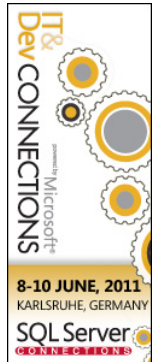




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## Show content differences between two tables/views

By Douwe Miedema, 2008/06/13

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A while back, i needed a possibility to determine the difference of the contents between a table and a view while on T-sql.

Regularly i had to test the consequences of changing the where clause of a complex view (interfaces), therefore i wanted to see the differences in the data before and after the change.

So creating a table containing the data according to the old-view-def (select \* into tmpdb from oldvw)

Then calling ACDIFF TESTDB, newvw, tmpdb

gives me the following results:

```
>Generating Difference program, Parameters: DB=TESTDB, SRC=NEWVW, DST=TMPTB, CMD=S
>Showing modifications to be effectuated onto the destination object: PERS_TBL
>
>SourceObj=(NEWVW ), DestObj=(TMPTB), Using-KEYS:( PERS_ID ), LenPrg=3835/200000
>Executing generated Difference program...
>INS-ForKey:PERS_ID=(00123224)-Newvalues:(GRON-Groningen-ABC-Jan 1 1901 12:00AM
>Total: Compares: 14, Updates: 0, Inserts: 1, Deletes: 0, Command=S
```

Is shows that one extra record exists in the SRC-view

The program does this by by defining two cursors and walking balanced line through the records, using a key (key is determined by all "not null" columns in the destination-table.

It has helped me a lot to easily monitor the differences for a couple of days via a scheduled job.

Later on i changed it, to also support to update the destination table, I am using it now for some months and it works fine for me.

Be aware, when it returns errors (eg. it couldnt find the specified destination table) then the cursors stay open, when you execute it the next time it gives errors "cursor already open", just executing again solves that.

```
CREATE procedure ACDIFF @db varchar(40), @obj_src varchar(40), @obj_dest varchar(40)
as
-- This sql2000-program ACDIFF generates another sql-program in memory
-- Gen.Usage: exec master.dbo.ACDIFF <dbname> , <source> , <dest> ,
-- <dbname> : Name of the database where the source and destination
-- <source> : Name of the table or view containing the source data
-- <dest> : Name of the destination table (can aut. be updated). Can be a view
-- <cmds> : Default='S', S=ShowDifferences, D=Debug-ShowingGenProgram
-- L=WriteLogstoTable:ACD_LOG, U=UpdatingDestinationTable
-- Eg.Usage : exec master.dbo.ACDIFF ACTOOL, Person, ACD_TEST, SULE
```



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Row by Row operation, it seems only Cursors is the solution for my Unique Case

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How to Update using Cursors?

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