

The Importance of Defining Data Types



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Available data types

All listed
“any”

Power Query observes strict data types

Much less lenient than Excel
Each type on the list at right is distinct
You cannot combine unlike types without a function

Just because it looks right...

Could be defined as “any”

Decimal Number
Currency
Whole Number
Date/Time
Date
Time
Date/Time/Timezone
Duration
Text
True/False
Binary

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The Effects of the Any Data Type

During query construction

Undeclared data types can prevent transformation operations

Upon loading

When loading to Excel tables, dates will load as values

When loading to the Data Model, dates will load as text



It's a best practice to define your data types as the last step of any query that is loaded to an Excel or Data Model table!