

Module07-Functions

In this module you will learn about how to uses SQL Functions to retrieve information from a database.

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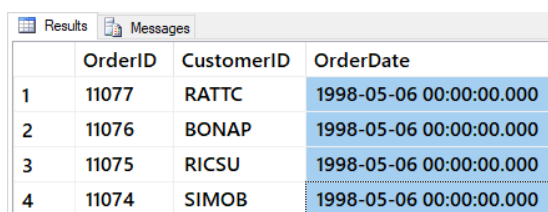
Aggregate Functions (Review)

"Aggregate functions **perform a calculation on a set of values and return a single value**. Except for COUNT, aggregate functions ignore null values. Aggregate functions are frequently used with the GROUP BY clause of the SELECT statement." (<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/functions/aggregate-functions-transact-sql>, 2017)

These functions are some of the **most useful** ones. They include Max, Min, Avg, Sum, and Count.

This example shows who placed orders on the **most recent recorded** day.

```
USE Northwind
SELECT OrderID, CustomerID
FROM Orders
WHERE OrderDate = (SELECT MAX(OrderDate) FROM Orders);
```



| | OrderID | CustomerID | OrderDate |
|---|---------|------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 11077 | RATTC | 1998-05-06 00:00:00.000 |
| 2 | 11076 | BONAP | 1998-05-06 00:00:00.000 |
| 3 | 11075 | RICSU | 1998-05-06 00:00:00.000 |
| 4 | 11074 | SIMOB | 1998-05-06 00:00:00.000 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Most aggregate functions **exclude Null** values.

```
SELECT ShippedDate FROM dbo.Orders;
SELECT MAX(ShippedDate) FROM dbo.Orders;
SELECT MIN(ShippedDate) FROM dbo.Orders;
```

| ShippedDate | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 20 | NULL |
| 21 | NULL |
| 22 | 1996-07-10 00:00:00.000 |
| 23 | 1996-07-11 00:00:00.000 |
| (No column name) | |
| 1 | 1998-05-06 00:00:00.000 |
| (No column name) | |
| 1 | 1996-07-10 00:00:00.000 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Count All (*) is the exception.

```
SELECT Count(*) as [All Orders] FROM dbo.Orders; -- INCLUDES nulls
SELECT Count(ShippedDate) as [ShippedOrders] FROM dbo.Orders; -- does NOT include nulls
```

| All Orders | |
|---------------|-----|
| 1 | 830 |
| ShippedOrders | |
| 1 | 809 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Determining the **average of the UnitPrice for all products** in the Products table can be done with the AVG function.

```
SELECT AVG(Price) as [avg price] FROM Pubs.dbo.Titles;
```

| avg price | |
|-----------|---------|
| 1 | 14.7662 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

You can also use **multiple functions** in one Select statement.

```
SELECT
[grand total] = SUM(ytd_sales),
[average sales] = AVG(ytd_sales),
[number of sales] = COUNT(ytd_sales),
[number of entries] = COUNT(*)
FROM Pubs.dbo.Titles;
```

| | grand total | average sales | number of sales | number of entries |
|---|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 97446 | 6090 | 16 | 18 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

You can create your own calculations as well by **combining them**, like this:

```
SELECT
[Custom Average Sales] = SUM(ytd_sales) / COUNT(*),
[Standard Average Sales] = AVG(ytd_sales)
FROM pubs.dbo.titles;
```

| | Custom Average Sales | Standard Average Sales |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 5413 | 6090 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Grouping for Sub-Totals

"The **GROUP BY** statement is **often used with aggregate functions** (COUNT, MAX, MIN, SUM, AVG) to **group the result-set by one or more columns**." (https://www.w3schools.com/sql/sql_groupby.asp, 2017)

To understand group by, let's first look at some results without it:

```
SELECT * FROM Pubs.dbo.Titles WHERE title_id = 'BU1032';
```

```
SELECT * FROM Pubs.dbo.Sales WHERE title_id = 'BU1032';
```

| | title_id | title | type | pub_id | price | advance | royalty | ytd_sales | notes |
|---|----------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|-------|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | BU1032 | The Busy Executive's Database Guide | business | 1389 | 19.99 | 5000.00 | 10 | 4095 | An overvi |

| | stor_id | ord_num | ord_date | qty | payterms | title_id |
|---|---------|----------|-------------------------|-----|------------|----------|
| 1 | 6380 | 6871 | 1994-09-14 00:00:00.000 | 5 | Net 60 | BU1032 |
| 2 | 8042 | 423LL930 | 1994-09-14 00:00:00.000 | 10 | ON invoice | BU1032 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL queries

Now, let's add the Group By clause and note how it returns totals.

```
SELECT Title_id, SUM(qty) AS 'Quantity'
FROM Pubs.dbo.Sales
WHERE title_id = 'BU1032'
GROUP BY Title_id;
```

Having

After data has been grouped, you can add a filter on the results using the Having option. This placement in the Select statement is different from Where clause it is applied after the grouped totals are created.

```
SELECT Stor_id, Title_id, SUM(qty) AS 'Quantity'
FROM Pubs.dbo.Sales
GROUP BY Stor_id, Title_id
WITH Cube
HAVING sum(Qty) > 100
ORDER BY Stor_id, Title_id -- Order by is always last
```

| | Stor_id | Title_id | Quantity |
|---|---------|----------|----------|
| 1 | NULL | NULL | 493 |
| 2 | NULL | PS2091 | 108 |
| 3 | 7066 | NULL | 125 |
| 4 | 7131 | NULL | 130 |

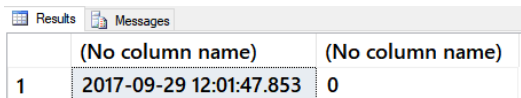
Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Selecting with Common Functions

Functions are a named collection of SQL programming code. All RDMS include built-in functions, and some even let you create your own. We will see how to make your own custom MS SQL functions in a later module, but for now, let's look at some built-in MS SQL functions as examples.

Most SQL functions **return a single value**.

```
Select GetDate(), IsNull(null,0);
```

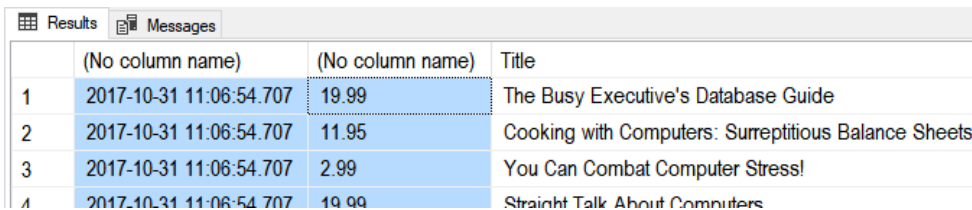


| | (No column name) | (No column name) |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 2017-09-29 12:01:47.853 | 0 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

But, you can use them in a Select-From statement to **apply the function to many rows**.

```
Select GetDate(), IsNull(Price, 0), Title
From Pubs.dboTitles;
```

