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How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime? ☑ SOLVED

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Vortex
Occasional Contributor

Posts: 11

☑ **How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?**
07-13-2014 10:24 PM

I have a file in Excel that I use to import the data into SAS.
The format of the data in the Excel is this:
28-05-2014 10:21:20
27-05-2014 14:22:26
27-05-2014 11:36:33
27-05-2014 17:14:55
27-05-2014 10:34:56
27-05-2014 19:03:48
27-05-2014 14:30:56
In SAS, the type is text, length is 19 and format is $19.
I am using this column to admission date which looks like this 08JUL2013:08:22:00. Therefore I would like to
convert the above datetime to this format 28MAY2014:10:21:20 or 28MAY2014:10:21:00
Please let me know what I should do?
THank you
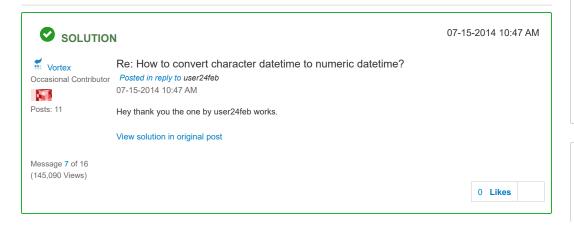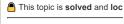
Message **1** of 16
(92,986 Views)

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Accepted Solutions

> ✅ **SOLUTION**   07-15-2014 10:47 AM
>
> **Vortex**
> Occasional Contributor
>
> Posts: 11
>
> **Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?**
> *Posted in reply to user24feb*
> 07-15-2014 10:47 AM
>
> Hey thank you the one by user24feb works.
>
> View solution in original post
>
> Message **7** of 16
> (145,090 Views)
>
> 0   **Likes**

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Discussion stats

15 replies

07-13-2014 10:24 PM

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Reeza
Super User

Posts: 29,767

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to Vortex
07-13-2014 11:50 PM

Ideally you should fix it in the import step, perhaps by using usedate=yes and mixed=yes in your proc import step.
If not then you can convert it after importing it by using something like the following:
new_date=input(date, anydtdtm.)

Message 2 of 16
(85,163 Views)

0   **Likes**

---

sas_lak
Contributor

Posts: 46

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to Vortex
07-14-2014 07:54 AM

```
data date_formats;
input date $50.;
cards;
28-05-2014:10:21:20
27-05-2014:14:22:26
27-05-2014:11:36:33
27-05-2014:17:14:55
27-05-2014:10:34:56
27-05-2014:19:03:48
27-05-2014:14:30:56
;
run;
data out;
set date_formats;
new_date=input(date,anydtdtm.);  /*converting character to date format */
format new_date datetime18.;     /* Printing the data into wanted format */
run;
```

Message 3 of 16
(85,163 Views)

4   **Likes**

Peter_C
Trusted Advisor

Posts: 2,268

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to sas_lak
07-14-2014 09:17 AM

And if you want a more specific informat to handle that timestamp layout, try
FINDFDT19.
For a more general search method (than asking onlin) have a look at paper
http://support.sas.com/resources/papers/proceedings14/1744-2014.pdf
Titled VFORMAT lets SAS(R) Do the Format Searching
where this informat is one of the results of a search

Message 4 of 16
(85,163 Views)

0   **Likes**

Vortex
Occasional Contributor

Posts: 11

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to sas_lak
07-15-2014 10:48 AM

Hi Thank you. I tried your's but the day and the month got switched.

Message 5 of 16
(85,163 Views)

0   **Likes**

user24feb
Super Contributor

Posts: 363

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to Vortex
07-14-2014 11:29 AM

another try 😋
(can't see whether you have 2 variables or 1, but) use DHMS:
Data A;
  Input Text_DT $19.;
  Datalines;
28-05-2014 10:21:20
27-05-2014 14:22:26
27-05-2014 11:36:33
27-05-2014 17:14:55
27-05-2014 10:34:56
27-05-2014 19:03:48
27-05-2014 14:30:56
;
Run;
Data B;
  Set A;
  DT=DHMS(Input(Scan(Text_Dt,1,' '),DDMMYY10.),Scan(Scan(Text_DT,2,' '),1,':'),Scan(Scan(Text_DT,2,' '),2,':'),Scan(Scan(Text_DT,2,' '),3,':'));
  Format DT DateTime19.;
Run;

Message 6 of 16
(85,163 Views)

0 **Likes**

✅ **SOLUTION**   07-15-2014 10:47 AM

Vortex
Occasional Contributor

Posts: 11

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to user24feb
07-15-2014 10:47 AM

Hey thank you the one by user24feb works.

