

Data TYPEs



SQL General Data Types

Data type	Description
CHARACTER(n)	Character string. Fixed-length n
VARCHAR(n) or CHARACTER VARYING(n)	Character string. Variable length. Maximum length n
BINARY(n)	Binary string. Fixed-length n
BOOLEAN	Stores TRUE or FALSE values
VARBINARY(n) or BINARY VARYING(n)	Binary string. Variable length. Maximum length n
INTEGER(p)	Integer numerical (no decimal). Precision p
SMALLINT	Integer numerical (no decimal). Precision 5
INTEGER	Integer numerical (no decimal). Precision 10

DECIMAL(p,s)	Exact numerical, precision p, scale s. Example: decimal(5,2) is a number that has 3 digits before the decimal and 2 digits after the decimal
NUMERIC(p,s)	Exact numerical, precision p, scale s. (Same as DECIMAL)
FLOAT(p)	Approximate numerical, mantissa precision p. A floating number in base 10 exponential notation. The size argument for this type consists of a single number specifying the minimum precision
REAL	Approximate numerical, mantissa precision 7
FLOAT	Approximate numerical, mantissa precision 16
DOUBLE PRECISION	Approximate numerical, mantissa precision 16
DATE	Stores year, month, and day values
TIME	Stores hour, minute, and second values
TIMESTAMP	Stores year, month, day, hour, minute, and second values
INTERVAL	Composed of a number of integer fields, representing a period of time, depending on the type of interval
ARRAY	A set-length and ordered collection of elements
MULTISET	A variable-length and unordered collection of

SQL Data Type Quick Reference

Data type	Access	SQLServer	Oracle	MySQL	PostgreSQL
<i>boolean</i>	Yes/No	Bit	Byte	N/A	Boolean
<i>integer</i>	Number (integer)	Int	Number	Int Integer	Int Integer
<i>float</i>	Number (single)	Float Real	Number	Float	Numeric
<i>currency</i>	Currency	Money	N/A	N/A	Money
<i>string (fixed)</i>	N/A	Char	Char	Char	Char
<i>string (variable)</i>	Text (<256) Memo (65k+)	Varchar	Varchar Varchar2	Varchar	Varchar
<i>binary object</i>	OLE Object Memo	Binary (fixed up to 8K) Varbinary (<8K) Image (<2GB)	Long Raw	Blob Text	Binary Varbinary

Microsoft Access Data Types

Data type	Description	Storage
Text	Use for text or combinations of text and numbers. 255 characters maximum	
Memo	Memo is used for larger amounts of text. Stores up to 65,536 characters. Note: You cannot sort a memo field. However, they are searchable	
Byte	Allows whole numbers from 0 to 255	1 byte
Integer	Allows whole numbers between -32,768 and 32,767	2 bytes
Long	Allows whole numbers between -2,147,483,648 and 2,147,483,647	4 bytes
Single	Single precision floating-point. Will handle most decimals	4 bytes
Double	Double precision floating-point. Will handle most decimals	8 bytes
Currency	Use for currency. Holds up to 15 digits of whole dollars, plus 4 decimal places. Tip: You can choose which country's currency to use	8 bytes
AutoNumber	AutoNumber fields automatically give each record its own number, usually starting at 1	4 bytes
Date/Time	Use for dates and times	8 bytes
Yes/No	A logical field can be displayed as Yes/No, True/False, or On/Off. In code, use the constants True and False (equivalent to -1 and 0). Note: Null values are not allowed in Yes/No fields	1 bit
Ole Object	Can store pictures, audio, video, or other BLOBs (Binary Large Objects)	up to 1GB
Hyperlink	Contain links to other files, including web pages	
Lookup Wizard	Let you type a list of options, which can then be chosen from a drop-down list	4 bytes

MySQL Data Types (main types : text, number, and Date/Time types)

Text types:

Data type	Description
CHAR(size)	Holds a fixed length string (can contain letters, numbers, and special characters). The fixed size is specified in parenthesis. Can store up to 255 characters
VARCHAR(size)	Holds a variable length string (can contain letters, numbers, and special characters). The maximum size is specified in parenthesis. Can store up to 255 characters. Note: If you put a greater value than 255 it will be converted to a TEXT type
TINYTEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 255 characters
TEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 65,535 characters
BLOB	For BLOBs (Binary Large Objects). Holds up to 65,535 bytes of data
MEDIUMTEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 16,777,215 characters
MEDIUMBLOB	For BLOBs (Binary Large Objects). Holds up to 16,777,215 bytes of data
LONGTEXT	Holds a string with a maximum length of 4,294,967,295 characters
LOBLOB	For BLOBs (Binary Large Objects). Holds up to 4,294,967,295 bytes of data
ENUM(x,y,z,etc.)	Let you enter a list of possible values. You can list up to 65535 values in an ENUM list. If a value is inserted that is not in the list, a blank value will be inserted. Note: The values are sorted in the order you enter them. You enter the possible values in this format: ENUM('X','Y','Z')
SET	Similar to ENUM except that SET may contain up to 64 list items and can store more than one choice

MySQL Data Types

Number types:

Data type	Description
TINYINT(size)	-128 to 127 normal. 0 to 255 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
SMALLINT(size)	-32768 to 32767 normal. 0 to 65535 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
MEDIUMINT(size)	-8388608 to 8388607 normal. 0 to 16777215 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
INT(size)	-2147483648 to 2147483647 normal. 0 to 4294967295 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
BIGINT(size)	-9223372036854775808 to 9223372036854775807 normal. 0 to 18446744073709551615 UNSIGNED*. The maximum number of digits may be specified in parenthesis
FLOAT(size,d)	A small number with a floating decimal point. The maximum number of digits may be specified in the size parameter. The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal point is specified in the d parameter
DOUBLE(size,d)	A large number with a floating decimal point. The maximum number of digits may be specified in the size parameter. The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal point is specified in the d parameter
DECIMAL(size,d)	A DOUBLE stored as a string , allowing for a fixed decimal point. The maximum number of digits may be specified in the size parameter. The maximum number of digits to the right of the decimal point is specified in the d parameter

