

SQL Server Tutorial

Part 132 - sys.dm_sql_referencing_entities in SQL Server

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In this session we will learn

- How to find object dependencies using
 - sys.dm_sql_referencing_entities
 - sys.dm_sql_referenced_entities
- Difference between
 - Referencing entity and Referenced entity
 - Schema-bound dependency and Non-schema-bound dependency

Link to Dot Net Basics, ASP.NET, C#, ADO.NET and SQL Server video series

<http://www.youtube.com/user/kudvenkat/playlists>

Suggested Videos

Part 129 - Difference between DateTime and DateTime2 in SQL Server

Part 130 - Offset fetch next in SQL Server 2012

Part 131 - Identifying object dependencies in SQL Server

sys.dm_sql_referencing_entities

If you are in need of the DVD with all the videos and PPT's, please visit
<http://pragimtech.com/order.aspx>

Returns all the objects that depend on Employees table

```
Select * from sys.dm_sql_referencing_entities('dbo.Employees','Object')
```

Difference between referencing entity and referenced entity

A dependency is created between two objects when one object appears by name inside a SQL statement stored in another object. The object which is appearing inside the SQL expression is known as **REFERENCED ENTITY** and the object which has the SQL expression is known as a **REFERENCING ENTITY**

Referencing entities	sys.dm_sql_referencing_entities
Referenced entities	sys.dm_sql_referenced_entities

```
Create view VwEmployees  
as  
Select * from Employees
```

→ **REFERENCING ENTITY**

→ **REFERENCED ENTITY**

sys.dm_sql_referencing_entities

The following query returns all the **REFERENCED ENTITIES** of the stored procedure **sp_GetEmployeesandDepartments**

```
Select * from sys.dm_sql_referenced_entities('dbo.sp_GetEmployeesandDepartments','Object')
```

Please note : For both these dynamic management functions to work we need to specify the schema name as well

Difference between Schema-bound dependency and Non-schema-bound dependency

Schema-bound dependency : Schema-bound dependency prevents referenced objects from being dropped or modified as long as the referencing object exists

Example : A view created with SCHEMABINDING, or a table created with foreign key constraint.

Non-schema-bound dependency : A non-schema-bound dependency doesn't prevent the referenced object from being dropped or modified.

Additional Resources

PRAGIM Home Page:

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Resources:

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