

Loop with Read Only cursor?

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Hello,

I posted a question about looping with Select in a While loop, a few days ago. Repliers to my post advised me that a Cursor would be much better (thanks all for your replies). I found a looping example using cursors on the net, but I don't know how to declare a read only cursor. Note: my objective is to simulate an array of field names for creating an xml doc/string (to use with OpenXML function). So I created a small table with 22 field names (22 rows). Originally, I had 2 columns – a RowNum col and a fldName col. But with the following example using a Cursor, it seems that I only need 1 column, the fldName col, although this seems like more lines of code than the Select method. The cursor example follows. The question is "How to declare a read only cursor". I also included my Select example – actually the full UDF using Select in the While loop – if anyone could advise me between the two examples which would be more suited for my situation.

Cursor Example

```
declare @fldName varchar(50)
declare @RowNum int
declare fldList cursor for
select fldName from tblflds
OPEN fldList
FETCH NEXT FROM fldList
INTO @fldName
set @RowNum = 0
WHILE @@FETCH_STATUS = 0
BEGIN
    set @RowNum = @RowNum + 1
    print cast(@RowNum as char(2)) + ' ' + @fldName
    FETCH NEXT FROM fldList
    INTO @fldName
END
```

```
CLOSE fldList  
DEALLOCATE fldList
```

UDF using Select in While loop Example

```
CREATE FUNCTION ConvertToXML( @str1 varchar (8000))  
--@str1 contains a list of values from external source  
--UDF will create xml string by adding a fieldname to  
--each value from @str1, comma delimited  
returns varchar (8000)
```

```
as
```

```
begin
```

```
declare @fld varchar(255)  
declare @fldNum int  
declare @rownum int --used to increment Select statement  
declare @xml varchar(8000) --resultant xml string  
declare @val varchar(255) --each value in @str1  
declare @pos1 int --get comma delimiter position of @str1  
declare @pos2 int --get comma delimiter position of @str1
```

```
set @xml = '<ROOT><Worktable '  
set @rownum = 0  
set @pos1 = 1  
select top 1 @fldNum = rownum, @fld = fldName from tblflds  
while @rowNum < 22  
begin  
    set @pos2 = charindex(',', @str1, @pos1)  
    set @val = substring(@str1, @pos1, @pos2 - @pos1)  
    set @xml = @xml + @fld + '=' + @val + '' '  
    select top 1 @fldNum = rownum, @fld = fldName from  
tblflds where rownum > @fldnum  
    set @rowNum = @rownum + 1  
    set @pos1 = @pos2 + 1  
End  
set @xml = substring(@xml, 1, len(@xml))  
set @xml = @xml + '/></ROOT>'
```

```
return @xml
```

```
end
```

This UDF works fine with the Select loop. But if this is a kludge and the cursor method would be more correct/professional/better habit to be in, please advise. I am also open to suggestions if there is an easier way to parse @str1 or create @xml.

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Thanks,
Ed