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PySpark DataFrame

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PySpark – Convert array column to a String

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In this PySpark article, I will explain how to convert an array of String column on DataFrame to a String column (separated or concatenated with a comma space, or any delimiter character) using PySpark function concat_ws() (translates to concat with separator), and with SQL expression using Scala example.



When curating data on DataFrame we may want to convert the Dataframe with complex struct datatypes (<https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-sql-structtype-on-dataframe/>), arrays (<https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/spark-array-arraytype-dataframe-column/>) and maps to a flat structure. here we will see how to convert array type to string type.

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(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/convert-pyspark-dataframe-to-pandas/>)

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(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-structtype-and-structfield/>)

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[PySpark – withColumnRenamed\(\)](#)
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[PySpark – where\(\) & filter\(\)](#)
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-where-filter/>)

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(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-distinct-to-drop-duplicates/>)

[PySpark – orderBy\(\) and sort\(\)](#)
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-orderby-sort/>)

Before we start, first let's [create a DataFrame](#)

(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/different-ways-to-create-dataframe-in-pyspark/>)

with array of string column.

```
spark = SparkSession.builder.appName("PySpark")\
    .master("local[*]")\
    .getOrCreate()

columns = ["name", "languagesAtSchool"]
data = [(("James", "Smith"), ["Java", "Scala", "C++"]),
        (("Michael", "Rose"), ["Spark", "Java", "C++"]),
        (("Robert", "Williams"), ["CSharp", "VB"])]

df = spark.createDataFrame(data=data, schema=columns)
df.printSchema()
df.show(truncate=False)
```

In this example “languagesAtSchool” is a column of type array. In the next section, we will convert this to a String. This example yields below schema and DataFrame.

```
root
 |-- name: string (nullable = true)
 |-- languagesAtSchool: array (nullable = true)
 |    |-- element: string (containsNull = true)
 |-- currentState: string (nullable = true)

+-----+-----+-----+
|name          |languagesAtSchool|
+-----+-----+-----+
|James,Smith   |[Java, Scala, C++|
|Michael,Rose  |[Spark, Java, C++|
|Robert,Williams|[CSharp, VB]|
+-----+-----+-----+
```

Convert an array of String to String column using concat_ws()

In order to convert array to a string, PySpark SQL provides a built-in function `concat_ws()` which takes delimiter of your choice as a first argument and array column (type Column) as the second argument.

[spark/pyspark-orderby-and-sort-explained/](#)

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(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-partitionby-example/>)

[PySpark – ArrayType Column \(Array\)](#)
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-arraytype-column-with-examples/>)

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Syntax

```
concat_ws(sep, *cols)
```

Usage

In order to use `concat_ws()` function, you need to import it using `pyspark.sql.functions.concat_ws`. Since this function takes the Column type as a second argument, you need to use `col()`.

```
from pyspark.sql.functions import concat_ws, col
df2 = df.withColumn("languagesAtSchool",
                    concat_ws(",", col("languagesAtSchool"), col("currentState")))
df2.printSchema()
df2.show(truncate=False)
```

This yields below output

```
root
|-- name: string (nullable = true)
|-- languagesAtSchool: string (nullable = true)
|-- currentState: string (nullable = true)
```

```
+-----+-----+
|name          |languagesAtSchool|
+-----+-----+
|James,,Smith  |Java,Scala,C++   |
|Michael,Rose, |Spark,Java,C++   |
|Robert,,Williams|CSharp,VB        |
+-----+-----+
```

Using PySpark SQL expression

You can also use `concat_ws()` function with SQL expression.



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PySpark SQL Functions

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[PySpark – Window Functions](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-window-functions/)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-window-functions/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-window-functions/)).

[PySpark – Date and Timestamp Functions](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-sql-date-and-timestamp-functions/)
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[PySpark – JSON Functions](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-json-functions-with-examples/)
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PySpark Datasources

[PySpark – Read & Write CSV File](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-read-csv-file-into-dataframe/)
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[PySpark – Read & Write Parquet File](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-read-and-write-parquet-file/)
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[PySpark – Read & Write JSON file](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-read-json-file-into-dataframe/)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-read-json-file-into-dataframe/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-read-json-file-into-dataframe/)).



```
df.createOrReplaceTempView("ARRAY_STRING")
spark.sql("select name, concat_ws(' ',
    currentState from ARRAY_STRING")
.show(truncate=False)
```

