

Creating a comma delimited list of column values

Creating a comma delimited list of column values (<https://www.luismajano.com/blog/Creating-a-comma-delimited-list-of-column-values>)

Posted by Luis Majano

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I had a cool little SQL problem yesterday where I had a table with 2 columns: **cn**, **email** and for some reason there could be many entries for the same email address:

cn | email

1 | Imajano@gmail.com

23 | Imajano@gmail.com

So I needed to get a nice query where I could join all the values of the **cn** column into a single column for the same email. This was tricky but custom SQL functions to the rescue. This is for MSSQL but you can tweak it for MySQL very easily. So the first thing is to create a function:

```

CREATE FUNCTION [dbo].[getValueList]
(@email varchar(500))
RETURNS varchar(500)
AS
BEGIN
DECLARE @listStr VARCHAR(500)
SELECT @listStr = COALESCE(@listStr+', ' , '') + cast(cn as va
FROM tempTokenMailingList
WHERE emailAddress = @email
RETURN @listStr
END

```

Once I did this, it will return to me a list of column values based on an incoming email on my target table. You can make this more dynamic but it basically solves my use case. Then on my selection I do this:

```

select distinct emailAddress, name, token,
( dbo.getValueList(emailAddress) ) CN
from tempTokenMailingList
order by emailAddress

```

Run that and VOILA! You get a cool way to get your cn column concatenated as a list of values.

Tags: MSSQL (<https://www.luismajano.com/blog/category/MSSQL>), MySQL (<https://www.luismajano.com/blog/category/MySQL>)

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Todd Sharp ([Http://cfsilence.com](http://cfsilence.com))

Nice function. I'll keep this in mind next time I need it in Mssql.

FYI - You can do this with group_concat in MySQL. Very handy sometimes!

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Ed (<http://blog.1smartsolution.com/>)

nice function indeed!

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