--Occasionally, you may have to change the data type the column has been assigned to another data type so as to allow reports or queries that have calculated fields.

--This can be achieved using two key commands: cast and convert. The syntax for command:

--CAST (expression AS data type)

--CONVERT (data type, expression, style)

--There are two types of conversion; implicit, which the SQL server does automatically and explicit that must be done by the user.

--Examples of CAST

--Create test table

Create Table Items

(ItemID int Identity (1, 1),

ItemName varchar (25) Null,

Price Money,

PurchaseDate date)

Select \* from Items

--Insert records

Insert Into Items

Values

('Bike', 399,'03-10-15'),

('Motorbike', 2399,'02-10-15')

Select \* from Items

--We will use the CAST function to convert the Price column from type Money to Integer, eliminating the 2 zeroes. (Integers can only be whole numbers)

--Note: the underlying data is not changed

Select \* from Items

SELECT ItemName, CAST (Price AS Integer) Int\_Price

FROM Items;

--We used the CAST function to convert the ItemName column from type varchar to char (3), thus limiting vales to 3 characters

--Note: the underlying data is not changed

Select \* from Items

SELECT ItemName, CAST (ItemName AS char (3)) Char\_ItemName

FROM Items;

--Examples of CONVERT

--The CONVERT is very similar to the CAST function, but allows the style to be changed

Select \* from Items

--Changing the style of the purchasedate column

SELECT ItemName, PurchaseDate, CONVERT (varchar (20), PurchaseDate, 101) AS varchar\_PurchaseDate --<<Style 101 from dashes to forward slash

FROM Items;

SELECT ItemName, PurchaseDate, CONVERT (varchar (20), PurchaseDate, 111) AS varchar\_PurchaseDate --<<Style 111 changing the order of the year

FROM Items;

SELECT ItemName, PurchaseDate, CONVERT (varchar (20), PurchaseDate, 112) AS varchar\_PurchaseDate --<<Style 112 eliminating all dashes

FROM Items;

--For different styles go to the hyperlink below:

http://www.experts-exchange.com/Database/MS-SQL-Server/A\_12315-SQL-Server-Date-Styles-formats-using-CONVERT.html