How to get multiple columns in a single SQL CASE statement?

Asked 2 years, 11 months ago   Active 1 year, 9 months ago   Viewed 34k times

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I'm trying to get multiple columns(insuredcode, insuredname in this case) from a single `CASE` statement.

The following query has been tried but it concatenates both insuredcode and insuredname as one column.

What is the correct syntax to return exactly two columns from such `CASE` statement?

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```
select
    case
        when a.policyno[2] in ('E', 'W') then c.insuredcode || c.insuredname
        else b.insuredcode || b.insuredname
    end
from prpcmain a
left join prpcinsured_1 b on b.proposalno=a.proposalno
left join prpcinsured_2 c on c.proposalno=a.proposalno
where a.policyno in (select policyno from policyno_t);
```

sql   case   informix

edited Oct 9 '16 at 9:18   asked Oct 9 '16 at 9:11

                                             Michael.Y

                                             60   1   1   6

duplicate: stackoverflow.com/questions/2072721/... – AJ AJ Aug 2 '18 at 12:27

3 Answers

▲   A `CASE` statement can return only single column not multiple columns

✓

```sql
select
    case
        when a.policyno[2] in ('E', 'W') then c.insuredcode
        else b.insuredcode
    end as insuredcode ,
    case
        when a.policyno[2] in ('E', 'W') then  c.insuredname
        else b.insuredname
    end as insuredname
from prpcmain a
left join prpcinsured_1 b on b.proposalno=a.proposalno
left join prpcinsured_2 c on c.proposalno=a.proposalno
where a.policyno in (select policyno from policyno_t);
```

answered Oct 9 '16 at 9:13

Pரதீப்
77.7k   12   88   124

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1   any ideas if the query engine optimizes something if conditions are same in both cases – PirateApp Jun 5 '18 at 4:45

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I can suggest something else that might be slightly faster :

```sql
SELECT s.insuredcode,s.insuredname FROM (
    SELECT a.policyno,b.insuredcode,b.insuredname
    FROM prpcmain a
    left join prpcinsured_1 b on b.proposalno=a.proposalno
    WHERE a.policyno[2] not in ('E', 'W')
    UNION ALL
    SELECT a.policyno,c.insuredcode,c.insuredname
    FROM prpcmain a
    left join prpcinsured_2 c on c.proposalno=a.proposalno
    WHERE a.policyno[2]  in ('E', 'W')
) s
where s.policyno in (select policyno from policyno_t);
```

As to your question, @Prdp shows what you need to do.

It is simply like if/else condition in any language, you can define your condition in **When** statement and if it is true, SQL executes the **Then** statement, otherwise executes **Else** part, as described below:

```
Select
        CASE
            WHEN (cs.ResultSubmitToHOD = 1) THEN 'HOD'
            WHEN (cs.ResultSubmitToExamDep = 1) THEN 'Exam'
            ELSE 'Teacher'
        END AS ResultSubmitStatus
    From dbo.CourseSection as cs
```

answered Nov 30 '17 at 10:03

Luqman Cheema
49   3

This does not answer the question, which is not only asking for yielding two columns, but also has a specified SQL dialect: Informix. – Lorinc Nyitrai Nov 30 '17 at 10:23 ✎

I think @luqman-cheema just misunderstood the question, as frankly I did too. I came here looking for this answer, actually :) So, the original question above wants two columns IN THE RESULT, and this answer is talking about using two columns within the CASE IN THE QUERY... – Predrag Stojadinović Feb 27 '18 at 12:07

Exactly what I was looking for, thanks ! (even though someone voted you down) – Mike Gledhill Dec 7 '18 at 8:11