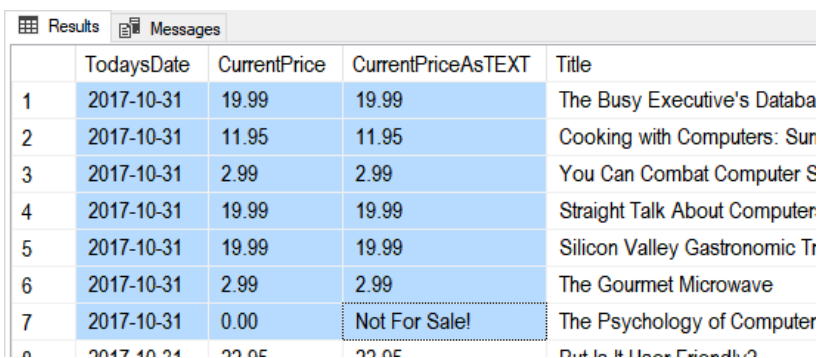


| | (No column name) | (No column name) | Title |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|--|
| 1 | 2017-10-31 11:06:54.707 | 19.99 | The Busy Executive's Database Guide |
| 2 | 2017-10-31 11:06:54.707 | 11.95 | Cooking with Computers: Surreptitious Balance Sheets |
| 3 | 2017-10-31 11:06:54.707 | 2.99 | You Can Combat Computer Stress! |
| 4 | 2017-10-31 11:06:54.707 | 19.99 | Straight Talk About Computers |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

You can **combine functions** to create better looking results:

```
Select
    Cast(GetDate() as Date) as [TodaysDate]
, IsNull(Price, 0) as [CurrentPrice]
, IsNull(Cast(Price as varchar(50)), 'Not For Sale!') as [CurrentPriceAsTEXT]
, Title
From Pubs.dboTitles
Go
```



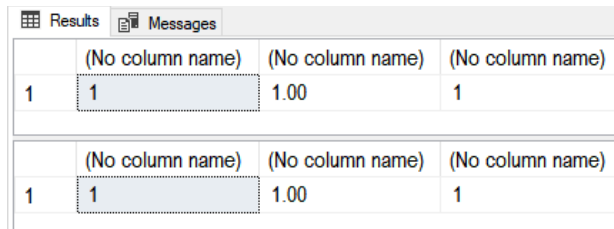
| | TodaysDate | CurrentPrice | CurrentPriceAsTEXT | Title |
|---|------------|--------------|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 2017-10-31 | 19.99 | 19.99 | The Busy Executive's Database Guide |
| 2 | 2017-10-31 | 11.95 | 11.95 | Cooking with Computers: Surreptitious Balance Sheets |
| 3 | 2017-10-31 | 2.99 | 2.99 | You Can Combat Computer Stress! |
| 4 | 2017-10-31 | 19.99 | 19.99 | Straight Talk About Computers |
| 5 | 2017-10-31 | 19.99 | 19.99 | Silicon Valley Gastronomic Treats |
| 6 | 2017-10-31 | 2.99 | 2.99 | The Gourmet Microwave |
| 7 | 2017-10-31 | 0.00 | Not For Sale! | The Psychology of Computer Graphics |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Cast and Convert

Cast and Convert are both conversion functions.

```
Select Cast('1' as int), Cast('1' as decimal(3,2)), Cast(1 as nVarchar(50));
Select Convert(int, '1'), Convert(decimal(3,2), '1'), Convert(nVarchar(50), 1);
```



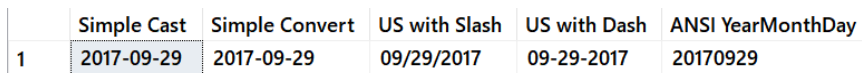
| | (No column name) | (No column name) | (No column name) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | (No column name) | (No column name) | (No column name) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1.00 | 1 |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Convert has more features than Cast.

```
Select
[Simple Cast] = Cast(GetDate() as Date)
,[Simple Convert] = Convert(Date, GetDate())
,[US with Slash] = Convert(varchar(50), GetDate(), 101)
,[US with Dash] = Convert(varchar(50), GetDate(), 110)
,[ANSI YearMonthDay] = Convert(varchar(50), GetDate(), 112)
;
Go
```



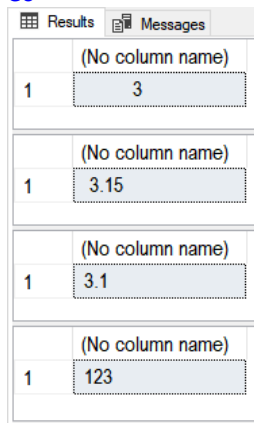
| | Simple Cast | Simple Convert | US with Slash | US with Dash | ANSI YearMonthDay |
|---|-------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 2017-09-29 | 2017-09-29 | 09/29/2017 | 09-29-2017 | 20170929 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Logical Functions allow you to look for a condition the **evaluates to true or false** and then return an appropriate value.

The String Function:

```
SELECT STR(3.147);
SELECT STR(3.147, 5, 2);
SELECT STR(3.147, 3, 3);
SELECT STR(123.456, 3, 0);
Go
```



| (No column name) |
|------------------|
| 3 |

| (No column name) |
|------------------|
| 3.15 |

| (No column name) |
|------------------|
| 3.1 |

| (No column name) |
|------------------|
| 123 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Str() is similar to **CONVERT(char(15), 123.456)**, but if you do not allow enough room Convert() will throw an error, while str() will not.

```
SELECT CONVERT(char(3), 123.456)
```

Msg 8115, Level 16, State 5, Line 18 Arithmetic overflow error converting numeric to data type varchar.

CONCAT

```
-- https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/functions/concat-transact-sql
Select CONCAT(1, 'a', Cast('1/1/2020' as date), 5.6); -- Different data types
go
Select CONCAT(rtrim(ltrim(str((3 * 100 / 9),5,2))), '%') union
Select CONCAT(rtrim(ltrim(str((3 * 100 / 3.21),5,2))), '%');
go
```

| Results | | Messages | |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|--|
| | | (No column name) | |
| 1 | 1a2020-01-015.6 | | |
| | | (No column name) | |
| 1 | 33.00% | | |
| 2 | 93.46% | | |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The Format Function

```
Select Format(GetDate(), 'd', 'en-US') AS 'US Result'
, Format(GetDate(), 'd', 'en-gb') AS 'Great Britain Result'
, Format(GetDate(), 'd', 'de-de') AS 'Germany Result'
, Format(123.456, 'C', 'en-US') AS 'US Format'
, Format(123.456, 'C', 'en-gb') AS 'Great Britain Format'
, Format(123.456, 'C', 'de-de') AS 'Germany Format'
;
go
```

| Results | | Messages | | | | |
|---------|------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|
| | US Result | Great Britain Result | Germany Result | US Format | Great Britain Format | Germany Format |
| 1 | 10/31/2017 | 31/10/2017 | 31.10.2017 | \$123.46 | £123.46 | 123,46 € |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The Immediate IF function

```
Select IIF(5 = 5, 'T', 'F');
Select
    [ProductName] = IIF(ProductID = 3, ProductName + ' (Not For Sale!)', ProductName)
From Northwind.dbo.Products;
go
```

