

## Types

**VARCHAR**(n) – ASCII string of maximum length n  
**NVARCHAR**(n) – UTF-8 string of maximum length n  
**NVARCHAR** can't be aggregated in **GROUP BY** or used as a join key in this SQream DB version

## Conversions

**CAST**(9 as **varchar**(2))  
 → '9'  
**true** :: **varchar**(5)  
 → 'true'  
**CAST**('1997-01-01' as **datetime**)  
 → 1997-01-01 00:00:00.000  
**2015** :: **varchar**(5)  
 → '2015'  
**CAST**('2015' as **varchar**(2))  
 SQream DB can't convert between **NVARCHAR** and **VARCHAR** with casts in this version.

## String literals

- Strings literals must be surrounded by a single quote (')
- Strings containing single quotes must be escaped by writing two adjacent single quotes:

```
SELECT 'This''ll do'
```

→ This'll do

**Avoid confusion!**  
 A double quote is a way to qualify an identifier:

```
SELECT "public"."t"."firstname"
```

## Measurements

```
LENGTH('SQream DB ') → 9
LENGTH('Flüßigkeit') → 10
OCTET_LENGTH('SQream DB') → 9
OCTET_LENGTH('Flüßigkeit') → 12
```

## Modifications

### Concatenation

```
'SQream ' || 'DB'
→ 'SQreamDB'
'SQream' || ' DB'
→ 'SQream DB'
'Value:' || (42 :: varchar(1))
→ 'Value*'
'Value:' || (42 :: varchar(2))
→ 'Value:42'
```

### Various

**SUBSTRING**(column,start position,length)  
 Examples:  
**SUBSTRING**('SQream DB',1,3)  
 → 'SQr'  
**SUBSTRING**('SQream DB',0,3)  
 → 'SQ'

**UPPER**('SQream DB') → 'SQREAM DB'  
**LOWER**('SQream DB') → 'sqream db'  
**REVERSE**('Meow') → 'Woem'  
**RTRIM**(' Quack ') → ' Quack'  
**LTRIM**(' Quack ') → 'Quack'

Where x is 'Flüßigkeit' (**NVARCHAR**):  
**LEFT**(x,6) → 'Flüßig'  
**RIGHT**(x,4) → 'keit'

**LEFT** and **RIGHT** only work on **NVARCHAR** columns, not literals.

**Gotcha!**  
 Trailing whitespace on the right is automatically clipped

## Search and Matching

Where x is 'SQream DB v1.9.6' (**VARCHAR**)  
 and y is 'DB' (**VARCHAR**)

**ISPREFIXOF**(needle, haystack)  
 Returns 1/0 (= true/false) if x is prefix of y.  
 Example:  
**ISPREFIXOF**(x,y)  
 → 0

## Search and Matching (cont.)

Where x is 'SQream DB v1.9.6' (**VARCHAR**)  
 and y is 'DB' (**VARCHAR**)

**CHARINDEX**(needle, haystack[, start index])  
 Returns the first character index, or 0 if not found  
 Example:  
**CHARINDEX**(y,x,1)  
 → 0

Count patterns matching regex. Syntax:  
**REGEXP\_COUNT**(column, regex [,start index])  
 Example:  
**REGEXP\_COUNT**(x, '[0-9]')  
 → 3  
**REGEXP\_COUNT**(x, '[0-9]',13)  
 → 2

Find first occurrence of regex pattern. Syntax:  
**REGEXP\_INSTR**(column, regex [,start index])  
 Example:  
**REGEXP\_INSTR**(x, '[0-9]')  
 → 12

Extract substring of regex pattern match or '' if not found. Syntax:  
**REGEXP\_SUBSTR**(column, regex [,start index])  
 Example:  
**REGEXP\_SUBSTR**(x, '[0-9].[0-9].[0-9]')  
 → '1.9.6'

Returns the first occurrence index of the pattern. Syntax (SQL Server standard, see Pattern matching in the next column):  
**PATINDEX**(pattern, column)  
 Example:  
**PATINDEX**('%[0-9]%',x)  
 → '1'

**Like**  
 Used in a WHERE clause to search for a specified pattern in a column  
 Example:  
**SELECT x FROM t WHERE x LIKE '%DB%'**  
 → 'SQream DB v1.9.6'  
 'DB'

## Patterns

### Pattern matching

Syntax	Description
%	match zero or more characters
_	match exactly one character
[A-Z]	match any character between A and Z inclusive
[^A-Z]	match any character not between A and Z
[abS]	match any one of a b and S
[^de]	match any character that isn't one of d and e
[abC-F]	match a b or between C and F

### Regex pattern matching

Syntax	Description
^	Match beginning of a string
\$	Match end of a string
.	Match any character
*	Match the previous pattern 0+ times
+	Match the previous pattern 1+ times
?	Match the previous pattern 0 or 1 times
de abc	Match either 'de' or 'abc'
(abc)*	Match 0+ instances of the sequence 'abc'
{2}	Match the prev. pattern 2 times
{2,4}	Match the previous pattern between two and four times
[a-dX], [^a-dX]	Matches any character that is (or isn't - if ^ is used) either a, b, c, d or X. A dash (-) character between two other characters forms a range. Example: [0-9] matches any decimal digit. To include a literal ] character, it must immediately follow the opening bracket [. To include a literal dash (-) character, it must appear first or last. Any character that does not have a defined special meaning inside a [] pair matches only itself.