MySQL Data Types

Date types:

Data type	Description
DATE()	A date. Format: YYYY-MM-DD Note: The supported range is from '1000-01-01' to '9999-12-31'
DATETIME()	*A date and time combination. Format: YYYY-MM-DD HH:MI:SS Note: The supported range is from '1000-01-01 00:00:00' to '9999-12-31 23:59:59'
TIMESTAMP()	*A timestamp. TIMESTAMP values are stored as the number of seconds since the Unix epoch ('1970-01-01 00:00:00' UTC). Format: YYYY-MM-DD HH:MI:SS Note: The supported range is from '1970-01-01 00:00:01' UTC to '2038-01-09 03:14:07' UTC
TIME()	A time. Format: HH:MI:SS Note: The supported range is from '-838:59:59' to '838:59:59'
YEAR()	A year in two-digit or four-digit format. Note: Values allowed in four-digit format: 1901 to 2155. Values allowed in two-digit format: 70 to 69, representing years from 1970 to 2069

*YYYYMMDDHHMISS, YYMMDDHHMISS, YYYYMMDD, or YYMMDD.

SQL Server Data Types

String types:

Data type	Description	Storage
char(n)	Fixed width character string. Maximum 8,000 characters	Defined width
varchar(n)	Variable width character string. Maximum 8,000 characters	2 bytes + number of chars
varchar(max)	Variable width character string. Maximum 1,073,741,824 characters	2 bytes + number of chars
text	Variable width character string. Maximum 2GB of text data	4 bytes + number of chars
nchar	Fixed width Unicode string. Maximum 4,000 characters	Defined width x 2
nvarchar	Variable width Unicode string. Maximum 4,000 characters	
nvarchar(max)	Variable width Unicode string. Maximum 536,870,912 characters	
ntext	Variable width Unicode string. Maximum 2GB of text data	
bit	Allows 0, 1, or NULL	
binary(n)	Fixed width binary string. Maximum 8,000 bytes	
varbinary	Variable width binary string. Maximum 8,000 bytes	
varbinary(max)	Variable width binary string. Maximum 2GB	
image	Variable width binary string. Maximum 2GB	

SQL Server Data Types

Number types:

Data type	Description	Storage
tinyint	Allows whole numbers from 0 to 255	1 byte
smallint	Allows whole numbers between -32,768 and 32,767	2 bytes
int	Allows whole numbers between -2,147,483,648 and 2,147,483,647	4 bytes
bigint	Allows whole numbers between -9,223,372,036,854,775,808 and 9,223,372,036,854,775,807	8 bytes
decimal(p,s)	Fixed precision and scale numbers. Allows numbers from $-10^{38} + 1$ to $10^{38} - 1$. The p parameter indicates the maximum total number of digits that can be stored (both to the left and to the right of the decimal point). p must be a value from 1 to 38. Default is 18. The s parameter indicates the maximum number of digits stored to the right of the decimal point. s must be a value from 0 to p. Default value is 0	5-17 bytes
numeric(p,s)	Fixed precision and scale numbers. Allows numbers from $-10^{38} + 1$ to $10^{38} - 1$. The p parameter indicates the maximum total number of digits that can be stored (both to the left and to the right of the decimal point). p must be a value from 1 to 38. Default is 18. The s parameter indicates the maximum number of digits stored to the right of the decimal point. s must be a value from 0 to p. Default value is 0	5-17 bytes
smallmoney	Monetary data from -214,748.3648 to 214,748.3647	4 bytes
money	Monetary data from -922,337,203,685,477.5808 to 922,337,203,685,477.5807	8 bytes
float(n)	Floating precision number data from $-1.79E + 308$ to $1.79E + 308$. The n parameter indicates whether the field should hold 4 or 8 bytes. float(24) holds a 4-byte field and float(53) holds an 8-byte field. Default value of n is 53.	4 or 8 bytes
real	Floating precision number data from $-3.40E + 38$ to $3.40E + 38$	4 bytes

SQL Server Data Types

Date types:

Data type	Description	Storage
datetime	From January 1, 1753 to December 31, 9999 with an accuracy of 3.33 milliseconds	8 bytes
datetime2	From January 1, 0001 to December 31, 9999 with an accuracy of 100 nanoseconds	6-8 bytes
smalldatetime	From January 1, 1900 to June 6, 2079 with an accuracy of 1 minute	4 bytes
date	Store a date only. From January 1, 0001 to December 31, 9999	3 bytes
time	Store a time only to an accuracy of 100 nanoseconds	3-5 bytes
datetimeoffset	The same as datetime2 with the addition of a time zone offset	8-10 bytes
timestamp	Stores a unique number that gets updated every time a row gets created or modified. The timestamp value is based upon an internal clock and does not correspond to real time. Each table may have only one timestamp variable	

SQL Server Data Types

Other data types:

Data type	Description
sql_variant	Stores up to 8,000 bytes of data of various data types, except text, ntext, and timestamp
uniqueidentifier	Stores a globally unique identifier (GUID)
xml	Stores XML formatted data. Maximum 2GB
cursor	Stores a reference to a cursor used for database operations
table	Stores a result-set for later processing