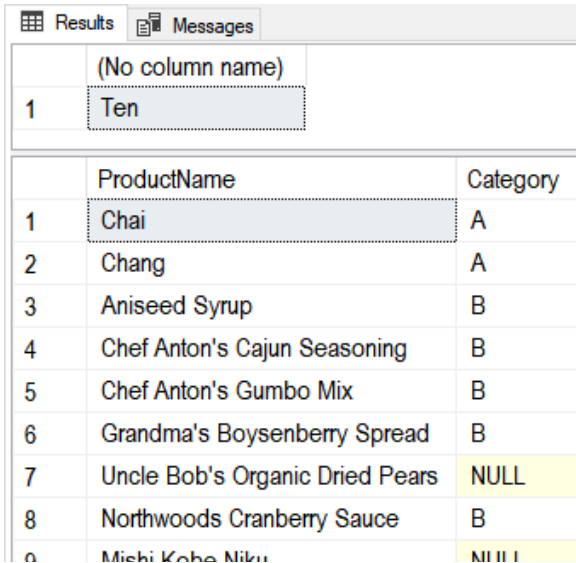
| Results | | Messages | |
|---------|-------------------------------|------------------|--|
| | | (No column name) | |
| 1 | T | | |
| | | ProductName | |
| 1 | Alice Mutton | | |
| 2 | Aniseed Syrup (Not For Sale!) | | |
| 3 | Boston Crab Meat | | |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The Case Function (directive)

```
Select Case (5 + 5)
    When 10 Then 'Ten'
    When 9 Then 'Nine'
End;

Select
    ProductName
, [Category] = Case CategoryID
    When 1 Then 'A'
    When 2 Then 'B'
    When 3 Then 'C'
End
From Northwind.dbo.Products;
go
```

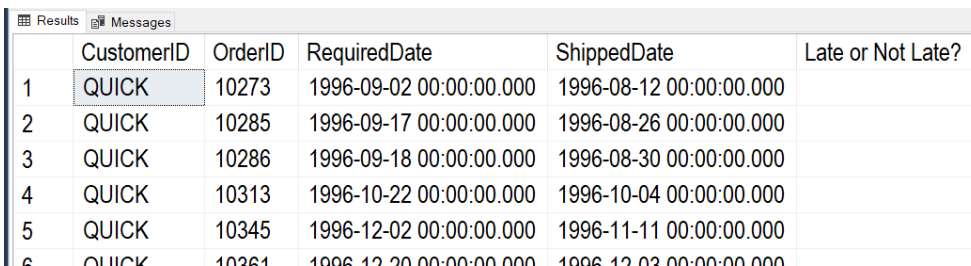


| | (No column name) |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | Ten |

| | Product Name | Category |
|---|---------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Chai | A |
| 2 | Chang | A |
| 3 | Aniseed Syrup | B |
| 4 | Chef Anton's Cajun Seasoning | B |
| 5 | Chef Anton's Gumbo Mix | B |
| 6 | Grandma's Boysenberry Spread | B |
| 7 | Uncle Bob's Organic Dried Pears | NULL |
| 8 | Northwoods Cranberry Sauce | B |
| 9 | Mishi Kobe Niku | NULL |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

A better use of Case would be when you need to do a comparison between two columns and generate a third one. For example, say we have the following shipping data and want to see if orders shipped before their due date.



| | CustomerID | OrderID | RequiredDate | ShippedDate | Late or Not Late? |
|---|------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | QUICK | 10273 | 1996-09-02 00:00:00.000 | 1996-08-12 00:00:00.000 | |
| 2 | QUICK | 10285 | 1996-09-17 00:00:00.000 | 1996-08-26 00:00:00.000 | |
| 3 | QUICK | 10286 | 1996-09-18 00:00:00.000 | 1996-08-30 00:00:00.000 | |
| 4 | QUICK | 10313 | 1996-10-22 00:00:00.000 | 1996-10-04 00:00:00.000 | |
| 5 | QUICK | 10345 | 1996-12-02 00:00:00.000 | 1996-11-11 00:00:00.000 | |
| 6 | QUICK | 10361 | 1996-12-20 00:00:00.000 | 1996-12-03 00:00:00.000 | |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Using a "Select – Case" statement will make this easy!

```
Select
    CustomerID
, OrderID
, RequiredDate
, ShippedDate
, [OnTime] = Case
    When RequiredDate > ShippedDate Then 'Early'
    When RequiredDate = ShippedDate Then 'On Time'
    When RequiredDate < ShippedDate Then 'Late'
    Else 'No Info Yet'
```

```

End
From Northwind.dbo.Orders
Where CustomerID = 'QUICK'
Order by [OnTime];
Go

```

| | CustomerID | OrderID | RequiredDate | ShippedDate | OnTime |
|---|------------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| 1 | QUICK | 10273 | 1996-09-02 00:00:00.000 | 1996-08-12 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 2 | QUICK | 10285 | 1996-09-17 00:00:00.000 | 1996-08-26 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 3 | QUICK | 10286 | 1996-09-18 00:00:00.000 | 1996-08-30 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 4 | QUICK | 10313 | 1996-10-22 00:00:00.000 | 1996-10-04 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 5 | QUICK | 10315 | 1996-12-02 00:00:00.000 | 1996-11-11 00:00:00.000 | Early |

| | | | | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| 23 | QUICK | 10991 | 1998-04-30 00:00:00.000 | 1998-04-10 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 24 | QUICK | 10996 | 1998-04-30 00:00:00.000 | 1998-04-10 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 25 | QUICK | 11021 | 1998-05-12 00:00:00.000 | 1998-04-21 00:00:00.000 | Early |
| 26 | QUICK | 10451 | 1997-03-05 00:00:00.000 | 1997-03-12 00:00:00.000 | Late |
| 27 | QUICK | 10515 | 1997-05-07 00:00:00.000 | 1997-05-23 00:00:00.000 | Late |
| 28 | QUICK | 10788 | 1998-01-19 00:00:00.000 | 1998-01-19 00:00:00.000 | On Time |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The IsNumeric Funtion:

```

Select IsNumeric('1'), IsNumeric('a1'), IsNumeric('1.23');

```

| | (No column name) | (No column name) | (No column name) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The IsDate Function:

```

Select
    IsDate('1/1/2001')
, IsDate('01-01-2001')
, IsDate('20010101')
, IsDate('Jan,01,2001')
, IsDate('1st of Jan,2001');

```

| | (No column name) | (No column name) | (No column name) | (No column name) | (No column name) |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The Left and Right Functions

```

DECLARE @string varchar(100) = 'This is some data'
SELECT [Left] = Left(@string,4),[Right] = Right(@string,4)
;
Go

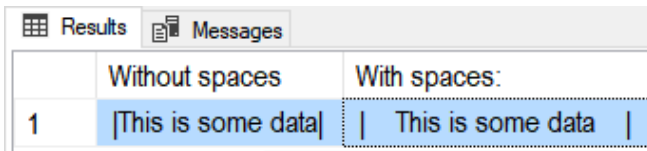
```

| | Left | Right |
|---|------|-------|
| 1 | This | data |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The LTrim and RTrim Functions

```
DECLARE @string_to_trim varchar(100) = '    This is some data    '
SELECT
    [Without spaces] = '|' + LTrim(RTrim(@string_to_trim)) + '|'
    , [With spaces:] = '|' + @string_to_trim + '|'
;
go
```



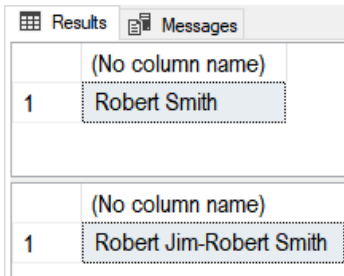
| | Without spaces | With spaces: |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | This is some data | This is some data |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The REPLACE Function

(string_expression , string_pattern , string_replacement)

```
Select Replace('Bob Smith','Bob','Robert');
Select Replace('Bob Jim-Bob Smith','Bob','Robert');
go
```



| | (No column name) |
|---|------------------|
| 1 | Robert Smith |

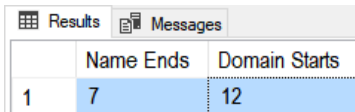
| | (No column name) |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | Robert Jim-Robert Smith |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The PATINDEX Function

