

Format sql server function

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```
CREATE TABLE staff (
  staff_id TINYINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT,
  first_name VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,
  last_name VARCHAR(45) NOT NULL,
  address_id SMALLINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
  picture BLOB DEFAULT NULL,
  email VARCHAR(50) DEFAULT NULL,
  store_id TINYINT UNSIGNED NOT NULL,
  active BOOLEAN NOT NULL DEFAULT TRUE,
  username VARCHAR(16) NOT NULL,
  password VARCHAR(40) BINARY DEFAULT NULL,
  last_update TIMESTAMP NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
) PRIMARY KEY (staff_id),
  KEY idx_fk_store_id (store_id),
  KEY idx_fk_address_id (address_id),
  CONSTRAINT fk_staff_store FOREIGN KEY (store_id) REFERENCES store (store_id) ON DELETE CASCADE,
  CONSTRAINT fk_staff_address FOREIGN KEY (address_id) REFERENCES address (address_id) ON DELETE CASCADE
) ENGINE=InnoDB DEFAULT CHARSET=utf8;
```

```
SELECT GETDATE();
SELECT CONVERT (DATE, GETDATE ()) AS Current Date;
SELECT TRY_CONVERT (TIME, GETDATE ()) AS Current Time;
SELECT CONVERT (TIME, GETDATE ()) AS Current Time;
SELECT CONVERT (DATE, GETDATE ()) AS Current Date;
```

```
/* Using Format Function */
DECLARE @TodaysDate DATETIME = GETDATE()
SELECT FORMAT ( @TodaysDate, 'd', 'en-US' ) AS [Using 'en-US' Culture]
SELECT FORMAT ( @TodaysDate, 'd', 'de-DE' ) AS [Using 'de-DE' Culture]
SELECT FORMAT ( @TodaysDate, 'd', 'en-IN' ) AS [Using 'en-IN' Culture]
SELECT FORMAT ( @TodaysDate, 'd', 'en-CA' ) AS [Using 'en-CA' Culture]
GO

DECLARE @ProductCost INT = 100
SELECT FORMAT ( @ProductCost, 'c', 'en-US' ) AS [Using 'en-US' Culture]
SELECT FORMAT ( @ProductCost, 'c', 'de-DE' ) AS [Using 'de-DE' Culture]
SELECT FORMAT ( @ProductCost, 'c', 'en-IN' ) AS [Using 'en-IN' Culture]
GO
```

Using 'en-US' Culture
6/14/2011
Using 'de-DE' Culture
14.06.2011
Using 'en-IN' Culture
14-06-2011
Using 'en-CA' Culture
14/06/2011
Using 'en-US' Culture
\$100.00
Using 'de-DE' Culture
100,00 €
Using 'en-IN' Culture
₹ 100.00

```
DECLARE @d DATETIME = '03/02/2020'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'en-US') AS 'US English format'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'en-gb') AS 'Great Britain English format'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'de-de') AS 'German format'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'zh-cn') AS 'Simplified Chinese (PRC) format'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'hi-IN') AS 'India format'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'ru-RU') AS 'Russian format'
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'gl-ES') AS 'Galician (Spain) format'
```

US English format	Great Britain English format	German format	Simplified Chinese (PRC) format	India format	Russian format	Galician (Spain) format
3/2/2020	02/03/2020	02.03.2020	2020/3/2	02-03-2020	02/03/2020	02/03/2020

```
DECLARE @d DATETIME = '28/10/2019';
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'en-US') AS 'US English Result',
  FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'no') AS 'Norwegian Result',
  FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'zu') AS 'Zulu Result',
  FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'en-gb') AS 'Great Britain English Result',
  FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'de-de') AS 'German Result',
  FORMAT (@d, 'd', 'zh-cn') AS 'Simplified Chinese (PRC) Result';

