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Pragim@PragimTech.com

SQL Server Tutorial

Part 118 - LAST_VALUE function in SQL Server

Venkat
PRAGIM Technologies
kudvenkat@gmail.com
http://csharp-video-tutorials.blogspot.com

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In this session we will learn

LAST_VALUE 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 115 - FIRST_VALUE function in SQL Server

Part 116-Windowfunctions in SQL Server

Part 117 - Difference between ROWS and RANGE

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LAST_VALUE function

- Introduced in SQL Server 2012
- · Retrieves the last value from the specified column
- · ORDER BY clause is required
- · PARTITION BY clause is optional
- ROWS or RANGE clause is optional, but for it to work correctly you may have to explicitly specify a value

Syntax: LAST_VALUE(Column_Name) OVER (ORDER BY Col1, Col2, ...)

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LAST_VALUE function not working as expected: In the following example, LAST_VALUE function does not return the name of the highest paid employee. This is because we have not specified an explicit value for ROWS or RANGE clause. As a result it is using it's default value RANGE BETWEEN UNBOUNDED PRECEDING AND CURRENT ROW

SELECT Name, Gender, Salary,

LAST_VALUE(Name) OVER (ORDER BY Salary) AS LastValue
FROM Employees

Id	Name	Gender	Salary		Name	Gender	Salary	LastVa	lue
1	Mark	Male	1000		Mark	Male	1000	Mark	
2	John	Male	2000		John	Male	2000	John	
3	Pam	Female	3000		Pam	Female	3000	Pam	
4	Sara	Female	4000		Sara	Female	4000	Sara	
5	Todd	Male	5000	\rightarrow	Todd	Male	5000	Todd	
6	Mary	Female	6000		Mary	Female	6000	Mary	
7	Ben	Male	7000		Ben	Male	7000	Ben	
8	Jodi	Female	8000		Jodi	Female	8000	Jodi	
9	Tom	Male	9000		Tom	Male	9000	Tom	
10	Ron	Male	9500		Ron	Male	9500	Ron	



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LAST_VALUE function working as expected: LAST_VALUE function in this case returns the name of the highest paid employee as expected, as we have set an explicit value for ROWS or RANGE clause to ROWS BETWEEN UNBOUNDED PRECEDING AND UNBOUNDED FOLLOWING

This tells the LAST_VALUE function that it's window starts at the first row and ends at the last row in the result set

SELECT Name, Gender, Salary,

LAST_VALUE(Name) OVER (ORDER BY Salary ROWS BETWEEN UNBOUNDED PRECEDING
AND UNBOUNDED FOLLOWING) AS LastValue

FROM Employees

Id	Name	Gender	Salary
1	Mark	Male	1000
2	John	Male	2000
3	Pam	Female	3000
4	Sara	Female	4000
5	Todd	Male	5000
6	Mary	Female	6000
7	Ben	Male	7000
8	Jodi	Female	8000
9	Tom	Male	9000
10	Ron	Male	9500

	Name	Gender	Salary	LastValue
	Mark	Male	1000	Ron
	John	Male	2000	Ron
	Pam	Female	3000	Ron
	Sara	Female	4000	Ron
>	Todd	Male	5000	Ron
	Mary	Female	6000	Ron
	Ben	Male	7000	Ron
	Jodi	Female	8000	Ron
	Tom	Male	9000	Ron
	Ron	Male	9500	Ron

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LAST_VALUE function example with partitions: In the following example, LAST_VALUE function returns the name of the highest paid employee from the respective partition

SELECT Name, Gender, Salary,

LAST_VALUE(Name) OVER (PARTITION BY Gender ORDER BY Salary ROWS BETWEEN

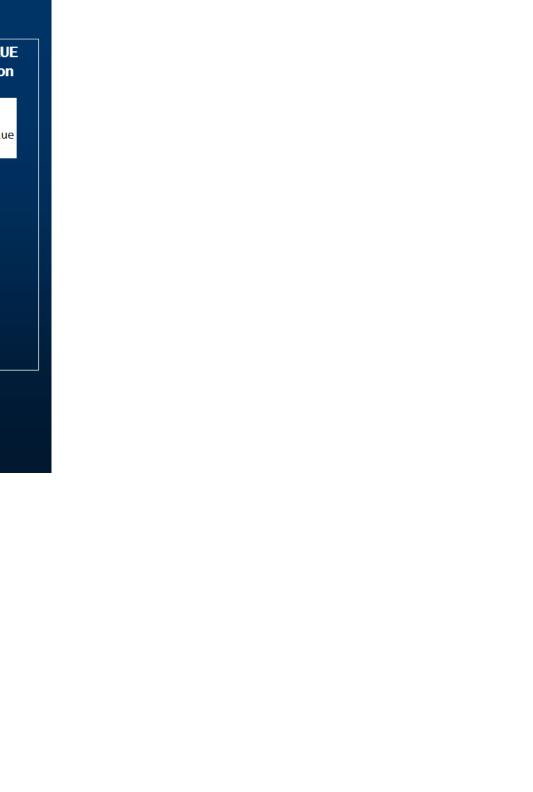
UNBOUNDED PRECEDING AND UNBOUNDED FOLLOWING) AS LastValue

FROM Employees

Id	Name	Gender	Salary
1	Mark	Male	1000
2	John	Male	2000
3	Pam	Female	3000
4	Sara	Female	4000
5	Todd	Male	5000
6	Mary	Female	6000
7	Ben	Male	7000
8	Jodi	Female	8000
9	Tom	Male	9000
10	Ron	Male	9500

	Name	Gender	Salary	LastValue
	Pam	Female	3000	Jodi
	Sara	Female	4000	Jodi
	Mary	Female	6000	Jodi
	Jodi	Female	8000	Jodi
→	Mark	Male	1000	Ron
	John	Male	2000	Ron
	Todd	Male	5000	Ron
	Ben	Male	7000	Ron
	Tom	Male	9000	Ron
	Ron	Male	9500	Ron

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