Other Data Types

Besides the integer, decimal, and character data types, Hive and Impala support several other simple data types.

The BOOLEAN type represents a Boolean value, that is, a true or false value.

The TIMESTAMP type represents an instant in time. TIMESTAMPs can represent values with up to nanosecond precision. They are interpreted as being in UTC, or Coordinated Universal Time, but Hive and Impala provide functions for conversion to local timezones.

Hive (but not Impala) provides a DATE type, representing a particular day in the form YYYY-MM-DD, without a time of day. With Hive, a TIMESTAMPcan be stripped of the time of day by casting to a DATE type.

There's also the BINARY type, which can represent any sequence of raw bytes, and also is supported only by Hive, not by Impala. This is analogous to the VARBINARY type in some relational databases.

The table below summarizes these types.

Data Type	Description	Example Value
BOOLEAN	True or false	true
TIMESTAMP	Instant in time	2019-02-25 16:51:05
DATE (Hive only)	Date without time of day	2019-02-25

BINARY (Hive only)	Raw bytes	N/A

Hive and Impala also support complex types (ARRAY, MAP, and STRUCT), but they are an advanced topic for this course. If you complete the Honors lessons (Week 5), you will learn about complex types then.