

How to convert Varchar to Double in sql?

I have problem with my query when I was trying to convert the varchar field to double (numeric). I have this sql statement:

12 `SELECT fullName, CAST(totalBal as numeric(9,2)) FROM client_info ORDER BY totalBal DESC`

Actually I want to display the values of `totalBal` in descending order. But since that field is in varchar, the resultset is sometimes wrong. This is the resultset when I tried to query using this statement:

1 `SELECT fullName, totalBal FROM client_info ORDER BY totalBal DESC`

Resultset is:

	fullName	totalBal
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	Engr. Reychie Urdaneta	88668.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	Albert Geminez	42104.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	Allan Masuay	35700.0
<input type="checkbox"/> Edit <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Delete	Ramon Magsaysay	123067.0

The sorting of `totalBal` is not correct. So I decided to convert the varchar to numeric so that it might be sorted perfectly. Any idea?

mysql sql numeric varchar

edited Nov 18 '16 at 10:14

 [a_horse_with_no_name](#)
319k 50 491 594

asked Jan 24 '13 at 7:35

 [Jay Marz](#)
619 7 19 37

2 Answers

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```
SELECT fullName,  
       CAST(totalBal as DECIMAL(9,2)) _totalBal  
FROM client_info  
ORDER BY _totalBal DESC
```



answered Jan 24 '13 at 7:36

[John Woo](#)**211k** 47 404 432

Thank you for this idea... updated the code with this... `SELECT fullName, CAST(totalBal AS DECIMAL(9, 2)) AS totBal FROM client_info ORDER BY totBal DESC` – [Jay Marz](#) Jan 24 '13 at 7:47

1 you're welcome :D – [John Woo](#) Jan 24 '13 at 7:53

This might be more desirable, that is use float instead

0

```
SELECT fullName, CAST(totalBal as float) totalBal FROM client_info ORDER BY totalBal  
DESC
```

answered Nov 18 '16 at 10:12

[Hammad Khan](#)**9,604** 12 90 112

4 "CAST as float" is not valid in MySQL. So this doesn't work at all. – [m4ttsson](#) Aug 14 '17 at 10:05

1 The question is about SQL, not about MySQL and CAST as float is valid SQL. – [Jose Florido](#) Dec 1 '18 at 5:56

The first tag in question is `mysql` so it was perhaps my bad I answered `MSSQL` version. – [Hammad Khan](#) Dec 4 '18 at 6:36

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