('%pattern%' , expression)

```
Declare @Email varchar(50) = 'BSmith@MyCo.com';
SELECT
    [Name Ends] = PatIndex('%@%', @Email)
    , [Domain Starts] = PatIndex('%.%', @Email)
;
go
```



| | Name Ends | Domain Starts |
|---|-----------|---------------|
| 1 | 7 | 12 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

The SUBSTRING Function

(expression , start , length)

```
Declare @Email varchar(50) = 'BSmith@MyCo.com';
SELECT
    [Name] = SubString(@Email, 0, PatIndex('%@%', @Email))
    , [Company] = SubString(@Email, PatIndex('%@%', @Email) + 1, patindex('%.%', @Email) - patindex('%@%', @Email) - 1)
    , [Domain] = SubString(@Email, PatIndex('%.%', @Email) + 1, 20)
go
```

| Results Messages | | | |
|------------------|--------|---------|--------|
| | Name | Company | Domain |
| 1 | BSmith | MyCo | com |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Date/Time Functions

```

Declare @Date as DateTime = GetDate();
Select
    [Isdate()] = Isdate(@Date)
    , [Datename()] = Datename(mm,@Date) + ', ' + Datename(Weekday,@Date)
    , [Datepart()] = str(DatePart(mm, @Date)) + ', ' + str(DatePart(Weekday,@Date))
    , [Dateadd()] = DateAdd(mm, 1, @Date)
    , [Datediff()] = DateDiff(yy, '20000101', @Date)
    , [Day()Month()Year()] = str(Day(@Date)) + ', ' + str(Month(@Date)) + ', ' + str(Year(@Date));

```

| Results Messages | | | | | | |
|------------------|----------|------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | Isdate() | Datename() | Datepart() | Dateadd() | Datediff() | Day()Month()Year() |
| 1 | 1 | October, Tuesday | 10, 3 | 2017-11-30 11:34:25.293 | 17 | 31, 10, 2017 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Soundex()

Often you need to clean-up incorrect data. Soundex() is an one function that can help you do a clean-up task that would normally be difficult for humans to do quickly.

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/functions/soundex-transact-sql>

```

Select SOUNDEX ('Patient'), SOUNDEX ('Pateint'), SOUNDEX ('Peteint'), SOUNDEX ('Patint'), SOUNDEX ('Patit');
go
If Exists(Select Name from Sys.tables where Name = 'LookupBySound')
    Drop Table LookupBySound
go
Create Table LookupBySound
(ID int Primary Key Identity, [SoundExValue] nvarchar(100), Word nvarchar(100))
go
Insert Into LookupBySound Values ('P353', 'Patient');
go
If Exists(Select Name from Sys.tables where Name = 'DirtyData') Drop Table DirtyData
Create Table DirtyData
(ID int Primary Key Identity, DirtyDataValue nvarchar(100))
go
Insert Into DirtyData
Values
('Patient'), ('Pateint'), ('Peteint'), ('Patint'), ('Patit'), ('test');
go
Select * from LookupBySound;;
Select * from DirtyData;
go
Select DirtyData.DirtyDataValue, LookupBySound.Word
From DirtyData
Left Join LookupBySound
ON Soundex(DirtyData.DirtyDataValue) = LookupBySound.SoundExValue

```

Partitioned or Windowed Functions

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/queries/select-over-clause-transact-sql>

Partitioned or Windowed Functions allow you to group data differently than the standard Group By clause. Here is an example of a simple select statement with a Group By clause.

```
Select
stor_id
,[store min was] = min(qty)
,[store max was] = max(qty)
From Pubs.dbo.sales
Group By stor_id
Order By stor_id;
```

| | stor_id | store min was | store max was |
|---|---------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 6380 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 7066 | 50 | 75 |
| 3 | 7067 | 10 | 40 |
| 4 | 7131 | 15 | 25 |
| 5 | 7896 | 10 | 35 |
| 6 | 8042 | 10 | 30 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Note how just adding Qty doesn't work correctly, because each line becomes part of its own group

```
Select
stor_id
,qty -- does not work correctly
,[store min was] = min(qty)
,[store max was] = max(qty)
From Pubs.dbo.sales
Group By stor_id, qty -- qty is used for grouping
Order By stor_id;
```

| | stor_id | qty | store min was | store max was |
|---|---------|-----|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 6380 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 2 | 6380 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 3 | 7066 | 50 | 50 | 50 |
| 4 | 7066 | 75 | 75 | 75 |
| 5 | 7067 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Using the Over-Partition function lets you group by only some of the columns.

```
Select
stor_id
,qty
,[store min was] = min(qty) over(partition by stor_id)
,[store max was] = max(qty) over(partition by stor_id)
From Pubs.dbo.sales
Order By stor_id;
```

| | stor_id | qty | store min was | store max was |
|---|---------|-----|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | 6380 | 5 | 3 | 5 |
| 2 | 6380 | 3 | 3 | 5 |
| 3 | 7066 | 50 | 50 | 75 |
| 4 | 7066 | 75 | 50 | 75 |
| 5 | 7067 | 10 | 10 | 40 |
| 6 | 7067 | 40 | 10 | 40 |
| 7 | 7067 | 20 | 10 | 40 |
| 8 | 7067 | 20 | 10 | 40 |
| 9 | 7121 | 20 | 15 | 25 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

If I add both stor_id and qty to the partition the results are the same as Group By.

```
Select
  stor_id
,qty
,[store min was] = min(qty) over(partition by stor_id, qty)
,[store max was] = max(qty) over(partition by stor_id, qty)
From Pubs.dbo.sales
Order By stor_id;
```

Ranking Functions

"Ranking functions return a ranking value for each row in a partition. Depending on the function that is used, some rows might receive the same value as other rows." -- <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sql/t-sql/functions/ranking-functions-transact-sql>

```
SELECT o.OrderID, o.CustomerID, od.Quantity,
  -- Ignore duplicate Values in the (Quantity) column
  ROW_NUMBER() OVER(ORDER BY od.Quantity) AS rownum,
  -- Group duplicate Values in the (Quantity) column and tells how many rows have come before it
  RANK() OVER(ORDER BY od.Quantity) AS rank,
  -- Groups duplicate Values in the (Quantity) column and tells what the last row NUMBER came before it
  DENSE_RANK() OVER(ORDER BY od.Quantity) AS dense_rank,
  -- Divide rows into groups based in the number of groups you ask for. Ntile(2) would be 2 groups.
  NTILE(2) OVER(ORDER BY od.Quantity) AS ntile
FROM Northwind.dbo.Orders as o Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as od
  On o.OrderID = od.OrderID
Where CustomerID = 'ALFKI'
ORDER BY od.Quantity;
```

| | OrderID | CustomerID | Quantity | rownum | rank | dense_rank | ntile |
|----|---------|------------|----------|--------|------|------------|-------|
| 1 | 10643 | ALFKI | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 10835 | ALFKI | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | 10952 | ALFKI | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 | 10702 | ALFKI | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 5 | 10702 | ALFKI | 15 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 6 | 10835 | ALFKI | 15 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| 7 | 10643 | ALFKI | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 8 | 10952 | ALFKI | 16 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 2 |
| 9 | 10692 | ALFKI | 20 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 10 | 11011 | ALFKI | 20 | 10 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 11 | 10643 | ALFKI | 21 | 11 | 11 | 6 | 2 |
| 12 | 11011 | ALFKI | 40 | 12 | 12 | 7 | 2 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Extracting a Percentage

A common task is the calculate the percentage of one value compared to another. Here is how it can be done with SQL code.

