

How to convert Varchar to Double in sql?

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12

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



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



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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:

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

Resultset is:

	fullName	totalBal
	Engr. Reychie Urdaneta	88668.0
	Albert Geminez	42104.0
	Allan Masuay	35700.0
	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](#)

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315k 47 481 587

asked Jan 24 '13 at 7:35



Jay Marz

614 7 19 37

2 Answers



use `DECIMAL()` or `NUMERIC()` as they are fixed precision and scale numbers.

25



```
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

210k 46 397 428

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

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```
SELECT fullName, CAST(totalBal as float) totalBal FROM cli  
DESC
```

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**Hammad Khan****9,549** 12 88 112

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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