Message 7 of 16
(145,091 Views)

0 **Likes**

Reeza
Super User

Posts: 29,767

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to Vortex
07-15-2014 10:48 AM

Please mark it as answered, for future users. 😋

Message 8 of 16
(85,163 Views)

0 **Likes**

Peter_C
Trusted Advisor

Posts: 2,268

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to Vortex
07-15-2014 11:01 AM

Vortex
did you try the findfdt19. Informat?
Data direct;
input timestamp findfdt19. ;
put timestamp= datetime. ;
Cards;
27-05-2014 14:30:56
;

SAS Programming

0 **Likes**

---

jstrode2010
Senior User

Posts: 1

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to *Vortex*
07-11-2016 04:16 PM

"Solution" in this thread does not work.

0 **Likes**

---

data_null_step
New User

Posts: 1

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to *user24feb*
04-28-2016 04:04 PM

A less complex function also works. For future reference.

```
DATA XX(DROP = DATE DATEVARIABLE);
SET DSN;
DATE = SUBSTR(DATEVARIABLE,1,10);
NEW_DT = INPUT(DATE, ANYDTDTE11.);
FORMAT NEW_DT MMDDYY8.;
RUN;
```

1 **Like**

---

vikrant
New Contributor

Posts: 2

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?
Posted in reply to *Vortex*
01-09-2016 06:58 AM

Hi,

I am using your code too. I have to read 2 dates and they are of the form 2015-10-01.
The first column works perfectly .However, the second column does not work and I am using the same code for both. Please help

data C;
input text_dt $19. text_dte $20.;
datalines;
2015-10-06 09:53:25 2015-10-07 07:51:01
;
run;

data C;
format actual_start actual_end datetime20.;
set C;
actual_start =dhms(input(scan(text_dt,1,' '),yymmdd10.),scan(scan(text_dt,2,' '),1,':'),
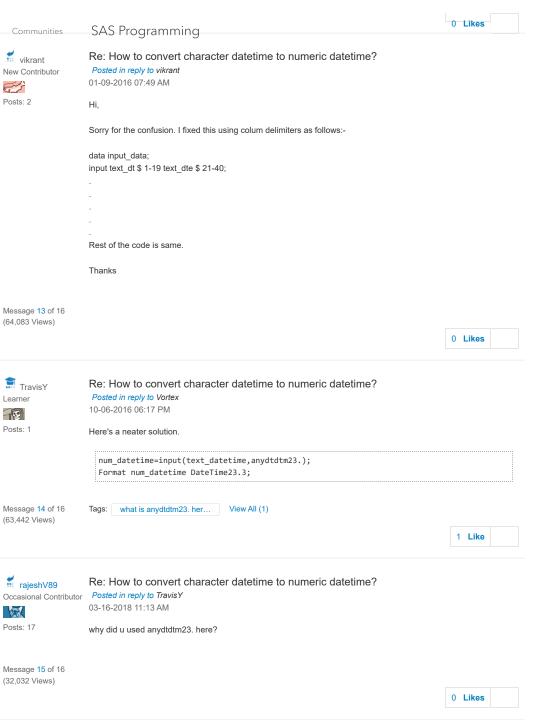scan(scan(text_dt,2,' '),2,':'),scan(scan(text_dt,2,' '),3,':'));

actual_end =dhms(input(scan(text_dte,1,' '),yymmdd10.),scan(scan(text_dte,2,' '),1,':'),
scan(scan(text_dte,2,' '),2,':'),scan(scan(text_dte,2,' '),3,':'));
run;

ERROR :-
Invalid argument to function INPUT at line 71 column 20.
actual_start=06OCT2015:09:53:25 actual_end=. text_dt=2015-10-06 09:53:25 text_dte=2015-10-07 07:51:01
ERROR=1 _N_=1

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?

vikrant
New Contributor

Posts: 2

Posted in reply to vikrant

01-09-2016 07:49 AM

Hi,

Sorry for the confusion. I fixed this using colum delimiters as follows:-

data input_data;
input text_dt $ 1-19 text_dte $ 21-40;
.
.
.
.
.
Rest of the code is same.

Thanks

Message **13** of 16
(64,083 Views)

0 **Likes**

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?

TravisY
Learner

Posts: 1

Posted in reply to Vortex

10-06-2016 06:17 PM

Here's a neater solution.

```
num_datetime=input(text_datetime,anydtdtm23.);
Format num_datetime DateTime23.3;
```

Message **14** of 16
(63,442 Views)

Tags: what is anydtdtm23. her…   View All (1)

1 **Like**

Re: How to convert character datetime to numeric datetime?

rajeshV89
Occasional Contributor

Posts: 17

Posted in reply to TravisY

03-16-2018 11:13 AM

why did u used anydtdtm23. here?

Message **15** of 16
(32,032 Views)

0 **Likes**