Tip: Creating an artificial column just for sorting my data is useful in reporting!

```
Select [sortcolumn] = 'a', [result] = (3 / 9) Union
      Select 'b', (3 * 100 / 9) Union
      Select 'c', Cast((3 * 100 / 9) as float) Union
      Select 'd', (1. * 3 * 100 / 9) Union -- No need to cast to float now!
      Select 'e', (1. * 12 * 100 / 706) -- Ex. 12 products of 706 total products
Order By [sortcolumn]
Go
```

| | sortcolumn | result |
|---|------------|-----------|
| 1 | a | 0 |
| 2 | b | 33 |
| 3 | c | 33 |
| 4 | d | 33.333333 |
| 5 | e | 1.699716 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Here is an example of how that code could be used.

```
Select
  [stor_id]
,[title_id]
,[QtyByTitle] = Sum(Qty) Over(Partition By [stor_id])
,[QtyByStoreAndTitle] = Sum(Qty) Over(Partition By [title_id], [stor_id]) -- The Order Matters here!
,[Title Percent Per Store] = Cast( (1. * (Sum(Qty) Over(Partition By [title_id], [stor_id])) * 100) /
                                   Sum(Qty) Over(Partition By [stor_id]) as decimal(10,2))
From pubs.dbo.sales
Order By 1;
```

| | stor_id | title_id | QtyByTitle | QtyByStoreAndTitle | Title Percent Per Store |
|---|---------|----------|------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 6380 | BU1032 | 8 | 5 | 62.50 |
| 2 | 6380 | PS2091 | 8 | 3 | 37.50 |
| 3 | 7066 | PC8888 | 125 | 50 | 40.00 |
| 4 | 7066 | PS2091 | 125 | 75 | 60.00 |
| 5 | 7067 | PS2091 | 90 | 10 | 11.11 |
| 6 | 7067 | TC3218 | 90 | 40 | 44.44 |
| 7 | 7067 | TC4203 | 90 | 20 | 22.22 |
| 8 | 7067 | TC7777 | 90 | 20 | 22.22 |
| 9 | 7114 | MC2004 | 400 | 25 | 40.00 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Lag and Lead

These functions are very useful in reporting! It shows the previous or following values based on a given group of values.

Here is an example that shows the following year's values.

Select

```
[OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
,[YearlyTotalQty] = Sum(Quantity)
,[PreviousYearlyTotalQty] = lead(Sum(Quantity)) Over(Order By Year(OrderDate))
From Northwind.dbo.Orders as O
Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as OD
On o.OrderID = o.OrderID
Group By Year(OrderDate);
Go
```

| | OrderYear | YearlyTotalQty | PreviousYearlyTotalQty |
|---|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1996 | 7800184 | 20937336 |
| 2 | 1997 | 20937336 | 13855590 |
| 3 | 1998 | 13855590 | NULL |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Here is another example that shows the previous year's values.

Select

```
[OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
,[YearlyTotalQty] = Sum(Quantity)
,[PreviousYearlyTotalQty] = Lag(Sum(Quantity)) Over(Order By Year(OrderDate))
From Northwind.dbo.Orders as O
Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as OD
On o.OrderID = o.OrderID
Group By Year(OrderDate);
go
```

| | OrderYear | YearlyTotalQty | PreviousYearlyTotalQty |
|---|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1996 | 7800184 | NULL |
| 2 | 1997 | 20937336 | 7800184 |
| 3 | 1998 | 13855590 | 20937336 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Using Functions for Reporting

To create reporting queries, you start off with a simple Select statement and then build on it by adding more and more detailed code to finally get what you want as a result.

To create reporting queries, you start off with a simple Select statement like this one.

Select Distinct

```
OrderDate
From Northwind.dbo.Orders;
```

| | OrderDate |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1996-07-04 00:00:00.000 |
| 2 | 1996-07-05 00:00:00.000 |
| 3 | 1996-07-08 00:00:00.000 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Next, add simple functions and test the results!

Select Distinct

```
[OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
From Northwind.dbo.Orders;
```

| | OrderYear |
|---|-----------|
| 1 | 1998 |
| 2 | 1996 |
| 3 | 1997 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Then, add more columns, functions, or tables as needed.

Select Distinct

```
[OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
,[YearlyTotalQty] = Sum(Quantity)
From Northwind.dbo.Orders as O
Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as OD
On o.OrderID = o.OrderID
Group By Year(OrderDate);
```

| | OrderYear | YearlyTotalQty |
|---|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | 1998 | 13855590 |
| 2 | 1996 | 7800184 |
| 3 | 1997 | 20937336 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Keep adding more complex function as needed (like using the Lag Function).

Select

```
[OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
,[YearlyTotalQty] = Sum(Quantity)
,[PreviousYearlyTotalQty] = Lag(Sum(Quantity)) Over(Order By Year(OrderDate))
From Northwind.dbo.Orders as O
Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as OD
On o.OrderID = o.OrderID
Group By Year(OrderDate);
go
```

| | OrderYear | YearlyTotalQty | PreviousYearlyTotalQty |
|---|-----------|----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | 1996 | 7800184 | NULL |
| 2 | 1997 | 20937336 | 7800184 |
| 3 | 1998 | 13855590 | 20937336 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Continue adding more features until you get what you are looking for.

```
Select
    ProductName
    , [OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
    , [YearlyTotalQty] = Sum(Quantity)
    , [PreviousYearlyTotalQty] =
        IIF(Year(OrderDate) = 1996, 0, Lag(Sum(Quantity)) Over (Order By ProductName, Year(OrderDate)))
    , [Bad-PreviousYearlyTotalQty] = IsNull(Lag(Sum(Quantity)) Over (Order By ProductName, Year(OrderDate)),
0) -- Don't use Is Null!
From Northwind.dbo.Orders as O
    Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as OD
        On o.OrderID = o.OrderID
    Join Northwind.dbo.Products as P
        On OD.ProductID = P.ProductID
Group By ProductName, Year(OrderDate);
go
```

| | ProductName | OrderYear | YearlyTotalQty | PreviousYearlyTotalQty | Bad-PreviousYearlyTotalQty |
|---|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Alice Mutton | 1996 | 148656 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Alice Mutton | 1997 | 399024 | 148656 | 148656 |
| 3 | Alice Mutton | 1998 | 264060 | 399024 | 399024 |
| 4 | Aniseed Syrup | 1996 | 49856 | 0 | 264060 |
| 5 | Aniseed Syrup | 1997 | 133824 | 49856 | 49856 |
| 6 | Aniseed Syrup | 1998 | 88560 | 133824 | 133824 |
| 7 | Boston Crab Meat | 1996 | 167656 | 0 | 88560 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

Once you feel getting too complex or if you think you might reuse the results, create a reporting View like this one.

```
Create -- Drop
View vProductOrderQtyByYear
AS
Select
    ProductName
    , [OrderYear] = Year(OrderDate)
    , [YearlyTotalQty] = Sum(Quantity)
    , [PreviousYearlyTotalQty] = IIF(Year(OrderDate) = 1996, 0, Lag(Sum(Quantity)) Over (Order By
ProductName, Year(OrderDate)))
From Northwind.dbo.Orders as O
    Join Northwind.dbo.[Order Details] as OD
        On o.OrderID = o.OrderID
    Join Northwind.dbo.Products as P
        On OD.ProductID = P.ProductID
Group By ProductName, Year(OrderDate);
Go
```

