

Virtual DocField

Key Insights:

1. **Dynamic Attributes:** Virtual DocFields are used to represent values that might be functions of other static Document attributes. For example, a person's full name can be a combination of their first, middle, and last names.
2. **No Database Storage:** These fields don't have a corresponding column in the DocType's database table. They are essentially "Read Only" in Form Views.
3. **Defining Virtual DocFields:** To define a Virtual DocField, one needs to check the "Virtual" checkbox in the DocField's configuration. Additionally, a source for the field must be defined, either by extending the DocType controllers or using the DocField.options.
4. **Impact on Internals:**
 - **Backend API:** Virtual values aren't returned by DatabaseQuery methods or Database APIs since they don't reside in the Site Database.
 - **REST API:** Certain APIs, like `/api/method/frappe.desk.form.load.getdoc`, compute Virtual values as they are used to render Desk Form views.
 - **Database:** Virtual fields leave no trace in the respective DocType's table, but evidence of their existence can be found in tables like Custom Field or DocField that store DocType's Meta.