

Part 33 – Functions – Important Concepts

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In this session we will learn

- Deterministic and Nondeterministic Functions
- Encrypting functions
- Schema binding functions

Pre-requisite

Part 30 – Scalar User Defined Functions

Part 31 – Inline Table Valued Functions

Part 32 – Multi-Statement Table Valued Functions

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Deterministic and Nondeterministic

Deterministic functions always return the same result any time they are called with a specific set of input values and given the same state of the database.

Examples: Square(), Power(), Sum(), AVG() and Count()

Note: All aggregate functions are deterministic functions.

Nondeterministic functions may return different results each time they are called with a specific set of input values even if the database state that they access remains the same.

Examples: GetDate() and CURRENT_TIMESTAMP

Rand() function is a Non-deterministic function, but if you provide the seed value, the function becomes deterministic, as the same value gets returned for the same seed value.

WITH ENCRYPTION and SCHEMABINDING

Encrypting a function definition using WITH ENCRYPTION OPTION:

We have learnt how to encrypt Stored procedure text using WITH ENCRYPTION OPTION in **Part 18 of this video series**. Along the same lines, you can also encrypt a function text. Once, encrypted, you cannot view the text of the function, using **sp_helptext** system stored procedure. If you try to, you will get a message stating 'The text for object is encrypted.' There are ways to decrypt, which is beyond the scope of this video.

Use WITH ENCRYPTION

Creating a function WITH SCHEMABINDING option:

Schemabinding, specifies that the function is bound to the database objects that it references. When SCHEMABINDING is specified, the base objects cannot be modified in any way that would affect the function definition. The function definition itself must first be modified or dropped to remove dependencies on the object that is to be modified.

Use WITH SCHEMABINDING

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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