When using the View, you can always add on more functions -- as needed. For example, our current view makes it easy to create a Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) report

```
Select
    ProductName
    , [OrderYear]
    , YearlyTotalQty
    , PreviousYearlyTotalQty
    , [QtyChangeKPI] = Case
        When YearlyTotalQty > PreviousYearlyTotalQty Then 1
        When YearlyTotalQty = PreviousYearlyTotalQty Then 0
        When YearlyTotalQty < PreviousYearlyTotalQty Then -1
    End
From vProductOrderQtyByYear
Go
```


| | ProductName | OrderYear | YearlyTotalQty | PreviousYearlyTotalQty | QtyChangeKPI |
|---|------------------|-----------|----------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Alice Mutton | 1996 | 148656 | 0 | 1 |
| 2 | Alice Mutton | 1997 | 399024 | 148656 | 1 |
| 3 | Alice Mutton | 1998 | 264060 | 399024 | -1 |
| 4 | Aniseed Syrup | 1996 | 49856 | 0 | 1 |
| 5 | Aniseed Syrup | 1997 | 133824 | 49856 | 1 |
| 6 | Aniseed Syrup | 1998 | 88560 | 133824 | -1 |
| 7 | Boston Crab Meat | 1996 | 167656 | 0 | 1 |

Figure: Result of previous SQL query

User Defined Functions

In addition to SQL Server's built-in functions, you can create **custom functions**. These are often called **User Defined Functions** or just **UDFs**. There are **two basic types of functions**; functions that **return a table of values** and functions that **return a single value**.

Scalars Functions

You can create **UDFs to return a single (scalar) value as an expression**. (Note: In MS SQL, you **must use include the schema name in scalar UDFs**, in this case, **dbo**).

Unlike parameters in table functions, parameters in scalar functions are very useful!

```
Create Function dbo.MultiplyValues(@Value1 Float, @Value2 Float)
Returns Float
As
Begin
    Return(Select @Value1 * @Value2);
End
go
-- Calling the function
Select Tempdb.dbo.MultiplyValues(4, 5);
go
```

If you want to **apply the function to each row** of a result set, you use the new function like this:

```
Create table dbo.SalesDetails
( SalesId int, SalesLineItemId int
, ProductId int
, SalesPrice money
, SalesQty int,
Primary key(SalesId, SalesLineItemId)
);
go
Insert Into dbo.SalesDetails
(SalesId,SalesLineItemId,ProductId,SalesPrice,SalesQty)
Values
(1,1,100,$9.99,10)
,(1,2,200,$1.00,5)
Go

Select
SalesId
,SalesLineItemId
,ProductId
,SalesPrice
,SalesQty
, dbo.MultiplyValues(SalesPrice,SalesQty) as ExtendedPrice
```

From `dbo.SalesDetails`

Here are the results:

| | SalesId | SalesLineItemid | ProductId | SalesPrice | SalesQty | ExtendedPrice |
|---|---------|-----------------|-----------|------------|----------|---------------|
| 1 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 9.99 | 10 | 99.9 |
| 2 | 1 | 2 | 200 | 1.00 | 5 | 5 |

Figure: Results of using the Multiply-Values function in a query

Using UDFs for Check constraints

Custom Scalar functions are sometimes used for Check constraints because you cannot otherwise reference a column in another table. Here is an example

```
Set NoCount ON; -- Turns off the (1 row affected) messages
Go
Use TempDB;
Go
If Exists (Select Name From Sys.Tables where Name = 'SignupForMeetings')
    DROP TABLE SignupForMeetings;
Go
If Exists (Select Name From Sys.Tables where Name = 'Meetings')
    DROP TABLE Meetings;
Go
-- Make dependent tables.
CREATE TABLE Meetings (MeetingID int Primary Key, MeetingDateAndTime datetime);
Go
INSERT INTO Meetings (MeetingID, MeetingDateAndTime)
VALUES (1, '1/1/2020 10:00:00');
Go

CREATE TABLE SignupForMeetings
( SignupID int PRIMARY KEY
, SignupDateTime datetime
, MeetingID int Foreign Key References Meetings(MeetingID)
);
Go
INSERT INTO SignupForMeetings (SignupID, SignupDateTime, MeetingID)
VALUES (1, '1/1/2020 11:00:00', 1) -- Opps! This is One hour AFTER the meeting
Go

SELECT MeetingID, MeetingDateAndTime From Meetings;
SELECT SignupID, SignupDateTime, MeetingID From SignupForMeetings;
Go
```

| | MeetingID | MeetingDateAndTime |
|---|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | 2020-01-01 10:00:00.000 |

| | SignupID | SignupDateTime | MeetingID |
|---|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | 2020-01-01 11:00:00.000 | 1 |

Figure: Incorrect meeting signup data is allowed

```
-- Remove that row and work on a way to Fix this issue!
DELETE FROM SignupForMeetings WHERE SignupID = 1;
Go
```

```
-- Make a function that will get the meeting date and time based on a meeting ID
CREATE or ALTER FUNCTION dbo.fGetMeetingDateTime (@MeetingId int)
RETURNS DATETIME
AS
BEGIN
    RETURN (SELECT MeetingDateAndTime
            FROM Meetings
            WHERE Meetings.MeetingID = @MeetingID);
END
Go

-- Test the function
SELECT dbo.fGetMeetingDateTime(1);
SELECT IIF(CAST('1/1/2020 07:00:00' as datetime) < dbo.fGetMeetingDateTime(1), 'TRUE', 'FALSE'), 'Before
Start';
SELECT IIF(CAST('1/1/2020 11:00:00' as datetime) < dbo.fGetMeetingDateTime(1), 'TRUE', 'FALSE'), 'After
Start';
Go
```

| Results | | |
|---------|-------------------------|--------------|
| | (No column name) | |
| 1 | 2020-01-01 10:00:00.000 | |
| | (No column name) | |
| 1 | TRUE | Before Start |
| | (No column name) | |
| 1 | FALSE | After Start |

Figure: Results of the function test

```
-- Now, create a constraint that checks that a signup is before the meeting time
ALTER TABLE SignupForMeetings
ADD CONSTRAINT ckSignupVsMeetingDateTime
CHECK(SignupDateTime < dbo.fGetMeetingDateTime(MeetingID));
Go

-- Test the check constraint
INSERT INTO SignupForMeetings
(SignupID, SignupDateTime, MeetingID)
VALUES
(1, '1/1/2020 9:00:00', 1) -- One hour BEFORE the meeting
Go
```

```
INSERT INTO SignupForMeetings
(SignupID, SignupDateTime, MeetingID)
VALUES
(1, '1/1/2020 11:00:00', 1) -- One hour AFTER the meeting
Go
```

*Msg 547, Level 16, State 0, Line 69
The INSERT statement conflicted with the CHECK constraint "ckSignupVsMeetingDateTime". The conflict occurred in database "tempdb", table "dbo.SignupForMeetings".
The statement has been terminated.*

```
SELECT MeetingID, MeetingDateAndTime From Meetings;
SELECT SignupID, SignupDateTime, MeetingID From SignupForMeetings;
Go
```

| Results Messages | | | |
|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--|
| | MeetingID | MeetingDateAndTime | |
| 1 | 1 | 2020-01-01 10:00:00.000 | |

| | SignupID | SignupDateTime | MeetingID |
|---|----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | 2020-01-01 09:00:00.000 | 1 |

Figure: Results of the previous statements.

Creating Advanced GitHub Pages

In this module's assignment, you create a **GitHub webpage**. This web page should be like the **Word documents you created in previous assignments**. To create your page, you need to know some basic commands in a language called "markdown."

