

12 Triggers

A database trigger is code that is automatically executed in response to certain events on a particular table in a database.

A Trigger is executed when you insert, update or delete data in a Table specified in the Trigger.

Create the Trigger:

```
IF EXISTS (SELECT name
           FROM   sysobjects
           WHERE  name = 'CalcAvgGrade'
           AND    type = 'TR')
    DROP TRIGGER CalcAvgGrade
GO

CREATE TRIGGER CalcAvgGrade ON GRADE
FOR UPDATE, INSERT, DELETE
AS
    DECLARE
        @StudentId int,
        @AvgGrade float

    select @StudentId = StudentId from INSERTED
    select @AvgGrade = AVG(Grade) from GRADE where StudentId = @StudentId
    update STUDENT set TotalGrade = @AvgGrade where StudentId = @StudentId
GO
```

Name of the Trigger

Specify which Table the Trigger shall work on

Specify what kind of operations the Trigger shall act on

Internal/Local Variables

Inside the Trigger you can use ordinary SQL statements, create variables, etc.

SQL Code (The "body" of the Trigger)

Note! "INSERTED" is a temporarily table containing the latest inserted data, and it is very handy to use inside a trigger

Syntax for creating a Trigger:

```
CREATE TRIGGER <TriggerName> on <TableName>
FOR INSERT, UPDATE, DELETE
AS
... Create your Code here
GO
```

The Trigger will automatically be executed when data is inserted, updated or deleted in the table as specified in the Trigger header.

INSERTED and DELETED:

Inside triggers we can use two special tables: the DELETED table and the INSERTED tables. SQL Server automatically creates and manages these tables. You can use these temporary,

memory-resident tables to test the effects of certain data modifications. You cannot modify the data in these tables.

The DELETED table stores copies of the affected rows during DELETE and UPDATE statements. During the execution of a DELETE or UPDATE statement, rows are deleted from the trigger table and transferred to the DELETED table.

The INSERTED table stores copies of the affected rows during INSERT and UPDATE statements. During an insert or update transaction, new rows are added to both the INSERTED table and the trigger table. The rows in the INSERTED table are copies of the new rows in the trigger table.

Example:

We will use the CUSTOMER table as an example:

	CustomerId	CustomerNumber	LastName	FirstName	AreaCode	Address	Phone
1	1	1000	Smith	John	20	California	11111111
2	2	1001	Jackson	Smith	53	London	22222222
3	3	1002	Johnsen	John	40	London	33333333

We will create a TRIGGER that will check if the Phone number is valid when we insert or update data in the CUSTOMER table. The validation check will be very simple, i.e., we will check if the Phone number is less than 8 digits (which is normal length in Norway). If the Phone number is less than 8 digits, the following message “Phone Number is not valid” be written in place of the wrong number in the Phone column.

The TRIGGER becomes something like this:

```
IF EXISTS (SELECT name
           FROM sysobjects
           WHERE name = 'CheckPhoneNumber'
           AND type = 'TR')
    DROP TRIGGER CheckPhoneNumber
GO

CREATE TRIGGER CheckPhoneNumber ON CUSTOMER
FOR UPDATE, INSERT
AS

DECLARE
@CustomerId int,
@Phone varchar(50),
@Message varchar(50)

set nocount on

select @CustomerId = CustomerId from INSERTED

select @Phone = Phone from INSERTED
```

```

set @Message = 'Phone Number ' + @Phone + ' is not valid'

if len(@Phone) < 8 --Check if Phone Number have less than 8 digits
    update CUSTOMER set Phone = @Message where CustomerId =
@CustomerId

set nocount off

GO

```

We test the TRIGGER with the following INSERT INTO statement:

```

INSERT INTO CUSTOMER
(CustomerNumber, LastName, FirstName, AreaCode, Address, Phone)

VALUES
('1003', 'Obama', 'Barak', 51, 'Nevada', '4444')

```

The results become:

	CustomerId	CustomerNumber	LastName	FirstName	AreaCode	Address	Phone
1	1	1000	Smith	John	20	California	11111111
2	2	1001	Jackson	Smith	53	London	22222222
3	3	1002	Johnsen	John	40	London	33333333
4	6	1003	Obama	Barak	51	Nevada	Phone Number 4444 is not valid

As you can see, the TRIGGER works as expected.

