

CS422 Principles of Database Systems

Stored Procedures and Triggers

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Stored Procedures

- ◆ User-created functions that are stored in the database just like other schema elements
- ◆ Procedure vs. Function
 - A procedure does not return any value, while a function does
 - In PostgreSQL, a procedure is simply a function that returns `void`

Example: Hello World

```
create function hello() returns void as $$  
begin  
    raise notice 'Hello world in PL/pgSQL';  
end;  
$$ language plpgsql;
```

Example: Add10

```
create function add10( a integer ) returns integer as $$  
declare  
    b integer;  
begin  
    b := 10;  
    return a + b;  
end;  
$$ language plpgsql;
```

Procedural Language (PL)

- ◆ A programming language for writing stored procedures
- ◆ Usually based on some existing language like SQL, Java, C#, Perl, Python ...
 - E.g. PL/SQL, PL/Java, PL/Perl ...

Why Use Stored Procedures?

- ◆ Performance
 - compiled and optimized code
 - Save communication overhead
- ◆ Security
 - Access control
 - Less data transferred over the wire
- ◆ Simplify application code
- ◆ Triggers for data integrity

Why Not To Use Stored Procedures?

- ◆ Portability
- ◆ PL are generally more difficult to develop and maintain than conventional programming languages
 - Less language features
 - Less tool support

PostgreSQL PL/pgSQL

- ◆ SQL + things you would expect from a conventional programming language:
 - Variables and types
 - Control flow statements
 - Functions
- ◆ <http://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.1/interactive/plpgsql.html>

Elements of a Programming Language

- ◆ Comments
- ◆ Literals
- ◆ Variables and Types
- ◆ Operators and expressions
- ◆ Statements
 - Special statements, e.g. input and output
- ◆ Functions
- ◆ Classes
- ◆ Packages

Elements of PL/pgSQL

Comments	
Literals	Same as in SQL
Variables and types	Mostly the same as in SQL, with a few special types and operators
Operators and expression	
Statements	
Functions	
Classes	
Packages	Not supported

Basic Function Syntax

```
CREATE [OR REPLACE] FUNCTION name ( parameters )
    RETURNS type AS $$
DECLARE
    declarations
BEGIN
    statements
END;
$$ LANGUAGE plpgsql;

DROP FUNCTION name ( argtype [, ...]);
```

Examples: Basics

- ◆ `hello()`
- ◆ `add10()`
- ◆ Implement a function that takes two integer parameters and displays the sum

Basic Syntax and Output

- ◆ Variable declaration
- ◆ The assignment operator :=
- ◆ RAISE
 - Levels: DEBUG, LOG, INFO, NOTICE, WARNING, EXCEPTION
 - Format output with %
 - <http://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.1/interactive/plpgsql-errors-and-messages.html>

Naming Conventions

- ◆ We want to avoid name conflicts among variables, tables, and columns
- ◆ A simple naming convention:
 - Prefix parameters with **p_**
 - Prefix local variable with **l_**
 - Prefix package global variable with **g_**

Examples: Statements

- ◆ Implement a function that returns the name of a student given the student's id; output a warning message if no student is found
- ◆ Implement a function that calculates factorial

SELECT...INTO

```
SELECT select_list INTO variable_list
FROM table_list
[WHERE condition]
[ORDER BY order_list];
```

- ◆ SELECT result must be a *single row*.

Branch Statement

```
IF condition1 THEN
    statements1
ELSIF condition2 THEN
    statements2
ELSE
    statements3
END IF;
```

- ◆ NOTE: don't forget the semicolon (;) after END IF.

