

# Re: Cursor loop

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  - *Date:* 12 Jul 2006 04:22:21 -0700
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Chris Zopers wrote:

Hello,

I've created a stored procedure that loops through a cursor, with the following example code:

```
DECLARE curPeriod CURSOR LOCAL for SELECT * FROM tblPeriods
DECLARE @intYear smallint
DECLARE @intPeriod smallint
DECLARE @strTekst varchar(50)

OPEN curPeriod

WHILE @@FETCH_STATUS=0

BEGIN

FETCH NEXT FROM curPeriod INTO @intYear, @intPeriod

SET @strTekst = CONVERT(varchar, @intPeriod)

PRINT @strTekst

END

CLOSE curPeriod
DEALLOCATE curPeriod
```

The problem is that this loop only executes one time, when I call the stored procedure a second or third time, nothing happens. It seems that the Cursor stays at the last record or that @@Fetch\_status isn't 0. But I Deallocate the cursor. I have to restart the SQL Server before the stored procedure can be used again.

Does anyone know why the loop can execute only 1 time?

Greetings,

## Re: Cursor loop

Chris

Hi Chris,

When you say you have to restart SQL Server before it can be used again, do you mean the server or just Query Analyser?

I suspect the issue you're having is when you next enter the stored procedure, the `FETCH_STATUS` is still as it was at the end of the last time through the loop – non-zero, and so the loop isn't executed.

I've never seen a good pattern for doing cursors that doesn't look messy (Since most practitioners tend to try to avoid them in the first place, no-one spends much time tidying them up).

Normal pattern for me is:

```
declare cursor x for select ...
declare <variables to hold the columns>

open x

fetch next from x into <list of variables>
while @@FETCH_STATUS = 0
begin
--Do stuff

fetch next from x into <list of variables>
end

close x
deallocate x
```

in short, I've never found a way to do it which doesn't have to have the same fetch statement in two places.

Damien

PS – Usual recommendation would be to have a list of columns, rather than `select * from...`. However, there is disagreement over this particular recommendation, I'd suggest you search the archives for some lively debate on the matter.

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