

## Re: Using Cursors

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming/2005-02/0258.html>

---

**From:** peterDavey (*peter.davey\_at\_austin.org.au*)

**Date:** 01/27/05

Date: Thu, 27 Jan 2005 12:40:56 +1100

Well, it seems I've stirred up a hornet's nest with my cursor question. I'm finding the discussion valuable in my circumstances (moving from Oracle to SQL Server). I'd like to make a few points:

I've been using Oracle for 15 years and have a philosophy of 'horses for courses'. Sometimes pure SQL works best, sometimes cursors. Generally, if I need to start inserting and updating into temporary tables I'll look at the procedural (PL/SQL) alternative. Inserting into and updating temporary table is resource intensive (lots of disk writing). Using cursors I find I can minimise the amount of database writes that are necessary.

When I first started using Oracle PL/SQL didn't exist and I did everything using 'set based SQL' (I'm not sure that there's any other sort of SQL). When PL/SQL arrived Oracle programmers discovered that they could convert many complex, unwieldy SQL processes into simpler, more elegant (and efficient) procedural code.

I gather that many of the people who have replied don't have any significant Oracle experience and are therefore assuming that Oracle works the same as SQL Server. This is probably not a reasonable thing to do. I'm trying to keep an open mind in my approach and am willing to learn from the SQL Server experts. Based on what I've read here I'll be comparing cursor vs set based approaches. The problem I have is that I have limited time and resources to complete my conversion and initially I see the easiest way to do it would be to convert my existing processes rather than re-creating them from scratch.

I know I'll probably get howled down for saying this but based on my limited experience so far I'd have to say that T-SQL provides significantly inferior procedural functionality. Perhaps this is one of the reasons the procedural option isn't used as much in SQL Server shops.

Because of the obvious interest in this subject, in the next couple of weeks I'll create a new post with what I hope will be a fairly objective look at my experience. Hopefully it will at least be helpful for anyone else moving from Oracle to SQL Server.

cheers

peterDavey

"peterDavey" <peter.davey@austin.org.au> wrote in message  
news:eTNJINgAFHA.3376@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

> *G'day,*  
> *I'm moving from Oracle top SQL Server and starting recode my Oracle stored*  
> *procedures into T-SQL. I have a procedure in Oracle that opens a cursor,*  
> *loops through each record and does an update or insert where appropriate.*

>  
> *I've just created my first cursor in T-SQL. It runs OK in Query Analyser*  
> *but the problem is that it in the output pane it displays a separate query*  
> *output for each record returned by the cursor. I don't want to it to*

output

> *anything other than some summary stats afte it's completed. The code is*  
> *below: I've excluded the SELECT statement because it's BIG.*

>  
> *DECLARE curEpisode SCROLL CURSOR FOR*  
> *SELECT*  
> *some stuff ...*  
>  
> *OPEN curEpisode*  
>  
> *-- Perform the first fetch.*  
> *FETCH NEXT FROM curEpisode*  
>  
> *-- Check @@FETCH\_STATUS to see if there are any more rows to fetch.*  
> *WHILE (@@FETCH\_STATUS <> -1)*  
> *BEGIN*  
> *-- This is executed as long as the previous fetch succeeds.*  
> *FETCH NEXT FROM curEpisode*  
> *--... do stuff ....*  
> *SET @counter = @counter + 1*  
> *END*  
>  
> *CLOSE curEpisode*  
> *DEALLOCATE curEpisode*  
> *SELECT @counter*  
> *GO*

>  
> *Thanks in advance for any help.*

>  
> *cheers*  
> *peterDavey*  
> *Austin Health*  
> *Melbourne*

>  
>