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SQL Server Tutorial

Part 105 - Grouping function in SQL Server

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In this session we will learn

Grouping function in SQL Server

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 102 - Rollup in SQL Server

Part 103 - Cube in SQL Server

Part 104 - Difference between cube and rollup in SQL Server

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What is Grouping function

Grouping(Column) indicates whether the column in a GROUP BY list is aggregated or not. Grouping returns 1 for aggregated or 0 for not aggregated in the result set.

Continent	Country	City	TotalSales	GP_Continent	GP_Country	GP_City
Asia	India	Bangalore	1000	0	0	0
Asia	India	Chennai	2000	0	0	0
Asia	India	NULL	3000	0	0	1
Asia	Japan	Hiroshima	5000	0	0	0
Asia	Japan	Tokyo	4000	0	0	0
Asia	Japan	NULL	9000	0	0	1
Asia	NULL	NULL	12000	0	1	1
Europe	France	Cannes	5000	0	0	0
Europe	France	Paris	4000	0	0	0
Europe	France	NULL	9000	0	0	1
Europe	United Kingdom	London	1000	0	0	0
Europe	United Kingdom	Manchester	2000	0	0	0
Europe	United Kingdom	NULL	3000	0	0	1
Europe	NULL	NULL	12000	0	1	1
NULL	NULL	NULL	24000	1	1	1

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The following query returns 1 for aggregated or 0 for not aggregated in the result set

Continent	Country	City	TotalSales	GP_Continent	GP_Country	GP_City
Asia	India	Bangalore	1000	0	0	0
Asia	India	Chennai	2000	0	0	0
Asia	India	NULL	3000	0	0	1
Asia	Japan	Hiroshima	5000	0	0	0
Asia	Japan	Tokyo	4000	0	0	0
Asia	Japan	NULL	9000	0	0	1
Asia	NULL	NULL	12000	0	1	1
Europe	France	Cannes	5000	0	0	0
Europe	France	Paris	4000	0	0	0
Europe	France	NULL	9000	0	0	1
Europe	United Kingdom	London	1000	0	0	0
Europe	United Kingdom	Manchester	2000	0	0	0
Europe	United Kingdom	NULL	3000	0	0	1
Europe	NULL	NULL	12000	0	1	1
NULL	NULL	NULL	24000	1	1	1

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What is the use of Grouping function in real world

When a column is aggregated in the result set, the column will have a NULL value. If you want to replace NULL with All then this GROUPING function is very handy

Continent	Country	City	TotalSales
Asia	India	Bangalore	1000
Asia	India	Chennai	2000
Asia	India	All	3000
Asia	Japan	Hiroshima	5000
Asia	Japan	Tokyo	4000
Asia	Japan	All	9000
Asia	All	All	12000
Europe	France	Cannes	5000
Europe	France	Paris	4000
Europe	France	All	9000
Europe	United Kingdom	London	1000
Europe	United Kingdom	Manchester	2000
Europe	United Kingdom	All	3000
Europe	All	All	12000
All	All	All	24000

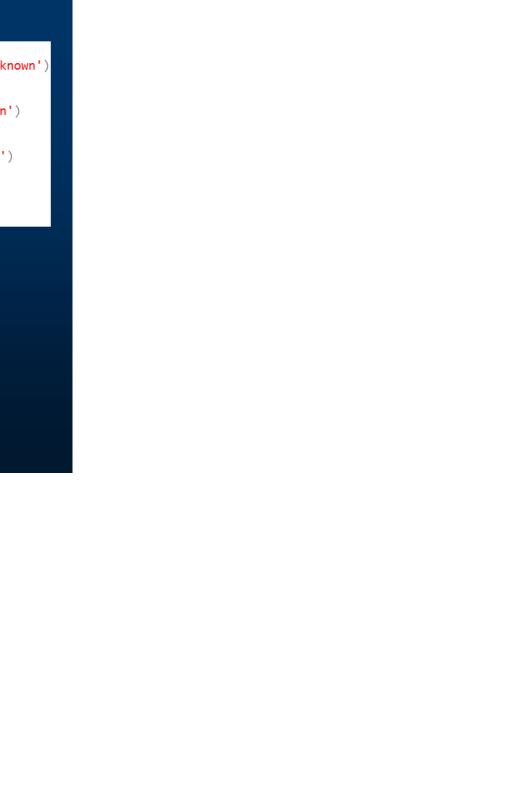
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Continent	Country	City	TotalSales
Asia	India	Bangalore	1000
Asia	India	Chennai	2000
Asia	India	All	3000
Asia	Japan	Hiroshima	5000
Asia	Japan	Tokyo	4000
Asia	Japan	All	9000
Asia	All	All	12000
Europe	France	Cannes	5000
Europe	France	Paris	4000
Europe	France	All	9000
Europe	United Kingdom	London	1000
Europe	United Kingdom	Manchester	2000
Europe	United Kingdom	All	3000
Europe	All	All	12000
All	All	All	24000

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Can't I use ISNULL function instead of GROUPING function to achieve the same

You can, but only if your data does not contain NULL values

```
SELECT ISNULL(Continent, 'All') AS Continent,
ISNULL(Country, 'All') AS Country,
ISNULL(City, 'All') AS City,
SUM(SaleAmount) AS TotalSales
FROM Sales
GROUP BY ROLLUP(Continent, Country, City)
```

Please note: Grouping function can be used with Rollup, Cube and Grouping Sets

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