

# Cursors

- Use cursors only when absolutely necessary.
- If the function performed by the cursor could have been achieved by another SQL function e.g. PIVOT or Common Table Expression then rather do that as CURSORS are expensive.
- When using a cursor to only cycle once through records without updating them, use the following syntax to make the cursor as light as possible:

```
DECLARE @SchemaID INT

DECLARE curs CURSOR LOCAL FORWARD_ONLY STATIC READ_ONLY FOR
SELECT
    SchemaID
FROM cfgSchemaID WITH(NOLOCK)
WHERE
    GETDATE() BETWEEN ValidFrom AND ValidTo
    AND SysID = 101

OPEN curs

FETCH NEXT FROM curs
INTO @SchemaID

WHILE @@FETCH_STATUS = 0
BEGIN

    /*Do your commands for @SchemaID here*/

    /*Get the next author.*/
    FETCH NEXT FROM curs
    INTO @SchemaID
END

CLOSE curs
DEALLOCATE curs
```

- When evaluating the use of cursors first consider the use of [for XML path](#) to loop through each item in a table
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