Part 17 – UNION and UNION ALL

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In this session we will learn

- Purpose of UNION and UNION ALL
- Difference between UNION and UNION ALL
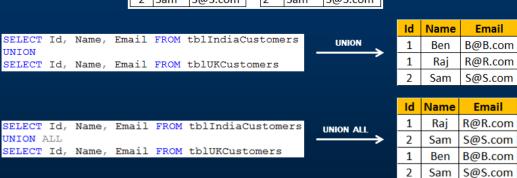- Difference between JOIN and UNION

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UNION & UNION ALL

UNION and UNION ALL operators in SQL Server, are used to combine the result-set of two or more SELECT queries.

tblIndiaCustomers		
Id	**Name**	**Email**
1	Raj	R@R.com
2	Sam	S@S.com

tblUKCustomers		
Id	**Name**	**Email**
1	Ben	B@B.com
2	Sam	S@S.com

```
SELECT Id, Name, Email FROM tblIndiaCustomers
UNION
SELECT Id, Name, Email FROM tblUKCustomers
```

UNION →

Id	Name	Email
1	Ben	B@B.com
1	Raj	R@R.com
2	Sam	S@S.com

```
SELECT Id, Name, Email FROM tblIndiaCustomers
UNION ALL
SELECT Id, Name, Email FROM tblUKCustomers
```

UNION ALL →

Id	Name	Email
1	Raj	R@R.com
2	Sam	S@S.com
1	Ben	B@B.com
2	Sam	S@S.com

Note: For UNION and UNION ALL to work, the Number, Data types, and the order of the columns in the select statements should be same.

UNION & UNION ALL & JOINS

Difference between UNION and UNION ALL
1. UNION removes duplicate rows, where as UNION ALL does not
2. UNION has to perform distinct sort to remove duplicates, which makes it less faster than UNION ALL

Note: Estimated query execution plan - CTRL + L

Sorting results of a UNION or UNION ALL
ORDER BY clause should be used only on the last SELECT statement in the UNION query

Difference between UNION and JOIN
UNION combines the result-set of two or more select queries into a single result-set which includes all the rows from all the queries in the union, where as JOINS, retrieve data from two or more tables based on logical relationships between the tables.

In short, UNION combines rows from 2 or more tables, where JOINS combine columns from 2 or more table.

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Additional Resources

- PRAGIM Home Page:
  - http://www.PragimTech.com

- Resources:
  - ASP.NET Interview Questions
  - http://www.VenkatASPInterview.Blogspot.com
  - C# Interview Questions
  - http://www.VenkatCSharpInterview.Blogspot.com

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