Complete Example

Below is a complete PySpark DataFrame example of converting an array of String column to a String using a Scala example.

```
import pyspark
from pyspark.sql import SparkSession
spark = SparkSession.builder.appName("Example").getOrCreate()

columns = ["name", "languagesAtSchool"]
data = [("James,,Smith", ["Java", "Scala"], "NY"),
        ("Michael,Rose,", ["Spark", "Java"], "CA"),
        ("Robert,,Williams", ["CSharp", "Java"], "TX")]

df = spark.createDataFrame(data=data, schema=columns)
df.printSchema()
df.show(truncate=False)

from pyspark.sql.functions import concat_ws
df2 = df.withColumn("languagesAtSchool", concat_ws(", ", col("languagesAtSchool")))
df2.printSchema()
df2.show(truncate=False)

df.createOrReplaceTempView("ARRAY_STRING")
spark.sql("select name, concat_ws(' ',
    currentState from ARRAY_STRING")
.show(truncate=False)
```

This example is also available at the [PySpark Github example project](https://github.com/spark-examples/pyspark-examples/blob/master/pyspark-array-string.py) ([https://github.com/spark-examples/pyspark-array-string.py](https://github.com/spark-examples/pyspark-examples/blob/master/pyspark-array-string.py)) for reference.

Hope it helps you !! Thanks for reading.

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PySpark Built-In Functions

[PySpark – when\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-when-otherwise/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-when-otherwise/)).

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([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-sql-expr-expression-function/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-sql-expr-expression-function/)).

[PySpark – lit\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-lit-add-literal-constant/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-lit-add-literal-constant/)).

[PySpark – split\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-convert-string-to-array-column/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-convert-string-to-array-column/)).

[PySpark – concat_ws\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-convert-array-column-to-string-column/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-convert-array-column-to-string-column/)).

[Pyspark – substring\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-substring-from-a-column/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-substring-from-a-column/)).

[PySpark – translate\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-replace-column-values/#translate-replace-character-by-character](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-replace-column-values/#translate-replace-character-by-character)).

[PySpark – regexp_replace\(\).](#)
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-replace-column-](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-replace-column-)



NNK

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(https://sparkbyexamples.com/spark/pyspark-to_timestamp-convert-string-to-timestamp-type/).

[PySpark – to_date\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-to_date-convert-timestamp-to-date/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-to_date-convert-timestamp-to-date/)).

[PySpark – date_format\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-date_format-convert-date-to-string-format/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-date_format-convert-date-to-string-format/)).

[PySpark – datediff\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-difference-between-two-dates-days-months-years/#datediff>).

[PySpark – months_between\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-difference-between-two-dates-days-months-years/#months_between\(\)](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-difference-between-two-dates-days-months-years/#months_between())).

[PySpark – explode\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-explode-nested-array-into-rows/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-explode-nested-array-into-rows/)).

[PySpark – array_contains\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-arraytype-column-with-examples/#array_contains](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-arraytype-column-with-examples/#array_contains)).

[PySpark – array\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-arraytype-column-with-examples/#array](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-arraytype-column-with-examples/#array)).

[PySpark – collect_list\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-aggregate-functions/#collect-list](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-aggregate-functions/#collect-list)).

[PySpark – collect_set\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-aggregate-functions/#collect-set](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-aggregate-functions/#collect-set)).

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([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-convert-dataframe-columns-to-maptype-dict/](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-convert-dataframe-columns-to-maptype-dict/)).

[PySpark – map_keys\(\)](#).
([https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark-pyspark-maptype-dict-examples/#map_keys](https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-maptype-dict-examples/#map_keys)).

[PySpark – map_values\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark>

[ark/pyspark-maptypes-dict-examples/#map_values](#)).

[PySpark – struct\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-structtype-and-structfield/#update-struct-function>).

[PySpark – countDistinct\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-count-distinct-from-dataframe/>).

[PySpark – sum\(\).avg\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-dataframe-groupby-and-sort-by-descending-order/>).

[PySpark – row_number\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-window-functions/#row_number).

[PySpark – rank\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-window-functions/#rank>).

[PySpark – dense_rank\(\)](#).
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[PySpark – percent_rank\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-window-functions/#percent_rank).

[PySpark – typedLit\(\)](#).
(<https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-lit-add-literal-constant/#typedlit>).

[PySpark – from_json\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-json-functions-with-examples/#from_json).

[PySpark – to_json\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-json-functions-with-examples/#to_json).

[PySpark – json_tuple\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-json-functions-with-examples/#json_tuple).

[PySpark – get_json_object\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-json-functions-with-examples/#get_json_object).

[PySpark – schema_of_json\(\)](#).
(https://sparkbyexamples.com/pyspark/pyspark-json-functions-with-examples/#schema_of_json).

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