

# [Azure Synapse Analytics] - Read empty string value ("" as NULL with enable staging

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## Issue

When customer uses Synapse as source in dataflow (preview data, debug/trigger run...) and enable staging to use polybase, if customer's column value contains empty string value (""), it will be changed to null.

## Root Cause

Dataflow back end using Parquet as polybase format, there is a known limitation in Synapse SQL pool gen2, which will automatically change empty string value to null. [This is the ICM from Synapse team.](#) ☑ They claimed they will fix it in Gen3.

## Resolution

Since it's a by design behavior from Synapse team we don't have much to do.

If customer's data size is not huge, customer can disable 'Enable staging' in Source, but the perf will be affected.

If customer needs to enable staging, customer can use "iifNull()" function to manually change that specific column from null to empty string value.

## Additional Information:

- Icm Reference: N/A
- Author: Xiaojin Wang
- Reviewer: Xiaojin Wang; Shawn Xiao
- Keywords:

## How good have you found this content?

