Question

[Steve Cross](#) · Apr 28, 2016

Pull out characters from the middle of a text string using SQL

I have to disect thousands upon thousands of strings like this:

96842-2-AEV.00001-63561-001958-100728760I-42

I've been able to pull out the first, second and final segments as separated by hyphens, but now I have a predicament where I need to use the second segment, the 2 shown in the example above, in a join to another table. Problem is Cache apparently doesn't like doing that. Just the same, I have to find a way.

Here's the code I'm using to pull that segment out into as separate field in the query results:

substring(provrecordid, charindex('-', provrecordid) +1, charindex('-AEV.', provrecordid) - charindex('-', provrecordid) - 1)

The value can be one or two digits. The code I'm using works perfectly, but Cache won't let me use it in a left outer join. That data point is only available in the concatenated example shown at the top of this post in the table that string exists in. I have to pull out both the first and segment segment (shown here as 96842-2) to successfully join to another table. I can pull the 96842 out, but I can't get the 2.

Any help would be so very much appreciated!

Thanks,

Steve

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