"GitHub combines a syntax for formatting text called GitHub Flavored Markdown with a few unique writing features.

Markdown is an easy-to-read, easy-to-write syntax for formatting plain text.

We've added some custom functionality to create GitHub Flavored Markdown, used to format prose and code across our site." (<https://help.github.com/en/github/writing-on-github/about-writing-and-formatting-on-github>, 2019)

Creating a Markdown File

To demonstrate an example, I create a **new GitHub repository called "ITFnd100-Mod07"** as shown in this figure:

Create a new repository

A repository contains all project files, including the revision history. Already have a project repository elsewhere?
[Import a repository.](#)

Owner



rootrUW ▾

Repository name *

ITFnd100-Mod07 ✓

Great repository names are short and memorable. Need inspiration? How about **effective-barnacle**?

Description (optional)

Files for module 7

☒ Public

Anyone can see this repository. You choose who can commit.

☐ Private

You choose who can see and commit to this repository.

Skip this step if you're importing an existing repository.

☒ Initialize this repository with a README

This will let you immediately clone the repository to your computer.

Add .gitignore: None ▾

Add a license: None ▾



Create repository

Figure. Creating a new GitHub repository

Next, I create a new "docs" folder with a file called "index.md" inside of it. When I do, I need to **type or paste in some text** for the new file before it is created in the folder. In Figure 17, I have typed in some **simple markdown commands to format my document**. Once I have at least some text in the file I can create the folder and file on my repository.

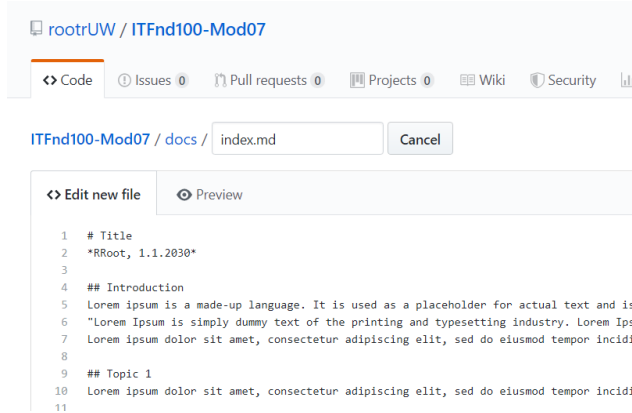


Figure. Creating a new Index.md file in the "docs" folder

Formatting the Page

I use the "Preview" tab to see what my new markdown file looks like each time I modify the text (Figure 18). The look changes based on what markdown commands I use. While there are lots of commands available, let's **focus on the ones you need for the assignment**.

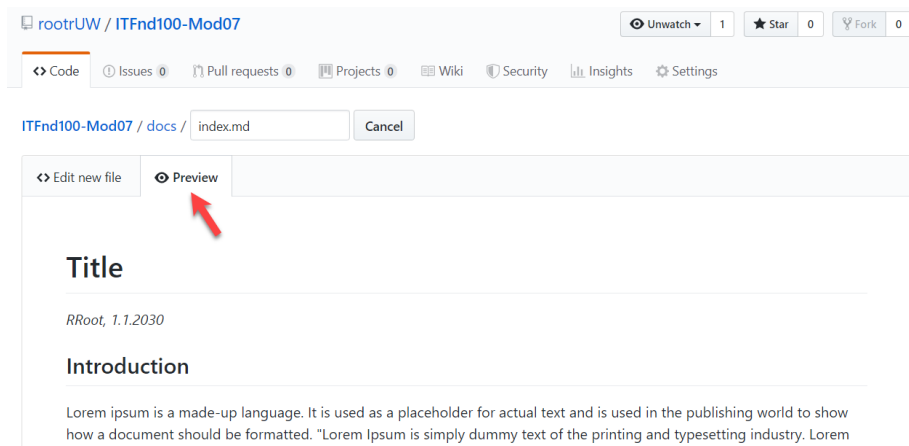


Figure. Previewing a GitHub page

Creating Text Headers

The hash, "#" symbol, indicates a header. You use one or more hash symbols to define the level of the header. Oddly, the more hash marks you use, the smaller the header size.

```
# Title
## Introduction
## Topic 1
### Subtopic
## Summary
```

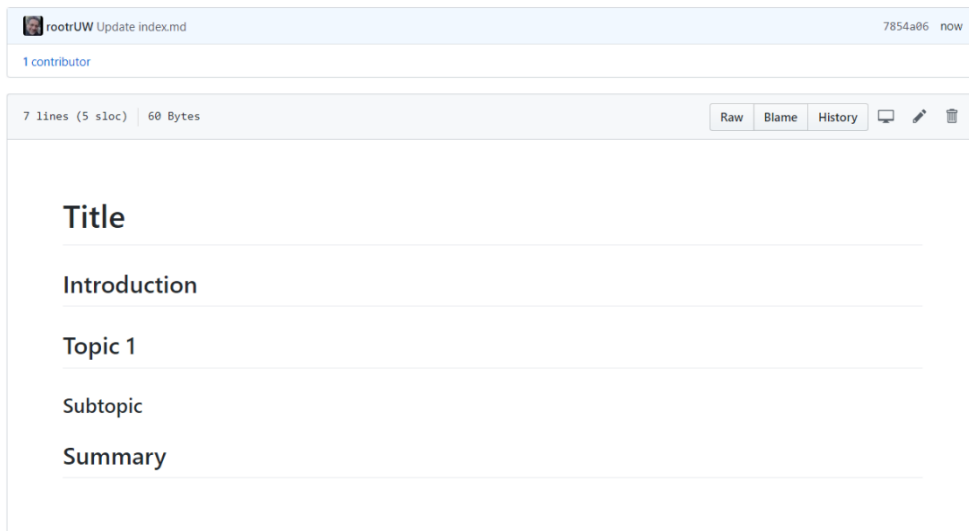


Figure. The results use header markdown commands

Formatting Text

You can make text **bold** using **two Astrid** `***` symbols or *italic* using **a single Astrid**.

```
**Dev:** *RRoot*
**Date:** *1.1.2030*
```

Listing 17

Note: There are **two invisible space characters after the text `*RRoot*` that force a newline into the page**. Newlines can be tricky in this language, and you may need to experiment to style the page to your liking.

Title

```
Dev: RRoot
Date: 1.1.2030
```

Figure. Creating told text

Adding Code Samples

To add some **sample code** to the page, you **use the backtick (```) symbol**, as shown in Listing 18.

```
# Title
**Dev:** *RRoot*
**Date:** *1.1.2030*
```

Structured Error Handling (Try-Except)

When you are programming, you fix your bugs immediately and make sure the code runs smoothly. However, it often happens that other people introduce new bugs when they use your program.

Raising Custom Errors

Python automatically generates errors based on conditions defined by the Python Runtime. However, you can also "raise" errors based on custom conditions (Listing 13).

```
```

Title: Listing 13
Description: A try-catch with manually raised errors
ChangeLog: (Who, When, What)
```

```
RRoot,1.1.2030,Created Script

try:
 new_file_name = input("Enter the name of the file you want to make: ")
 if new_file_name.isnumeric():
 raise Exception('Do not use numbers for the file\'s name')
except Exception as e:
 print("There was a non-specific error!")
 print("Built-In Python error info: ")
 print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
```

#### #### Listing 13

29 lines (24 sloc) | 1.05 KB
Raw
Blame
History

## Title

Dev: RRoot  
Date: 1.1.2030

### Structured Error Handling (Try-Except)

When you are programming, you fix your bugs immediately and make sure the code runs smoothly. However, it often happens that other people introduce new bugs when they use your program.

#### Raising Custom Errors

Python automatically generates errors based on conditions defined by the Python Runtime. However, you can also "raise" errors based on custom conditions (Listing 13).

