

Re: Cursor Replacement

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>> *I'm asking for an ALGORITHM that will replace cursors* <<

This is a question for the database theory newsgroup. My computational theory is weak, but I seem to remember that you can prove that an expression in primitive recursive functions (roughly equivalent to pure SQL) and be uniquely transformed into single stack automata code (roughly equivalent to a cursor and 3GL, but not the other way around.

That would mean that no such algorithm is even possible.

Now, in the real world you need to see code to re-write it. In the case of cursors, I find only a few situations:

- 1) The newbie has not learned SQL yet and writes cursors in the style of the 3GL language they know best. Worst example posted in recent memory: loop to build a temp table of keys, then loop inside a loop thru a second table to delete rows with those keys. Basically a tape file merge from the 1950's re-cast in SQL.
- 2) The schema has design flaws that require/are best handled by a cursor/3GL code. Example: an adjacency list model tree traversal.
- 3) This is an NP-complete problem, and we need only the first solution within certain limits. Example: a traveling salesman problem solution where the total distance is less than (m) miles. Such problems occur less than 1% of the time in the real world.

If you will post DDL, data, specs and code we can do something.

--CELKO--

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Please post DDL, so that people do not have to guess what the keys, constraints, Declarative Referential Integrity, datatypes, etc. in your schema are.

*** Sent via Developersdex <http://www.developersdex.com> ***

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