Data Type

SQL Data Type is an attribute that specifies the type of data of any object. Each column, variable and expression has a related data type in SQL. You can use these data types while creating your tables. You can choose a data type for a table column based on your requirement.

SQL Server offers six categories of data types for your use which are listed below −

A. Exact Numeric Data Types

Table 1

DATA TYPE	FROM	TO
bigint	–9,223,372,036,854,775,808	9,223,372,036,854,775,807
int	–2,147,483,648	2,147,483,647
smallint	–32,768	32,767
tinyint	0	255
bit	0	1
decimal	–10^38 +1	10^38 –1
numeric	–10^38 +1	10^38 –1
money	–922,337,203,685,477.5808	+922,337,203,685,477.5807

smallmoney	–214,748.3648	+214,748.3647

Approximate Numeric Data Types

Table 2

DATA TYPE	FROM	TO
float	–1.79E + 308	1.79E + 308
real	–3.40E + 38	3.40E + 38

Date and Time Data Types

Table 3

DATA TYPE	FROM	TO
datetime	Jan 1, 1753	Dec 31, 9999
smalldatetime	Jan 1, 1900	Jun 6, 2079
date	Stores a date like June 30, 1991	
time	Stores a time of day like 12:30 P.M.	

Note – Here, datetime has 3.33 milliseconds accuracy where as smalldatetime has 1 minute accuracy.

Character Strings Data Types

Table 4

No.	DATA TYPE & Description

1	**char** Maximum length of 8,000 characters.(Fixed length non-Unicode characters)
2	**varchar** Maximum of 8,000 characters.(Variable-length non-Unicode data).
3	**varchar(max)** Maximum length of 2E + 31 characters, Variable-length non-Unicode data (SQL Server 2005 only).
4	**text** Variable-length non-Unicode data with a maximum length of 2,147,483,647 characters.

Unicode Character Strings Data Types

Table 5

No.	DATA TYPE & Description
1	**nchar** Maximum length of 4,000 characters.(Fixed length Unicode)
2	**nvarchar** Maximum length of 4,000 characters.(Variable length Unicode)
3	**nvarchar(max)** Maximum length of 2E + 31 characters (SQL Server 2005

	only).(Variable length Unicode)
4	**ntext** Maximum length of 1,073,741,823 characters. (Variable length Unicode)

Binary Data Types

Table 6

No.	DATA TYPE & Description
1	**binary** Maximum length of 8,000 bytes(Fixed–length binary data)
2	**varbinary** Maximum length of 8,000 bytes.(Variable length binary data)
3	**varbinary(max)** Maximum length of 2E + 31 bytes (SQL Server 2005 only). (Variable length Binary data)
4	**image** Maximum length of 2,147,483,647 bytes. (Variable length Binary Data)

Misc Data Types

Table 7

No.	DATA TYPE & Description

1	**sql_variant** Stores values of various SQL Server–supported data types, except text, ntext, and timestamp.
2	**timestamp** Stores a database-wide unique number that gets updated every time a row gets updated
3	**Unique identifier** Stores a globally unique identifier (GUID)
4	**xml** Stores XML data. You can store xml instances in a column or a variable (SQL Server 2005 only).
5	**cursor** Reference to a cursor object
6	**table** Stores a result set for later processing

What is an Operator in SQL?

An operator is a reserved word or a character used primarily in an SQL statement's WHERE clause to perform operation(s), such as comparisons and arithmetic operations. These Operators are used to specify conditions in an SQL statement and to serve as conjunctions for multiple conditions in a statement.

- Arithmetic operators
- Comparison operators
- Logical operators
- Operators used to negate conditions

SQL Arithmetic Operators

Assume **'variable a'** holds 10 and **'variable b'** holds 20, then —

Table 8

Operator	Description	Example
+ (Addition)	Adds values on either side of the operator.	a + b will give 30
– (Subtraction)	Subtracts right hand operand from left hand operand.	a – b will give –10
* (Multiplication)	Multiplies values on either side of the operator.	a * b will give 200
/ (Division)	Divides left hand operand by right hand operand.	b / a will give 2

% (Modulus)	Divides left hand operand by right hand operand and returns remainder.	b % a will give 0

SQL Comparison Operators

Assume **'variable a'** holds 10 and **'variable b'** holds 20, then —

Table 9

Operator	Description	Example
=	Checks if the values of two operands are equal or not, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a = b) is not true.
!=	Checks if the values of two operands are equal or not, if values are not equal then condition becomes true.	(a != b) is true.
<>	Checks if the values of two operands are equal or not, if values are not equal then condition becomes true.	(a <> b) is true.
>	Checks if the value of left operand is greater than the value of right operand, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a > b) is not true.
<	Checks if the value of left operand is less than the value of right operand, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a < b) is true.

>=	Checks if the value of left operand is greater than or equal to the value of right operand, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a >= b) is not true.
<=	Checks if the value of left operand is less than or equal to the value of right operand, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a <= b) is true.
!<	Checks if the value of left operand is not less than the value of right operand, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a !< b) is false.
!>	Checks if the value of left operand is not greater than the value of right operand, if yes then condition becomes true.	(a !> b) is true.

SQL Logical Operators

Here is a list of all the logical operators available in SQL.

Table 10

No.	Operator & Description
1	**ALL** The ALL operator is used to compare a value to all values in another value set.
2	**AND** The AND operator allows the existence of multiple conditions in

	an SQL statement's WHERE clause.
3	**ANY** The ANY operator is used to compare a value to any applicable value in the list as per the condition.
4	**BETWEEN** The BETWEEN operator is used to search for values that are within a set of values, given the minimum value and the maximum value.
5	**EXISTS** The EXISTS operator is used to search for the presence of a row in a specified table that meets a certain criterion.
6	**IN** The IN operator is used to compare a value to a list of literal values that have been specified.
7	**LIKE** The LIKE operator is used to compare a value to similar values using wildcard operators.
8	**NOT** The NOT operator reverses the meaning of the logical operator with which it is used. Eg: NOT EXISTS, NOT BETWEEN, NOT IN,

	etc. **This is a negate operator.**
9	**OR** The OR operator is used to combine multiple conditions in an SQL statement's WHERE clause.
10	**IS NULL** The NULL operator is used to compare a value with a NULL value.
11	**UNIQUE** The UNIQUE operator searches every row of a specified table for uniqueness (no duplicates).