

# [0340] Data Type Conversion

## Casting

The act of converting numeric data stored in one type of variable into a different type of numeric variable is called "casting." In general, the C# compiler will cast numeric data without complaining and without needing any additional help.

For example, you can assign the value of an integer variable, a, into a long variable, b, by simply typing `b=a;`

However, if the compiler suspects that some of your data might be lost in the casting process, you'll see a compile-time error and you'll need to add an "Explicit cast" which essentially tells the compiler "It's OK, I know what I'm doing and I'm sure data won't be lost."

For example, you need an explicit cast to assign the value of a long variable, b, into an integer variable, a, which you can do by typing `a=(int)b;`