

Date Conversion

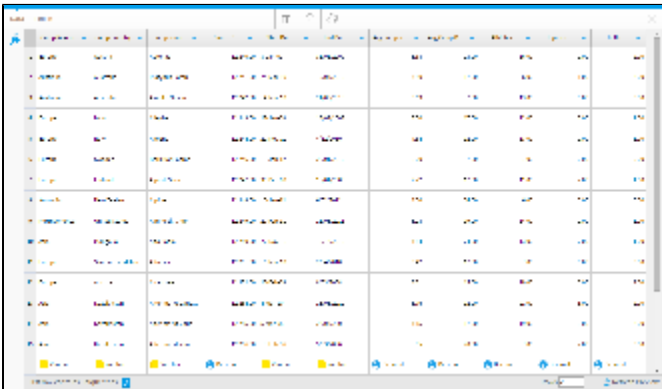
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Overview

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The **Date Conversion** function is available during the CSV Import process. It allows you to convert date fields that are unconventionally formatted, into a standard date format that Yellowfin can recognise. For example, a date stored in your CSV as **2014-Aug-12** can be converted to **12/08/2014**.

In the example used here, we have a CSV file with two different date formats, and neither of them are recognised by Yellowfin as a standard date format. The CSV used can be located [here](#).

Once the CSV file has initially been loaded, following the steps on either the [View Builder](#) [CSV Import](#) or [Report Builder CSV Import](#) pages, we can see there are two date fields in the file.



The Date fields, **Start Date** and **End Date**, are shown in the file, but Yellowfin has recognised them as Varchar (text) fields, as they were not formatted in the standard date format.

Start Date	End Date
3-Jan-09	31/01/2009
24-Mar-10	10/04/2010
14-Mar-10	21/03/2010
...	
13-Feb-06	5/03/2006
Varchar	Varchar

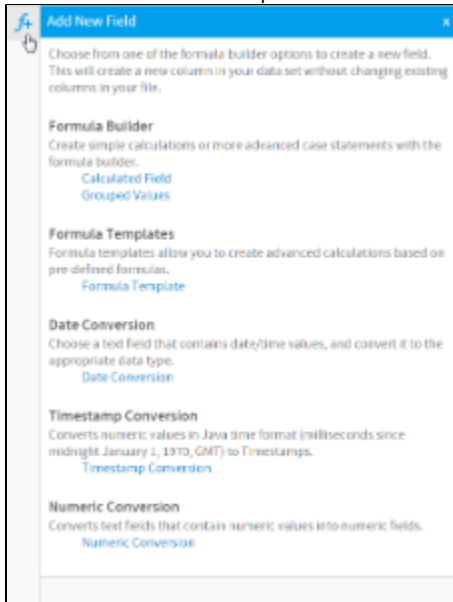
Example

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dd-MMM-yy

1. Click on the **New Function** button on the left of the CSV Data page. This will open a menu displaying all the functions that can be built into your file.

Note: this screenshot is from the [Report Builder CSV Import](#), if using the [View Builder CSV Import](#) not all of these options will be available, as they are available in later stages of the standard View Builder process instead.



2. Click on the **Date Conversion** link to start the process.

3. From here you will need to select the field that requires converting. We will start with the **Start Date** field.

4. Click **Create**.

Date Conversion

Choose a text field that contains date/time values, and convert it to the appropriate data type.

Date Conversion

Please select the text field containing date values:

Start Date	▼	Create
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5. From here, the **Date Conversion** window will be displayed. First, you can provide a name for the converted version of the field.

Note: this will be a new field, the original unconverted field will remain. You may wish to rename the original field as well.

6. Next, you will need to select which **Converted Data Type** you wish the field to be stored as. If the field contains time components and you wish to use them in reporting, select **Time stamp**, otherwise select **Date**.

Last, you will need to define the **Date Format** the CSV field is **currently** stored in. Yellowfin will always convert **to** the format specified in **Administration > Configuration > Regional Settings**, which is **dd/MM/yyyy** by default, what you have to do is tell it how to read the original field. In this example, the Start Date field is displaying as **3-Jan-09**, which means it's formatted as **dd-MMM-yy**.

Date Conversion - Start Date

Column Name

Start Date - Date

Converted Data Type

Date

Timestamp

Date Format

Conversion Preview

The Sample Data values are from your original CSV file. The Converted Data is the result of using the Date Format settings to convert them.

Sample Data	Converted Data
3-Jan-09	
24-Mar-10	
14-Mar-10	
27-Jan-08	
22-Nov-10	

Save

Cancel

7. Enter **dd-MMM** into the **Date Format** field. You will notice that in the preview panel at the bottom of the window, Yellowfin has highlighted the **3-Jan** component of the Sample Data, and as such is returning **3/1/1970**. What happens here is that Yellowfin converts the parts you specify (in this case day and month) and populates the rest with components from the date: 1/1/1970.

Date Format

dd-MMM

Conversion Preview

The Sample Data values are from your original CSV file. The Converted Data is the result of using the Date Format settings to convert them.

Sample Data	Converted Data
3-Jan-09	3/1/1970
24-Mar-10	24/3/1970
14-Mar-10	14/3/1970
27-Jan-08	27/1/1970
22-Nov-10	22/11/1970

8. Finish entering the date: enter **dd-MMM-yy** into the **Date Format** field. Yellowfin has now converted the entire date in the preview panel.

9. Click **Save** to complete.

Date Format

dd/MM/yy

Specify the date format of the original data in order to convert it.

Conversion Preview

The Sample Data values are from your original CSV file. The Converted Data is the result of using the Date Format settings to convert them.

Sample Data	Converted Data
3-Jan-09	3/1/2009 ✓
24-Mar-10	24/3/2010 ✓
14-Mar-10	14/3/2010 ✓
27-Jan-08	27/1/2008 ✓
22-Nov-10	22/11/2010 ✓

You will now have a new field at the end of your CSV table. This will have an orange band at the top to identify it as a converted field.

Start Date - ...
03/01/2009
24/03/2010
14/03/2010

dd/MM/yy

In this example, we are going to convert the **End Date** field. At the moment this field looks like a date Yellowfin should recognise, as it's in our default format of **dd/MM/yyyy**, but Yellowfin actually needs to read in dates from the format **yyyy/MM/dd**. So while it looks OK to us, Yellowfin has recognised it as text rather than a date.

- 1. Click the **New Function** button, select **Date Conversion** and choose the **End Date** field.
- 2. Click **Create** to begin.
- 3. Complete the **Name** and **Converted Date Type** as before.
- 4. If you were not sure how to specify your date format, i.e. what characters to use in the **Date Format** field, click on the **i** symbol in the field.

Date Format

Specify the date format of the original data in order to convert it.

i

- 5. From here you will be shown what character combinations make up what date components. Work out which characters you need and click **Close** to return to the previous screen.
- 6. Enter **dd/MM/yy** and click **Save** to complete.