```

Title: Listing 13
Description: A try-catch with manually raised errors
Changelog: (Who, When, What)
RRoot,1.1.2030,Created Script

try:
 new_file_name = input("Enter the name of the file you want to make: ")
 if new_file_name.isnumeric():
 raise Exception('Do not use numbers for the file\'s name')
except Exception as e:
 print("There was a non-specific error!")
 print("Built-In Python error info: ")
 print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
```

Listing 13

Figure. The results of adding code to the page

**Tip:** The keyboard key for the **backtick symbol** (`)` is shared with the **tilde symbol** (~) **above the Tab key on both a Windows and Mac keyboard.**

## Adding Images

To **add an image** to a page, perform the following steps.

1. **Save image to your computer's hard drive.** In MS Word, you do this by right-clicking the image and using the "Save as Picture..." option of the context menu.

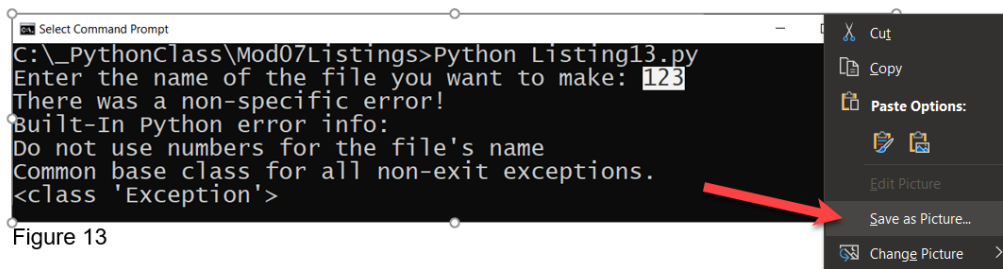


Figure 13

Figure. Saving an image from Word to a drive

2. Upload the image to your GitHub repository's "docs" folder (or a subfolder if you wish to be more organized).

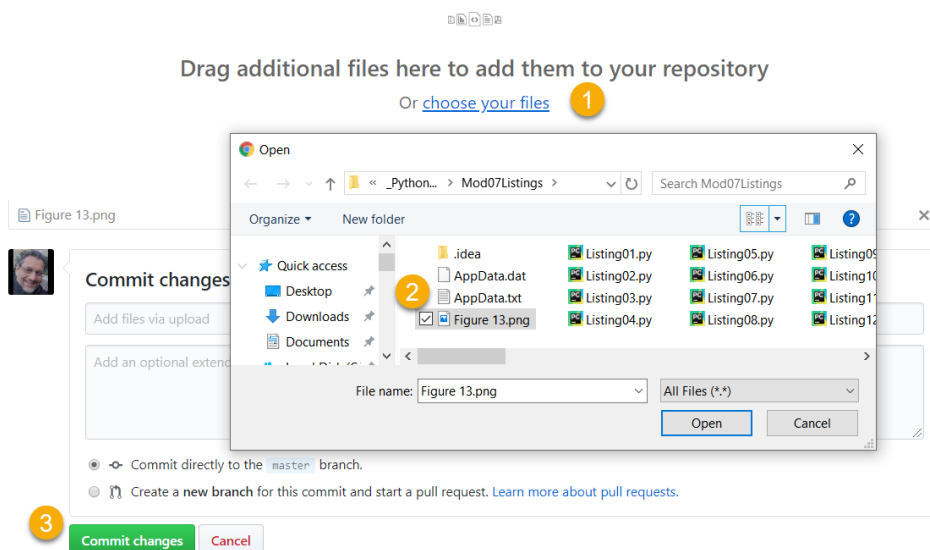


Figure. Uploading the saved image file to GitHub

3. Copy the web address for the file, by locating your file on the GitHub page, then right-clicking it to access the context menu. From there, use the "Copy link address" option, or an equivalent one if you are using a browser other than Chrome.

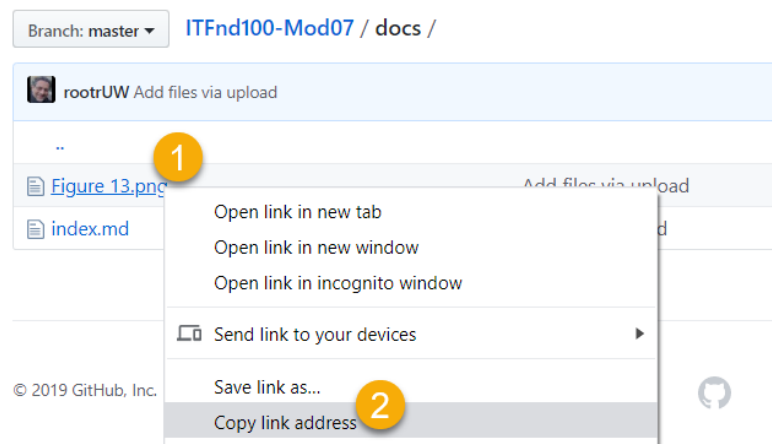


Figure. Copying the file's URL on GitHub with a Chrome browser

4. Link your image to your page using an image link code. The syntax for the image link is:

`![alt text](web address "tooltip text")`



Here is an example:

```
print("Built-In Python error info: ")
print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
...
Listing 13
```

![Results of Listing 13](Figure13.png "Results of Listing 13")#### Figure 13. The results of Listing 13

**Note:** If you cannot get the images to work, try using HTML tags instead. [https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag\\_img.asp](https://www.w3schools.com/tags/tag_img.asp)

The **first part of command** indicates the **alternate text** use by screen readers. The **second** part of the command indicates the **URL to the file**. The **third** part of the command indicates the text you want a **tool tip** to display. Figure 24 shows the results of the command.

```
except Exception as e:
 print("There was a non-specific error!")
 print("Built-In Python error info: ")
 print(e, e.__doc__, type(e), sep='\n')
```

Listing 13

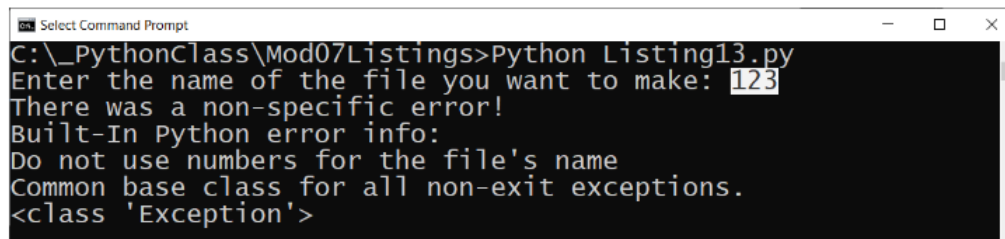


Figure 13. The results of Listing 13

Figure. The results of using a Markdown image link on a GitHub page

**Important:** It is best to use a relative path for files that are in your folder, and only use the "hard coded" physical path for files outside of your website.

## Learning More

There is much information on the Internet about the Markdown language, but you **should find all you need for this course on this one webpage**:

<https://help.github.com/en/github/writing-on-github/basic-writing-and-formatting-syntax>

**Important:** Learning to use Markdown and Jekyll could well be the topic of a complete course, but in this course, **you do NOT need to know much about Markdown programming. Please use only the basics shown in this module** instead of more advanced features **and do not worry about getting the format perfect!**