

optional parameters in SQL Server stored proc?

I'm writing some stored procs in SQL Server 2008, and wondered if the concept of optional input parameters is possible here?

I suppose I could always pass in NULL for parameters I don't want to use, check the value in the stored proc, then take things from there, but I was interested if the concept is available here. Thanks!

sql-server-2008

stored-procedures

optional-parameters



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edited Jan 29 '13 at 21:40



FMFF

854

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asked Nov 27 '09 at 21:09



larryq

6,017

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96

167

- 1 Take a long read at Erland's site, he has some great info on dynamic search conditions: sommarskog.se/dyn-search.html – Aaron Bertrand Nov 28 '09 at 16:55

3 Answers

You can declare like this

175

CREATE PROCEDURE MyProcName

 @Parameter1 INT = 1,

 @Parameter2 VARCHAR (100) = 'StringValue',

 @Parameter3 VARCHAR (100) = NULL

AS

/ check for the NULL / default value (indicating nothing was passed) */*

if (@Parameter3 **IS NULL**)

BEGIN

/ whatever code you desire for a missing parameter */*

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```
FROM Table  
WHERE Column = @Parameter
```

answered Nov 27 '09 at 21:19

[Raj More](#)

37.4k 29 114 182

Thanks for both of your answers! – [larryq](#) Nov 27 '09 at 23:44

what if the parameter is type of uniqueidentifier? ex. @userId uniqueidentifier – [R K Sharma](#) Dec 4 '15 at 12:25 ✎

1 Answering @RKSharma for anyone who's wondering too - it works just the same with uniqueidentifiers. – [rinukkusu](#) Mar 29 '16 at 12:21 ✎

Yes, it is. Declare parameter as so:

49

```
@Sort varchar(50) = NULL
```

Now you don't even have to pass the parameter in. It will default to NULL (or whatever you choose to default to).

answered Nov 27 '09 at 21:11

[Mike Cole](#)

7,231 22 97 180

You don't even need the = NULL – [OMG Ponies](#) Nov 27 '09 at 21:19

3 Are you sure you don't need it? – [Mike Cole](#) Nov 28 '09 at 2:16

39 OMG Ponies, if you don't include = <NULL|some default value>, then the parameter will be required. You can pass it in as NULL, but then you just shift that logic to the application(s) that use the procedure. – [Aaron Bertrand](#) Nov 28 '09 at 16:54

9 Adding to Aaron's point. It is better to use the " = NULL" if you are adding a new optional parameter to an existing stored proc. The reason is, you may not be aware of ALL the code that calls this proc. Hence, unless you make it optional using the " = NULL", for all the places that you may have missed to pass in a value, it will break. – [nanonerd](#) Jun 8 '17 at 12:50

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2014 and above at least you can set a default and it will take that and NOT error when you do not pass that parameter. Partial Example: the 3rd parameter is added as optional. exec of the actual procedure with only the first two parameters worked fine

```
exec getlist 47,1,0
```

```
create procedure getlist  
    @convId int,  
    @SortOrder int,  
    @contestantsOnly bit = 0  
as
```

answered Nov 15 '18 at 18:22



[billpennock](#)

159 2 12

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