DELETE Statement in detail

DELETE statement

- The SQL DELETE statement is used to delete the existing records in a table.

- The DELETE statement is one of the primary data modification language (DML) statements available in Transact-SQL, along with INSERT, MERGE, and UPDATE.

- WHERE clause with a DELETE query to delete the selected rows, otherwise all the records would be deleted.

- Of all the DML statements, the DELETE statement is probably the easiest to use and most POWERFUL.

- DELETE statement can be used to delete one row, multiple rows or delete entire table.

Basic DELETE Statement

- DELETE statement only require delete keyword and table name.

- DELETE tablename;

- This statement will delete all the rows in this table.

- DELETE statement supports the optional FROM keyword, which is inserted between the DELETE keyword and the name of the table

- DELETE from tablename;

- Remember DELETE works on the rows not one the columns.

DELETE statement with where clause

- To limit the rows that are updated when you issue an DELETE statement, add a WHERE clause

- The WHERE clause specifies the search conditions that define which rows in the target table should be deleted.

- DELETE FROM SalesStaff WHERE CountryRegion = 'United States';

- Another way you can remove only a subset of rows from a table is to include the TOP clause.

- DELETE TOP (20) PERCENT FROM SalesStaff;

DELETE using data from other table

- There will be times when you'll want to delete rows from a table based on data in another table.

- One approach is to is to create a subquery that retrieves data from the other table.

- DELETE SalesStaff WHERE StaffID IN (SELECT BusinessEntityID FROM Sales.vSalesPerson WHERE SalesLastYear = 0);

- Another method you can use to achieve the same results is to join between the target table and the table that contains the lookup information.

- DELETE SalesStaff FROM Sales.vSalesPerson sp INNER JOIN dbo.SalesStaff ss ON sp.BusinessEntityID = ss.StaffIDWHERE sp.SalesLastYear = 0;