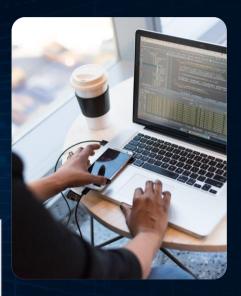# This Topic

CAST

SUBSTRING

CONCAT

CAST

- Used to change the datatype of a column.
- Common to have to do this when joining tables together, where one key is an integer or varchar and the other is in date format.

```
SELECT *,
cast(paymentDate as datetime) as datetime_type

FROM classicmodels.payments
```

SUBSTRING

- Substring returns a specified length of any string column you input:

SELECT SUBSTRING(*columnname*, startfrom, length)

```
SELECT CUSTOMERNUMBER,
PAYMENTDATE,

SUBSTRING(PAYMENTDATE, 1,7) AS MONTH_KEY
FROM CLASSICMODELS.PAYMENTS;
;
```

CUSTOMERNUMBER	PAYMENTDATE	MONTH_KEY
103	2004-10-19	2004-10
103	2003-06-05	2003-06
103	2004-12-18	2004-12
112	2004-12-17	2004-12
112	2003-06-06	2003-06
112	2004-08-20	2004-08
114	2003-05-20	2003-05

CONCAT

- Used to merge 2 or more columns together:

  SELECT concat(*column1, column2*)

- Let's put a employees first and last name together:

Example:

```
SELECT EMPLOYEENUMBER,

LASTNAME,

FIRSTNAME,

CONCAT(firstName, ' ', Lastname) AS FULLNAME


FROM classicmodels.employees
```


EMPLOYEENUMBER	LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	FULLNAME
1002	Murphy	Diane	Diane Murphy
1056	Patterson	Mary	Mary Patterson
1076	Firrelli	Jeff	Jeff Firrelli
1088	Patterson	William	William Patterson
1102	Bondur	Gerard	Gerard Bondur
1143	Bow	Anthony	Anthony Bow
1165	Jennings	Leslie	Leslie Jennings
1166	Thompson	Leslie	Leslie Thompson
1188	Firrelli	Julie	Julie Firrelli
1216	Patterson	Steve	Steve Patterson
1286	Tseng	Foon Yue	Foon Yue Tseng
1323	Vanauf	George	George Vanauf
1337	Bondur	Loui	Loui Bondur