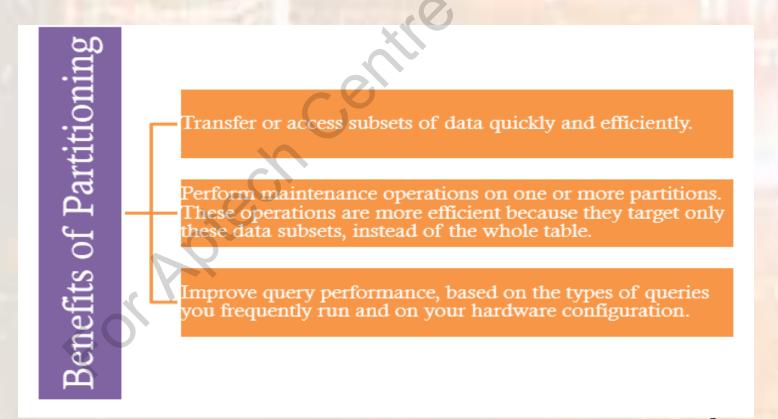
CREATE INDEX index_name ON table_name(column_list) WHERE predicate;



Filtered Index

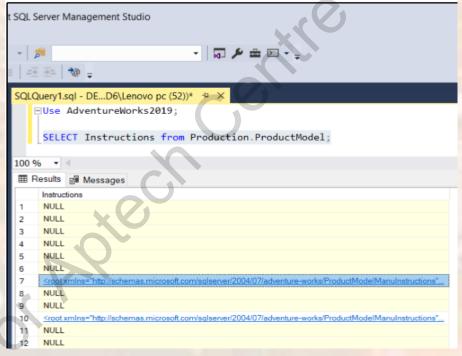
Partitioned Table and Indexes

- > SQL Server supports both table and index partitioning.
- Partitioning large tables or indexes can have the following manageability and performance benefits.



XML Indexes 1-2

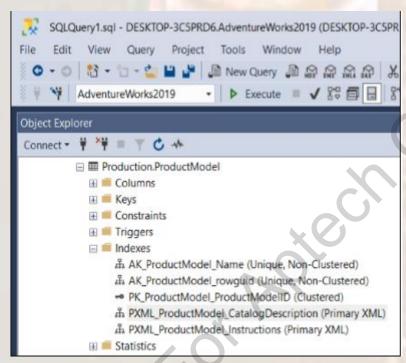
- > XML data is stored in xml type columns as large binary objects (BLOBs).
- These XML instances can be large and the stored binary representation.



XML Data

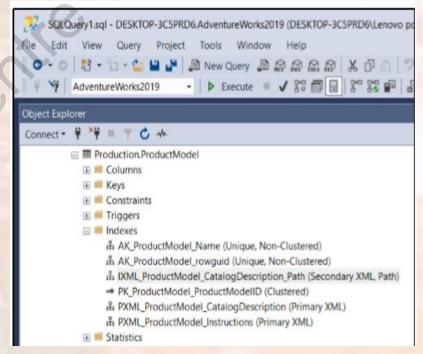
XML Indexes 2-2

Primary XML index contains all the data in XML column.



Primary XML Index

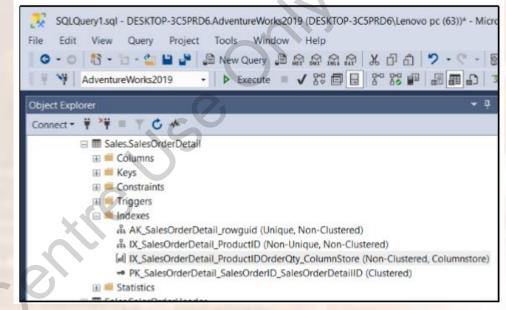
Secondary XML index creates a more specific index, based on the primary index.



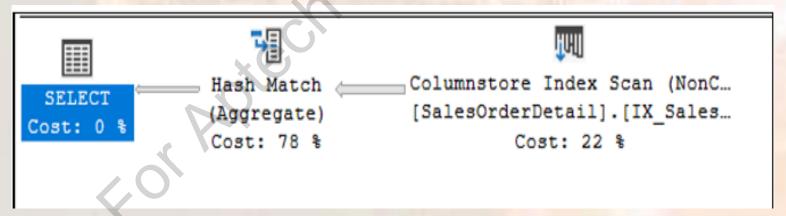
Secondary XML Index

Columnstore Indexes

Creating a column store index is done by using CREATE
 COLUMNSTORE
 INDEX command and has many of the same options as a regular index.



Columnstore Index



Estimated Execution Plan for Columnstore Index

Summary

- Indexes increase the speed of querying process by providing quick access to rows or columns in a data table.
- SQL Server stores data in storage units known as data pages.
- All input and output operations in a database are performed at the page level.
- A clustered index causes records to be physically stored in a sorted or sequential order.
- A nonclustered index is defined on a table that has data either in a clustered structure or a heap.
- XML indexes can speed up queries on tables that have XML data.
- Column Store Index enhances performance of data warehouse queries extensively.

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