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SQL SERVER –BOOKLET3

- Gives you the interview tip SQL Server

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Welcomes you to the Expert Voice Corner

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  VenkatesanPrabuJayakantham (venkat) has more than 8 years experience in the Microsoft Technologies such as VB.Net, ASP.Net, C#.net, SSIS, SSAS, ADO.Net, etc., He is the Managing Director of KAASHIVINFOTECH (http://www.kaashivinfotech.com/),a software company in Chennai. Before that, he worked in HCL Technologies (India and Australia) for six years as Project Lead. As a service motive, Venkat contributed more than 700 articles which is read by the developers in 170 countries (400 developers per day) (http://venkattechnicalblog.blogspot.com/). Aligned with KaaShiv InfoTech's mission,he met more than 20,000 young minds and spreaded Microsoft Technologies / Career guidance programs. Venkat won many awards in his career, which includes Prestigious Microsoft MVP (Most Valuable Professional) award for the years 2008,2009,2010,2011,2012,2013 and won many awards. List of other awards in his career,

- Microsoft certified Smart .Net Candidate in 2004
- Most valuable member for dotnetspider site in 2007

- HCL SQL Subject Matter expert (SME - SQL Server) for the year (2008,2009)
- HCL Special contribution award winner on Dotnet skills for year(2008) HCL SQL Knowledge Champion for the year 2009
- MindCracker MVP on SQLServer –2010 for the year 2010,2011
- INETA champion - Gold Member – 2010 for the year 2010 HCL Service Contribution Award for the year 2010
- Leading Lights "Rising Star" award from Common Wealth Bank, Australia for the year 2010

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATION

- Cisco certified Network Associate (CCNA) – 2004
- Microsoft Certified Application Developer (MCAD) – 2005

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DISCLAIMER

1. What is UNIQUE KEY constraint?

A UNIQUE constraint enforces the uniqueness of the values in a set of columns, so no duplicate values are entered. The unique key constraints are used to enforce entity integrity as the primary key constraints.

2. What is FOREIGN KEY?

A FOREIGN KEY constraint prevents any actions that would destroy links between tables with the corresponding data values. A foreign key in one table points to a primary key in another table. Foreign keys prevent actions that would leave rows with foreign key values when there are no primary keys with that value. The foreign key constraints are used to enforce referential integrity.

3. What is CHECK Constraint?

A CHECK constraint is used to limit the values that can be placed in a column. The check constraints are used to enforce domain integrity.

4. When is the UPDATE_STATISTICS command used?

- When the processing of large data is done, this command is used.
- Whenever large number of deletions, modification or copy takes place into the tables, the indexes need to be updated to take care of these changes. UPDATE_STATISTICS performs this job.

5. Differentiate between a HAVING CLAUSE and a WHERE CLAUSE.

HAVING CLAUSE

- HAVING CLAUSE is used only with the SELECT statement.
- It is generally used in a GROUP BY clause in a query.
- If GROUP BY is not used, HAVING works like a WHERE clause.

WHERE Clause

- It is applied to each row before they become a part of the GROUP BY function in a query.

6. What do you understand by a view? What does the WITH CHECK OPTION clause for a view do?

- A view is a virtual table that consists of fields from one or more real tables.
- It is usually used to join multiple tables and get the data.
- The WITH CHECK OPTION for a view prevents any modification to the data that does not confirm to the WHERE clause of the view definition.
- This allows the data belonging to the view to be updated through the view.

7. Explain query execution plan?

- The optimizer available in SQL Server optimizes the code to be effectively executed.
- A query execution plan shows how this optimizer would run the query.
- Query execution plan can be viewed by :
- Using the Show Execution Plan option available in Query Analyzer,
- Displaying Estimated Execution Plan on the query dropdown menu,
- Use the SET SHOWPLAN_TEXT ON command before running a query and capturing the execution plan event in a SQL Server Profiler trace.

8. What is the function of SQL Server Agent Windows service?

- It is a Windows service which handles the tasks scheduled within the SQL Server environment. These tasks are also called as job and are stored with in SQL server. The jobs may run through a trigger, a predefined schedule or on demand.
- This service is very useful in determining why a particular job did not run as intended.

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9. Comment on Transactions.

- Using transactions we can group all SQL commands into a single unit.
- The transaction begins with some task and finishes only when all tasks within it are over.
- The transaction gets over successfully only when all commands in it are successfully over. Even if one command fails, the whole transaction fails.
- The BEGIN TRANSACTION, ROLLBACK TRANSACTION, and COMMIT TRANSACTION statements are used to work with transactions.
- A group of tasks starts with the begin statement.
- In case of any problem, the rollback command is executed to abort the transaction.
- If all the tasks run successfully, all commands are executed through commit statement.

10. Differentiate between a primary key and a unique key.

- By default, clustered index on the column are created by the primary key whereas nonclustered index are created by unique key.
- Primary key doesn't allow NULLs, but unique key allows one NULL.

11. What is recursion? Is it possible for a stored procedure to call itself or recursive stored procedure? How many levels of SP nesting is possible?

Recursion is method of problem solving where the solution is arrived at by repetitively applying the logic and solution to the subsets of the problem.

Transact-SQL supports recursion. So, yes it is possible for a stored procedure to call itself.

Stored procedures and managed code references can be nested up to 32 levels.

12. What are the advantages of using Stored Procedures?

- They help in reducing the network traffic and latency which in turn boosts application performance.
- They help in promoting code reuse.
- They provide better security to data.
- It is possible to encapsulate the logic using stored procedures. This allows to change stored procedure code without affecting clients.
- It is possible to reuse stored procedure execution plans, which are cached in SQL Server's memory. This reduces server overhead.

13. You want to implement the following relationships while designing tables. How would you do it?

a.) One-to-one
b.) One-to-many
c.) Many-to-many

a.) One-to-One relationship - can be implemented as a single table and rarely as two tables with primary and foreign key relationships.

b.) One-to-Many relationships - by splitting the data into two tables with primary key and foreign key relationships.

c.) Many-to-Many - by using a junction table with the keys from both the tables forming the composite primary key of the junction table.

14. Differentiate between DELETE and TRUNCATE.

- Truncate can not be rolled back while Delete can be.
- Truncate keeps the lock on table while Delete keeps the lock on each row.
- Truncate resets the counter of the Identity column while Delete doesn't do so.
- Trigger is not fired in Truncate while it happens in Delete.

15. What are the properties of the Relational tables?

Relational tables have six properties:
1. Values are atomic.
2. Column values are of the same kind.
3. Each row is unique.
4. The sequence of columns is insignificant.
5. The sequence of rows is insignificant.
6. Each column must have a unique name.

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