We try to update the Phone number to a valid number:

```

update CUSTOMER set Phone = '44444444' where CustomerNumber = '1003'

```

The results become:

	CustomerId	CustomerNumber	LastName	FirstName	AreaCode	Address	Phone
1	1	1000	Smith	John	20	California	11111111
2	2	1001	Jackson	Smith	53	London	22222222
3	3	1002	Johnsen	John	40	London	33333333
4	6	1003	Obama	Barak	51	Nevada	44444444

13 Communication from other Applications

A Database is a structured way to store lots of information. The information is stored in different tables. “Everything” today is stored in databases.

Examples:

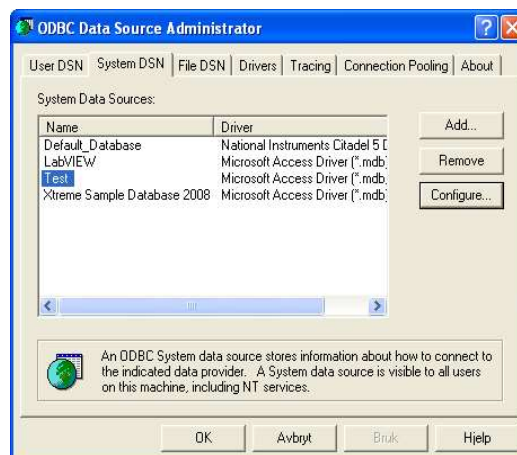
- Bank/Account systems
- Information in Web pages such as Facebook, Wikipedia, YouTube
- ... lots of other examples

This means we need to be able to communicate with the database from other applications and programming languages in order to insert, update or retrieve data from the database.

13.1 ODBC

ODBC (Open Database Connectivity) is a standardized interface (API) for accessing the database from a client. You can use this standard to communicate with databases from different vendors, such as Oracle, SQL Server, etc. The designers of ODBC aimed to make it independent of programming languages, database systems, and operating systems.

We will use the ODBC Data Source Administrator:



ODBC – Step by Step Instructions

1 ODBC Data Source Administrator

2 Select a driver for which you want to set up a data source.

3 Fuller

4 The Name of your ODBC Connection

5 The Name of your SQL Server

6 Select the Database you are using for the Library

7 Use either Windows or SQL Server authentication (Windows is simplest to use!)

8 Select the Database you are using for the Library

9 Test your connection to see if it works

10 Test Data Source

13.2 Microsoft Excel

Microsoft Excel has the ability to retrieve data from different data sources, including different database systems. It is very simple to retrieve data from SQL Server into Excel since Excel and SQL Server has the same vendor (Microsoft).

StudentId	StudentName	StudentNumber	Address	Phone
3	Barak Obama	3333333333	White House 12	45667722
2	Jens Stoltenberg	2222222222	Pilstredet 45	66778899
1	John Cleese	1111111111	Pilstredet 12	12345678
4	Kurt Nilsen	4444444444	Karl Johan 34	44332277

Microsoft Excel

1 Select your ODBC connection

2 Select Tables and Columns

3 Query Wizard - Choose Columns

4 Query Wizard - Finish

5 Finally, the data from the database is in the Excel sheet

StudentId	StudentName	StudentNumber	Address	Phone
3	Barak Obama	33333333333	White House 12	45667722
2	Jens Stoltenberg	22222222222	Pilstredet 45	66778899
1	White House	11111111111	Pilstredet 12	12345678
4	44444444444	44444444444	Karl Johan 34	44332277

14 References

My Blog: <https://www.halvorsen.blog>

Microsoft official SQL Server Web site - <http://www.microsoft.com/sqlserver>

SQL Server Books Online - <http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms166020.aspx>

SQL Server Help

w3shools.com - <http://www.w3schools.com/sql>

Wikipedia – Microsoft SQL Server - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_SQL_Server

Wikipedia - SQL - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SQL>

Wikipedia – Transact SQL - <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T-SQL>