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

Deleting from a CTE with an EXISTS statement

During my 24 Hours of Pass presentation on Advanced CTE's today I was asked the question about deleting from a CTE when it uses an EXISTS statement that queries another table. I figured I would create quick blog post to show the example.

First some background when using the delete statement with a CTE you can't delete if the query inside of a CTE references multiple tables. For instance:

Will return an error like this:

An the question was asked around referencing a second table using EXISTS, for instance:

Since the CTE using the EXISTS example only references one table in the CTE query (technically the query in the exists is a correlated subquery or derived table), you are able to do it just fine.

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So if you can restructure a query inside of a CTE into an EXIST clause being used for DELETE, you can make it work as a way to get around the single table in a CTE delete statement error.

Thanks for asking.