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SQL Server Tutorial

Part 71 - SQL Server dirty read example

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SQL Server Dirty Read Example

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A dirty read happens when one transaction is permitted to read data that has been modified by another transaction that has not yet been committed. In most cases this would not cause a problem. However, if the first transaction is rolled back after the second reads the data, the second transaction has dirty data that does not exist anymore Id Product ItemsInStock

10

1 iPhone Transaction 1 **Transaction 2** Updates ItemsInStock: 9 Reads ItemsInStock: 9 Billing Customer Insufficient funds Transaction rolled back Reverts ItemsInStock: 10

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SQL Server Dirty Read Example

```
Id Product ItemsInStock
1 iPhone 10

--Transaction 1:
Begin Tran
Update tblInventory set ItemsInStock = 9 where Id=1

-- Billing the customer
Waitfor Delay '00:00:15'
-- Insufficient Funds. Rollback transaction
Rollback Transaction

--Transaction 2:
Set Transaction Isolation Level Read Uncommitted
Select * from tblInventory where Id=1
```

Read Uncommitted transaction isolation level is the only isolation level that has dirty read side effect. This is the least restrictive of all the isolation levels. When this transaction isolation level is set, it is possible to read uncommitted or dirty data. Another option to read dirty data is by using NOLOCK table hint. The query below is equivalent to the query in Transaction 2.

```
Select * from tblInventory (NOLOCK) where Id=1
```



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