

SQLite Data Types

Let's talk a little about data types that are used in SQLite databases. SQLite uses what is called, dynamic type system. That means, the value stored in a column determines its data type and not the column's data type. Also, you don't have to define a specific data type for a column when you create a table. Even if you have a column with the integer data type for example, you can store any kind of data types such as text and SQLite will not complain about this.

The ANSI Standard of SQL specifies the data types to be used by relational databases. SQLite provides the following five data types which are referred to as storage classes:

Storage Class	Meaning
NULL	Missing or unknown information.
INTEGER	Whole numbers, either positive or negative.
REAL	Real numbers with decimal values that use 8-byte floats.
TEXT	Character data. SQLite supports various character encodings.
BLOB	Binary Large Object that can be used to store any kind of data. The maximum size of BLOBs is unlimited.

A storage class is more general than a datatype. These storage classes are mapped to standard SQL data types. For example, INTEGER in SQLite has a type affinity with all integer types such as int, smallint, bigint, tinyint etc. Similarly REAL in SQLite has a type affinity with float and double data type. Standard SQL data types such as varchar, char, nchar etc. are equivalent to TEXT in SQLite.