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IT FDN 130 A

Assignment 07

**SQL Functions**

**Introduction**

The purpose of this paper is to explain SQL functions; specifically, UDF, scalar, inline and multi-statement functions.

Explain when you would use a SQL UDF.

A UDF is a User Defined Function. UDFs are used to format or calculate fields which do not come built in with Microsoft. One would use a UDF to create a custom function. A good example is if one would like to display a custom date format.

Explain are the differences between Scalar, Inline, and Multi-Statement Functions.

A scalar function allows you to return a single value. When writing a scalar function, the developer must use ‘Returns’ and define the character type. In addition, this function type requires begin and end. Best practice is to use two-part name when creating and calling this type of function.

An inline function works like a view where the developer creates a table utilizing Create Function where the script returns values based on a single select statement. In most cases, the best practice is to use a view.

Multi-Statement Functions return a table but allows for more creativity and functionality. The developer defines the columns including character type. Multi-statement functions require begin and end and optionally, conditions can be placed on parameters. When executing a multi-statement function, SQL creates a temporary table which exists only while the function is running.

**Summary**

Functions allow the developer to expand upon the built-in functionality contained within SQL.

GitHub Link: [terick9/DBFoundations-Module07 (github.com)](https://github.com/terick9/DBFoundations-Module07)