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SQL Server Tutorial

Part 124 - TRY_CONVERT function in SQL Server 2012

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In this session we will learn

- TRY_CONVERT function
- Difference between CONVERT and TRY CONVERT functions
- Difference between TRY_PARSE and TRY_CONVERT functions

Link to Dot Net Basics, ASP.NET, C#, ADO.NET and SQL Server video series http://www.youtube.com/user/kudvenkat/playlists

Suggested Videos

Part 121 - Choose function in SQL Server
Part 122 - IIF function in SQL Server

Part 123-TRY_PARSE function in SQL Server 2012

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TRY_CONVERT function

- Introduced in SQL Server 2012
- · Converts a value to the specified data type
- · Returns NULL if the provided value cannot be converted to the specified data type
- If you request a conversion that is explicitly not permitted, then TRY_CONVERT fails with an error

Syntax: TRY_CONVERT (data_type, value, [style])

Style parameter is optional. The range of acceptable values is determined by the target data_type

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

Example: As the string can be converted to INT, the result will be 99

SELECT TRY_CONVERT(INT, '99') AS Result 99

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```
Example: As the string cannot be converted to INT, TRY_CONVERT returns NULL
SELECT TRY CONVERT(INT, 'ABC') AS Result
                                               NULL
Example: Converting an integer to XML is not explicitly permitted, so in this case
TRY_CONVERT fails with an error
SELECT TRY CONVERT(XML, 10) AS Result
CASE statement or IIF function can be used to provide a meaningful error message
instead of NULL when the conversion fails
Using CASE statement to provide a meaningful error message when the conversion fails
SELECT
CASE WHEN TRY CONVERT(INT, 'ABC') IS NULL
                                                    Result
     THEN 'Conversion Failed'
                                               Conversion Failed
     ELSE 'Conversion Successful'
END AS Result
Using IIF function to provide a meaningful error message when the conversion fails
SELECT IIF(TRY CONVERT(INT, 'ABC') IS NULL, 'Conversion Failed',
                                                                          Result
           'Conversion Successful') AS Result
                                                                      Conversion Failed
```



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What is the difference between CONVERT and TRY CONVERT

CONVERT will result in an error if the conversion fails, where as TRY_CONVERT will return NULL instead of an error

Since ABC cannot be converted to INT, CONVERT will return an error

SELECT CONVERT(INT, 'ABC') AS Result

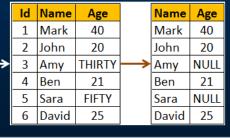
 $\textbf{Since ABC cannot be converted to INT, TRY_CONVERT will return NULL instead of an analysis of the property of the property$

error

SELECT TRY_CONVERT(INT, 'ABC') AS Result NULL

Example: Using TRY CONVERT() function with table data

SELECT Name, TRY_CONVERT(INT, Age) AS Age FROM Employees



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If you use CONVERT instead of TRY_CONVERT, the query fails with an error

SELECT NAME, CONVERT(INT, Age) AS Age FROM Employees

Conversion failed when converting the nvarchar value 'THIRTY' to data type int

Difference between TRY_PARSE and TRY_CONVERT functions

TRY_PARSE can only be used for converting from string to date/time or number data types where as TRY_CONVERT can be used for any general type conversions.

For example, you can use TRY_CONVERT to convert a string to XML data type, where as you can do the same using TRY_PARSE

SELECT TRY_PARSE('<root><child/></root>' AS XML) AS [XML]

Invalid data type xml in function TRY_PARSE

Another difference is TRY_PARSE relies on the presence of .the .NET Framework Common Language Runtime (CLR) where as TRY_CONVERT does not.



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