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Part 28 - Cast and Convert functions

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In this session we will learn

- CAST and CONVERT functions
- When to choose one over the other

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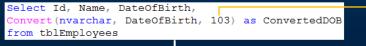
CAST & CONVERT

To convert one data type to another, CAST and CONVERT functions can be used.

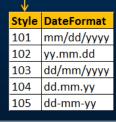
--Syntax of CAST and CONVERT functions from MSDN: CAST (expression AS data_type [(length)]) CONVERT (data_type [(length)], expression [, style])

Id	Name	DateOfBirth	Id	Name	DateOfBirth	ConvertedDOB
1	Sam	1980-12-30 00:00:00.000	1	Sam	1980-12-30 00:00:00.000	Dec 30 1980 12:00AM
2	Pam	1982-09-01 12:02:36.260	2	Pam	1982-09-01 12:02:36.260	Sep 1 1982 12:02PM
3	John	1985-08-22 12:03:30.370	3	John	1985-08-22 12:03:30.370	Aug 22 1985 12:03PM
4	Sara	1979-11-29 12:59:30.670	4	Sara	1979-11-29 12:59:30.670	Nov 29 1979 12:59PM

Select Id, Name, DateOfBirth, CAST(DateofBirth as nvarchar) as ConvertedDOB from tblEmployees Select Id, Name, DateOfBirth, Convert(nvarchar, DateOfBirth) as ConvertedDOB from tblEmployees



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Id	Name	DateOfBirth	ConvertedDOB				
1	Sam	1980-12-30 00:00:00.000	30/12/1980				
2	Pam	1982-09-01 12:02:36.260	01/09/1982				
3	John	1985-08-22 12:03:30.370	22/08/1985				
4	Sara	1979-11-29 12:59:30.670	29/11/1979				



http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms187928.aspx

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DatePart of DateTime

```
--To get just the date part, from DateTime

SELECT CONVERT(VARCHAR(10), GETDATE(), 101) -- Returns 09/02/2012

--In SQL Server 2008, Date datatype is introduced, so you can also use

SELECT CAST(GETDATE() as DATE) -- 2012-09-02

SELECT CONVERT(DATE, GETDATE()) -- 2012-09-02
```

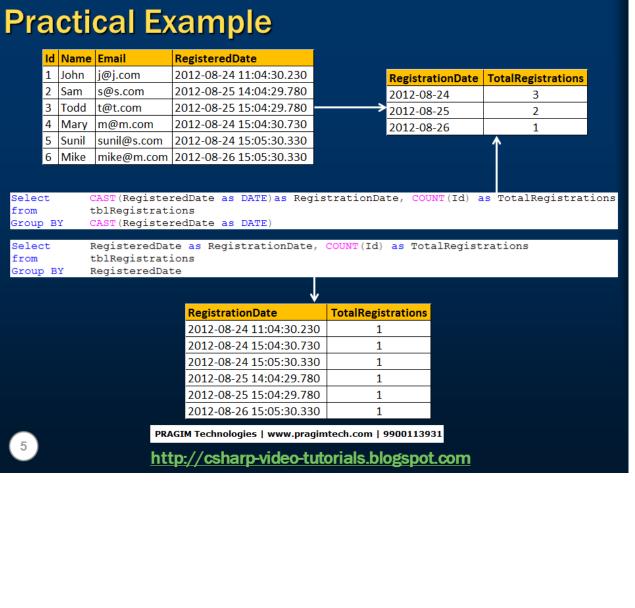
Note: To control the formatting of the Date part, DateTime has to be converted to NVARCHAR using the styles provided. When converting to DATE data type, the CONVERT() function will ignore the style parameter.

```
--Concatenate Id(INT) and Name(NVARCHAR)
Select Id, Name, Name + ' - ' + CAST(Id AS NVARCHAR) AS [Name-Id] FROM tblEmployees
```

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Id	Name	Name-Id					
1	Sam	Sam - 1					
2	Pam	Pam - 2					
3	John	John - 3					
4	Sara	Sara - 4					

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Select



Difference CAST - CONVERT

- 1. Cast is based on ANSI standard and Convert is specific to SQL Server. So, if portability is a concern and if you want to use the script with other database applications, use Cast().
- 2. Convert provides more flexibility than Cast. For example, it's possible to control how you want DateTime datatypes to be converted using styles with convert function.

Note: The general guideline is to use CAST(), unless you want to take advantage of the style functionality in CONVERT().

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Additional Resources

- PRAGIM Home Page:
 - http://www.PragimTech.com
- Resources:
 - ASP.NET Interview Questions
 - http://www.VenkatASPInterview.Blogspot.com
 - C# Interview Questions
 - http://www.VenkatCSharpInterview.Blogspot.com

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