W10 Paper

Simple case expressions work using simple logic. It simply can check for exact equality within a specific statement. The syntax for it is “WHEN X1 THEN Y1, WHEN X2 THEN Y2…” and so on. The “searching” part of the expression is limited to equality. As for searched case expressions, you can set conditions on the searching part of the expression. These conditions can be greater than logic, less than, they can be groups of possibilities, and so forth. There is much more freedom when using searching conditions, when you don’t know exactly what you are looking for prior to executing the query.

Sometimes you will want to mutate, or transform, your result set. This can be accomplished when you are wanting to do counts of certain categories. If you can perform a CASE WHEN expression within a select statement over several variables, you can alter the output to be “1” for each instance that it occurs. This will allow you to run a SUM function and count each of the 1’s for each variable.

Conditional update statements are just that. They will only make updates on portions of the table(s) if those conditions are met. This is useful if you have a job that requires updates to be made. It’s also useful because if certain conditions aren’t met, then nothing changes, and it won’t affect the tables. It’s also important to use CASE WHEN expressions when handling Null values. This is because they often interfere with calculations and aren’t useful when attempting to display data.