Loop Statements

```
LOOP
    statements
    EXIT WHEN condition;
    statements
END LOOP;

WHILE condition LOOP
    statements
END LOOP;
```

```
FOR loop_variable IN [REVERSE]
    lower_bound..upper_bound LOOP
    statements
END LOOP;
```

Examples: Types

- ◆ Implement a function that randomly returns two student records

Special Types

- ◆ %TYPE
- ◆ %ROWTYPE
- ◆ Each table defines a *type*
- ◆ SetOf
- ◆ Cursor

Examples: Cursor

- ◆ Implement a function that randomly returns 20% of the students

Cursor

- ◆ An iterator for a collection of records
- ◆ We can use a cursor to process the rows returned by a SELECT statement

Using Cursors

- ◆ Declaration
 - Unbound cursor: `refcursor`
 - Bound cursor: `cursor for <query>`
- ◆ OPEN
- ◆ FETCH
- ◆ CLOSE

Cursor - Open

- ◆ `OPEN cursor [FOR query]`
- ◆ The query is executed
- ◆ The position of the cursor is *before* the first row of the query results



Cursor - Fetch

- ◆ `FETCH cursor INTO target`
 - Move the cursor to the next row
 - Return the row
 - A special variable `FOUND` is set to `true`



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Cursor - Fetch

- ◆ If there is no next row
 - `target` is set to `NULL(s)`
 - The special variable `FOUND` is set to `false`



Cursor - Close

- ◆ `CLOSE cursor;`

Query FOR Loop

```
FOR target IN query LOOP
  statements
END LOOP;
```

About PL Programming

- ◆ It's just programming like you always do
- ◆ Debug code one small piece at a time
- ◆ Ask "How to do X" questions in the class forum
- ◆ Avoid re-implementing SQL
 - For example, to compute `max(price)`, use `SELECT MAX(price)` instead of using a cursor to iterate through all rows

Triggers

- ◆ Procedures that are automatically invoked when data is *changed*, e.g. INSERT, DELETE, and UPDATE.
- ◆ Common use of triggers
 - Enforcing data integrity constraints
 - Auditing
 - Replication

Trigger Example

- ◆ Create a trigger that audit the changes to the grades in the `enrollment` table

```
create table grade_changes (  
    enrollment_id    integer,  
    old_grade_id     integer,  
    new_grade_id     integer,  
    timestamp        timestamp  
);
```

Trigger Example: Trigger

```
create trigger grade_audit  
after update  
on enrollment  
for each row  
execute procedure grade_audit();
```

Trigger Syntax

```
CREATE TRIGGER name  
    { BEFORE | AFTER } { event [ OR ... ] }  
ON table  
[ FOR EACH { ROW | STATEMENT } ]  
EXECUTE PROCEDURE funcname( arguments );
```

```
DROP TRIGGER name ON table;
```

Triggering Events

- ◆ INSERT
- ◆ DELETE
- ◆ UPDATE

Before or After

- ◆ BEFORE: trigger *fires* before the triggering event
- ◆ AFTER: trigger fires after the event

Statement Trigger vs. Row Trigger

- ◆ Statement Trigger
 - Default
 - Fires once per statement
- ◆ Row Trigger
 - FOR EACH ROW
 - Fires once per row

Trigger Example: Function

```
create or replace function grade_audit()
returns trigger as $$
begin
  if new.id = old.id and new.grade_id <> old.grade_id then
    insert into grade_changes values (
      new.id, old.grade_id, new.grade_id,
      current_timestamp );
  end if;
  return null;
end;
$$ language plpgsql;
```

About Trigger Functions

- ◆ No parameters
- ◆ Return type must be `trigger`
- ◆ Special variables
 - NEW, OLD
 - Others:
<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.1/interactive/plpgsql-trigger.html>

Return Value of a Trigger Function

- ◆ Statement triggers and after-row triggers should return `NULL`
- ◆ Before-row trigger can return `NULL` to skip the operation on the current row
- ◆ For before-row insert and update triggers, the returned row becomes the row that will be inserted or will replace the row being updated

Examples: Enforce Data Integrity Constraints

- ◆ Create a trigger to enforce the constraint that the size of a Database class cannot exceed 30
 - `RAISE EXCEPTION` would abort the statement