

Trying to avoid using a cursor....

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I'm trying to update a column in a table, and as recommended by so many, do it without resorting to a cursor.

The situation is more complex than what I am presenting here, but if someone can show me a way to get the simplified version working I can go from there.

E.g., I have a table with 10 rows, and a column 'test'. The first record has a value of 1 for this column, remaining rows have NULL in the column. I want to run an procedure that will take the value of that first record in column test, and place values in that column for each of the next 9 records, incremented by 1. I.e. row 2 would have 2 in the column, row 3, would have 3, and so on.

I've tried using the following, but each row gets a value of 2 in the 'test' column:

```
update mytable set test = t.maxtest + 1
from
(select max(test) as maxtest
from mytable where test is not null) as t
where test is null
```

Coming from a VB background, my first impulse was to just use a cursor and move through the records one by one, but I've read often in this forum that most anything that can be done with a cursor can (and usually should) be done without resorting to that method.

The above is as I mentioned a very simplified version of what I need to do, a set based solution to this will give me what I need to know for the actual task I need to accomplish.

Thanks for any assistance,

Tom Tucker