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Executing a TSQL batch multiple times using GO

Using the GO commend in TSQL to run a batch of code multiple times is something that I commonly do in demo's and training's. What amazes me is how many people after the training will tell me that they didn't know about using the GO command to run a statement multiple times.

Here's how it works. First lets create a table, then we will insert 100000 into the table using a while loop.

Sure that works, but it takes several lines of code to loop. There is an easier way to do it.

In this example, GO is the batch separator, SSMS breaks up the TSQL on GO statements, then runs each batch one at a time.
The first GO command is used to simply separate the CREATE statement from the INSERT statement. Then the second GO with followed by 100000 tells SSMS to run that batch 100000 times. If we didn't have the first GO, the CREATE TABLE would have been attempted 100000 times, not just the INSERT STATEMENT.

GO IS NOT A TSQL KEYWORD.

GO is simply a SSMS batch separator word that can be modified to be something else in the SSMS settings if you want to change it. GO is not part of TSQL, and won't work when you call TSQL from your own programs.

A quick tip that will hopefully save you some time.