Article: SQL Server – Using a fast cursor
Date: 12/03/2012
Posted by: HeelpBook Staff
Source: Link
Permalink: Link

SQL Server – List Count of Rows in All Tables in Database using a Cursor

In this document, sql developers will find a **SQL cursor example** t-sql code to list number of rows (***record counts***) in all user tables in a MS SQL Server database.

Note that with the **T-SQL** enhancements introduced with **MS SQL Server 2005** and **MS SQL Server 2008**, developers and database administrators can find ways to avoid using SQL Server cursor in their sql codes in their jobs.

Do not use frequently **sql cursor** in production system during high load times. **SQL cursors** if not done in the correct declaration can effect the performance of database applications in negative manner. So if possible prevent developers use **transact-sql cursor** in their sql scripts.

In the following **SQL Server** cursor, you will first notice the **cursor declaration** in sql script. You can **declare sql cursor** using **DECLARE cursorname CURSOR syntax**.

This **sample sql cursor** is build over a list of user tables defined in a database, and is used for listing the count of rows in each database table. Since for each table a sql select query is build and executed seperately, the sql cursor or the loop for running select task for each table consumes considerable resource.
Do not forget, sql engine is built and optimized for batch processes not for single row processes.

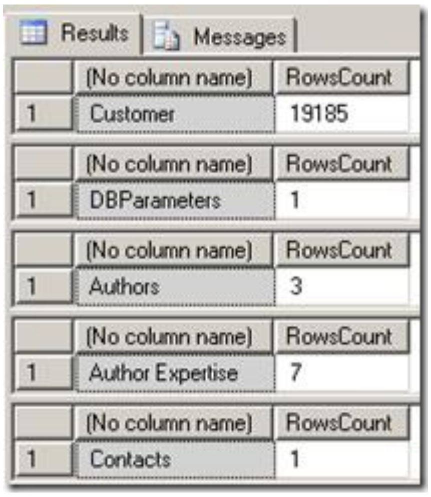
So if possible avoid from using sql cursor in sql codes.

SQL Cursor Example

Here is a sql cursor example :

```
DECLARE @TableName sysname
DECLARE @SQL nvarchar(max)

DECLARE tables_cursor CURSOR FAST_FORWARD
FOR
SELECT name FROM sys.tables

OPEN tables_cursor

FETCH NEXT FROM tables_cursor INTO @TableName

WHILE @@FETCH_STATUS = 0
BEGIN
  SELECT @SQL =
    'SELECT ''' + @TableName + ''', COUNT(*) as RowsCount ' +
    'FROM [' + @TableName + ']'
  EXEC SP_EXECUTESQL @SQL
  FETCH NEXT FROM tables_cursor INTO @TableName
END

CLOSE tables_cursor
DEALLOCATE tables_cursor
```

And when I execute the above sample **sql cursor** code on one of my SQL Server databases, I get the following sample **t-sql** cursor output :



	(No column name)	RowsCount
1	Customer	19185

	(No column name)	RowsCount
1	DBParameters	1

	(No column name)	RowsCount
1	Authors	3

	(No column name)	RowsCount
1	Author Expertise	7

	(No column name)	RowsCount
1	Contacts	1

The above cursor is declared as **FAST_FORWARD** which is faster than other cursor declaration types.