Steve Stedman
Freelance SQL Server Consultant
http://stevestedman.com

CTE - With An Insert Statement

Queries with Common table expressions (**CTE**) are made up of two parts, the **CTE** part, and the **SQL** that references the **CTE**. In preparation for SQL Saturday, the question came up of can you use an **INSERT** or **UPDATE** statement with a **CTE**. Referring to the documentation I confirmed that using an insert or update inside of the **CTE** is invalid, but you can use an insert or update statement outside of the **CTE**.

For Example.

```
DECLARE @NumTableVar TABLE( n INT);
```

```
;WITH numbers (n)
AS (SELECT 1
UNION ALL
SELECT 1 + n
FROM   numbers
WHERE  n
```