

## Re: Using Cursors

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**From:** Tibor Karaszi (*tibor\_please.no.email\_karaszi\_at\_hotmail.nomail.com*)

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This seems to me like a simple question of a WHERE clause:

```
UPDATE tbl1
SET col1 = newvalue1, col2 = newvalue2
WHERE EXISTS
(SELECT *
FROM tbl2
WHERE refcol = tbl1.refcol)
```

Or, using IN:

```
UPDATE tbl1
SET col1 = newvalue1, col2 = newvalue2
WHERE refcol IN (SELECT refcol FROM tbl2)
```

Same logic can be applied for DELETE.

If you want to pick the values in SET from the other table, you have two options:

ANSI standard SQL:

```
UPDATE tbl1
SET
  col1 = (SELECT col1 FROM tbl2 WHERE refcol = tbl1.refcol)
, col2 = (SELECT col2 FROM tbl2 WHERE refcol = tbl1.refcol)
WHERE EXISTS
(SELECT *
FROM tbl2
WHERE refcol = tbl1.refcol)
```

SQL Server specific, update based on a JOIN:

```
UPDATE tbl1
SET col1 = tbl2.col1, col2 = tbl2.col2
FROM tbl2 JOIN tbl1 ON tbl1.refcol = tbl2.refcol
```

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Tibor Karaszi, SQL Server MVP

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## microsoft.public.sqlserver.programming: Re: Using Cursors

<http://www.karaszi.com/sqlserver/default.asp>

<http://www.solidqualitylearning.com/>

<http://www.sqlug.se/>

"Nickl" <Nickl@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
news:985B9DD9-B74E-4B23-9E62-E34433B45423@microsoft.com...

> Hi David,

> I have a question about how to replace a cursor with a set based operation.

> If I want to UPDATE a subset of values in a table, based on a set of values

> in another table, how can I do it without a cursor. The UPDATE command only

> lets me operate on one table, and this seems to exclude the join to the

> reference table that I require.

> Eg, Table1 has 3 records (out of many) I would like to change (or delete)

> and are identified by a key field (order# or account# for example). Table2 is

> the table that identifies those records in table1 that require changing.

> I have been Looping through table1 with a cursor, and checking to see if

> there is a match between the current record (in the cursor) with one of the

> identifying records in table2. If there is a match, then I change (or delete)

> the record before moving to the next record in the cursor. I know that

> cursors are bad, but fail to see a set based solution for this situation. I

> suspect that I am missing something obvious.

> Thanks for any information

> Nick Lindner

> "David Portas" wrote:

>

>> Glad to hear that. I don't really know Oracle well enough to say, it's

>> just that the Oracle developers I've known seem to dwell a lot on

>> cursor-based solutions and a lot of the traffic in Oracle forums seems

>> to be the same. Questions from Oracle guys in this group are frequently

>> of the form "how do I convert this Oracle cursor to SQL Server?".

>> Probably that's not a representative selection of Oracle development

>> practices, so I would be interested to hear the views of anyone with

>> more knowledge of Oracle: What is best practice for when and when not

>> to use a cursor in Oracle? It might help to know when answering this

>> kind of question.

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>> David Portas

>> SQL Server MVP

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