DECLARE @d DATETIME = '10/28/2019';
SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'D', 'en-US') AS 'US English Result'
  ,FORMAT (@d, 'D', 'en-gb') AS 'Great Britain English Result'
  ,FORMAT (@d, 'D', 'de-de') AS 'German Result'
  ,FORMAT (@d, 'D', 'zh-cn') AS 'Chinese (Simplified PRC) Result';
```

View Discussion Improve Article Save Article Like Article The FORMAT() function is one of the String Functions, which is used to format the specified value in the given format. Syntax : FORMAT(value, format, culture) Parameter: This method accepts three parameters as mentioned above and described below: Value: It is the value to do formatting. It should be in support of the data type format. Format: It is the required format in which we require the output. Culture: It is an optional parameter. By default, SQL Server uses the current session language for a default culture. We can provide a specific culture here, but the .NET framework should support it. We get an error message in case of invalid Culture>Returns: It returns a value formatted with the specified format and optional culture. Now if we want to Format a Number, then we use the below query:Query:SELECT FORMAT(25, 'N')Output : Take another example of PERCENTAGE format. Query:SELECT FORMAT(1, 'P', 'en-US')AS [PERCENTAGE IN US FORMAT], FORMAT(1, 'P', 'en-IN') AS [PERCENTAGE IN INDIA FORMAT];Output : Example of DATE format. Query:DECLARE @d DATETIME = GETDATE(); SELECT FORMAT (@d, 'dd/MM/yyyy', 'en-US') AS 'Date Time Result';Output : In this example, we will format the current time with AM or PM. Query:SELECT FORMAT(SYSDATETIME(), N'h:mm tt');Output : In this example, we change the CURRENCY format. Query:SELECT FORMAT(1, 'C', 'in-IN') AS 'INDIA', FORMAT(1, 'C', 'ch-CH') AS 'CHINA', FORMAT(1, 'C', 'sw-SW') AS 'SWITZERLAND', FORMAT(1, 'C', 'us-US') AS 'USA';Output : In SQL Server, you can use the T-SQL FORMAT() function to return values such as numbers and dates as formatted strings. You provide the value to be formatted, and you specify the format to use. The function accepts an optional argument that allows you to specify a culture to use when formatting the value. Syntax The syntax goes like this: FORMAT (value, format [, culture]) Where value is the value you want formatted, and format is a valid format string that specifies the desired format. The optional culture argument can be used to specify a culture. If omitted, the language of the current session is used. The FORMAT function is nondeterministic. Example 1 - Format a Number Here's an example of formatting a number: SELECT FORMAT(1, 'N') AS Result; Result: +-----+ | Result | |-----+ | 1.00 | +-----+ In this case, I used N as the format string. This is a standard numeric format specifier for outputting the value as a number. This particular format specifier results in the output being formatted with integral and decimal digits, group separators, and a decimal separator with optional negative sign. This format specifier is case-insensitive, so either N or n is fine. Example 2 - Format to a Currency Here's an example of formatting a number as a currency: SELECT FORMAT(1, 'C') AS Result; Result: +-----+ | Result | |-----+ | \$1.00 | +-----+ More Numeric Formats There are many more format strings that can be used with the FORMAT() function. For example, there are format strings for percentages, fixed-point, exponential (scientific), hexadecimal, and more. The numeric format strings are separated into standard and custom. The following table lists all of the numeric format strings, including examples: Standard Numeric Format Strings Custom Numeric Format Strings Also see How to Format Numbers in SQL Server for more examples of formatting numbers. Example 3 - Format a Date Here's an example of formatting a date: SELECT GETDATE() AS 'Unformatted Date', FORMAT(GETDATE(), 'D') AS 'Formatted Date'; Result: +-----+ | Unformatted Date | +-----+ | 2019-05-08 06:16:55.613 | +-----+ | Wednesday, May 8, 2019 | +-----+ In this case, I used D which specifies a long date pattern. More Date Formats There are many more format strings that can be used for formatting dates. As with the numeric format strings, date and time format strings are separated into standard and custom, so you can build your own custom formats, or you can rely on a standard one. The following two articles list all of the date and time format strings, including examples: Standard Date and Time Format Strings Custom Date and Time Format Strings Also see How to Format the Date & Time in SQL Server for more examples. Example 4 - The Optional culture Argument Here's an example of using the culture argument to return a value in various currencies: SELECT FORMAT(1, 'C', 'fr-FR') AS 'France', FORMAT(1, 'C', 'th-TH') AS 'Thailand', FORMAT(1, 'C', 'ja-JP') AS 'Japan'; Result: +-----+ | France | Thailand | Japan | |-----+ | 1,00 € | ฿1.00 | ¥1 | +-----+ The FORMAT() function accepts any culture supported by the .NET Framework as an argument; it is not limited to the languages explicitly supported by SQL Server. If you don't provide this argument, the language of the current session is used. For more examples, see How Language Settings can Affect your FORMAT() Results. Example 5 - Invalid culture Argument If you provide an invalid culture, you'll get an error: SELECT FORMAT(1, 'C', 'oop-SS') AS 'Oops!'; Result: The culture parameter 'oop-SS' provided in the function call is not supported. Example 6 - Invalid Format Value However, for other errors, the function returns NULL. For example, here's what happens if I provide an invalid value to be formatted: SELECT FORMAT(GETDATE(), 'C') AS 'Result'; Result: +-----+ | Result | |-----+ | NULL | +-----+ In this case, I was trying to format a date into a currency, and therefore the result was NULL. Valid Data Types FORMAT() relies on the presence of the .NET Framework Common Language Runtime (CLR), and uses the CLR formatting rules. The following data types can be formatted with the FORMAT() function. This list contains the acceptable data types for the input string together with their .NET Framework mapping equivalent types. Category Type .NET type Numeric bigint Int64 Numeric int Int32 Numeric tinyint Byte Numeric decimal SqlDecimal Numeric numeric SqlDecimal Numeric float Double Numeric real Single Numeric smallmoney Decimal Numeric money Decimal Date and Time date DateTime Date and Time smalldatetime DateTime Date and Time datetime2 DateTime Date and Time datetimeoffset DateTimeOffset Escaping Colons and Periods for the 'time' Data Type When using FORMAT, colons and periods must be escaped (this adheres to the the CLR formatting rules). Therefore, when the format string (second parameter) contains a colon or period, the colon or period must be escaped with a backslash when an input value (first parameter) is of the time data type. Example: SELECT CAST('12:15' AS time) AS 'Unformatted Data', FORMAT(CAST('12:15' AS time), N'h:mm') AS 'Unescaped', FORMAT(CAST('12:15' AS time), N'h:mm') AS 'Escaped'; Result: +-----+ | Unformatted Data | Unescaped | Escaped | |-----+ | 12:15:00 | NULL | 12.15 | +-----+ So as expected, the unescaped string returns NULL. As mentioned, this only applies to the time data type. If we change the input value to a different data type, we don't need to escape it: SELECT CAST('12:15' AS datetime) AS 'Unformatted Data', FORMAT(CAST('12:15' AS datetime), N'h:mm') AS 'Unescaped', FORMAT(CAST('12:15' AS datetime), N'h:mm') AS 'Escaped'; Result: +-----+ | Unformatted Data | Unescaped | Escaped | |-----+ | 1900-01-01 12:15:00.000 | 12.15 | 12.15 | +-----+ In this case, the input value is datetime, and therefore, the result is fine without escaping it. You can also use the backslash to escape any other character you want included in the result string, that would otherwise be interpreted as a format specifier. Preceding a character with a backslash signifies that the following character is a character literal that should be included in the result string unchanged. In a custom date and time format string, the d, f, F, g, h, H, K, m, M, s, t, y, z, ., or / characters are interpreted as custom format specifiers rather than as literal characters. In a custom numeric format string, the #, 0, ., %, and % symbols are interpreted as format specifiers rather than as literal characters. The uppercase and lowercase E as well as the + and - symbols may also be interpreted as format specifiers, depending on their position within the format string. If you need to include a backslash in the result string, escape it with another backslash. Remoting The FORMAT() function cannot be remoted since it depends on the presence of the CLR. Remoting a function that requires the CLR, could cause an error on the remote server. When to Use the FORMAT() Function Microsoft recommends that the FORMAT() function is used for locale-aware formatting of date/time and number values as strings, and that for general data type conversions, either the CAST() function or the CONVERT() function should be used instead. By: Daniel Calbimonte | Updated: 2021-10-13 | Comments (17) | Related: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | More > Dates Please do not scroll away - stay informed. Dear Database Professional, Did you know that MSSQLTips.com publishes new SQL Server content on a daily basis as well as offers free webinars and tutorials? We know your day is hectic and you don't necessarily have time to research new topics and solutions every day, but we can keep you informed. Take 30 seconds to register for our newsletter and look for free educational content to help you grow your career. >> REGISTER HERE

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