

Managing Relation and Non-Relation Data | 2022

SQL Project FAQ

1) InitialBidPrice (uspAddProductToAuction stored procedure) should have maximum value or that applies only to bids?

A: This is optional. InitialBidPrice is an optional parameter and most often will not even be set when stored procedure is invoked. However, would be good approach to limit this value to maximum bid limit otherwise wouldn't be possible to bid this product after being enlisted as auction.

2) In regard to 'uspUpdateProductAuctionStatus' what means update auction status?

A: Assuming an auction is about to end (not due price limit has been reached but due Auction ExpireDate being reached) auction should be 'won' by user that did last bid. As there is not automated procedure, trigger or similar that will automatically calculate/update status for that auction should be assumed that will be website middle tier / application that will invoke this stored procedure from time to time to properly update status for all auctions to properly reflect whom was the winner for each auction as any other fields that would also require to be updated based on particular trigger / event. Note: Is not expected that students will be created triggers or similar as this wasn't part of lessons contents. So, this stored procedure should be used for this purpose.

3) As per project specifications this special promotion event 'auctions' takes place during last 2 weeks of November. Should we assume then that @ExpireDate should never be greater than 27th of November?

A: No. Please refer to question 13 for more details.

4) 'uspTryBidProduct' stored procedure BidAmount parameter should be just the increment or should be effective bid price (total)?

A: Should be total price and not just increment.

5) Maximum bid should be equal to ListPrice? So, it's not possible to exceed this value?

A: Assuming default configuration that's indeed correct however as mentioned in project specifications this value should be configurable in separate table. This means that by default maximum bid should be 100% of ListPrice but should be possible that if any time management team decides to increase to 120% of ListPrice that should require only single change into configuration table value to be effective. So, shouldn't require any stored procedure t-SQL changes. Please note these configurations are global so there is no need to save this at individual bid / product level.

7) Auctions do not necessarily need to end on the 27th of November. Can we assume that auctions always start within last 2 weeks of November?

A: Correct. Please refer to question 13 for more details.

8) Solution should just work for 2022 or should be prepared for the next years?

A: Ideally should work for any year. Please refer to question 13 for more details.

9) When is an auction closed and user who won that auction is identified should product quantity as other tables related to shipping be updated?

A: No. Only tables/objects within Auction schema should be modified. Any other existing tables should not be modified. So, there is no need to update product quantity or take care of handling process by updating tables related to shipping.

10) Should configuration table be created before stored procedures are created?

A: That is correct otherwise errors will be raised if stored procedures references objects that haven't been yet created but are referenced within stored procedure t-SQL code. Please have in mind that there should be just one single t-SQL file to create entire auctions schema so either configuration table either initial values population should be within this single file. Is important to have in mind that file execution so should be idempotent so have this mind to avoid double values insertion.

11) Should we assume that SQL Server machine date time will be modified to test database schema solution?

A: Correct.

12) Would be possible to add again same product id assuming that previous auction has been already closed or cancelled?

A: Correct. That should be possible as far there are no active parallel auctions for same product id. For simplification purposes you can assume there are no more than one active auction per unique product id.

13) How @ExpireDate should be handled when for example stored procedure is invoked with @ExpireDate in December? Should code be prepared to work for other years like 2023 too? Should bids be restricted to last 2 weeks of November only? If product is listed for auction before last two weeks of November should users be able to start bidding immediately?

A: There are basically three main steps, when product is initially added to auction, when product can effectively be bided and when auction is closed either because expire date was reached or max bid limit was reached.

By default bids should be allowed during last weeks of November however these values should be configurable so means can be easily modified by changing configuration table only (so there is no need to change stored procedure t-SQL code). For current year, 2022, StartBidDate should be set to 14th November and StopBidDate to 27th November.

Products can be added to auction any time that is earlier than StopBidDate value, however products can only receive bids after StartBidDate. This means that product can be added to auction on 13th but will receive bids starting next day only (assuming default configuration values haven't changed).

Regarding @ExpireDate parameter no errors should be returned if a product is added to auction with @ExpireDate set to 1st of December. However, assuming StopBidDate default value is 27th of November then no bids will be allowed on 28th of November.

At any time if leadership decides to extend auction one more week (which means updating StopBidDate value to 5th December) that means some auctions might still receive bids assuming neither expire time or max bid limit was reached.