

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.

Game/Region	Game Count	Game Name	Game ID	Start Date	End Date	Avg Game R.	Avg Game S.
Europe	Austria	487810	11,245.00	20 January 2009	21/01/2009 12:00	3.60	28.00
Australia	Australia	10301.00	20 March 2010	10/08/2010 12:00	8.80	17.00	
Australia	Australia	10301.00	10 March 2010	21/08/2010 12:00	8.08	7.00	
Europe	Italy	414910	11,245.00	27 January 2009	10/02/2009 12:00	5.50	17.00
Europe	Italy	414910	11,244.00	12 November 2008	04/12/2010 12:00	4.54	12.00
Europe	Sweden	10301.00	11 January 2010	26/01/2010 12:00	8.00	7.00	
Europe	England	10301.00	10/08/2010 12:00	10/01/2009 12:00	7.12	17.00	
Australia	New Zealand	10301.00	11 January 2010	06/02/2010 12:00	4.00	24.00	
North America	United States	10301.00	11 January 2010	25 February 2011	11/08/2011 12:00	5.08	18.00
Asia	Wangshu	10301.00	12/08/2014	10/12/2010 12:00	4.04	24.00	

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 ▼
03-January-2009	31/01/2009 12:0...
24-March-2010	10/04/2010 12:0...
14-March-2010	21/03/2010 12:0...
27-January-2008	13/02/2008 12:0...
22-November-20...	04/12/2010 12:0...
19-January-2012	26/01/2012 12:0...
30-December-20...	16/01/2009 12:0...
13-January-2012	06/02/2012 12:0...
20-February-2011	11/03/2011 12:0...
22-November-20...	16/12/2010 12:0...
 Varchar	 Timestamp

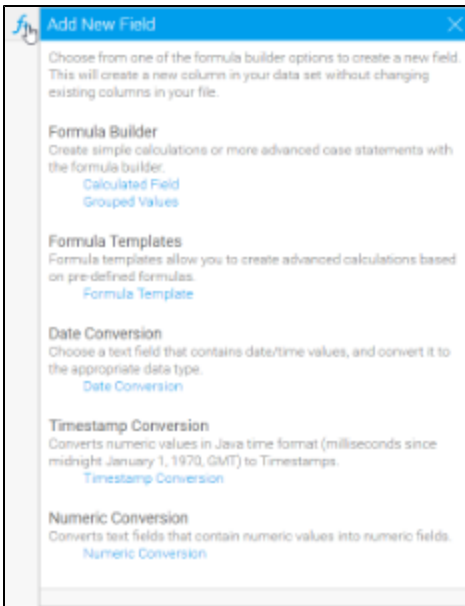
Example

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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

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

Define a display name for the converted column.

Converted Data Type

Date

Specify the new data type of the converted column.

Date Format

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
03-January-2009	
24-March-2010	
14-March-2010	
27-January-2008	
22-November-2010	

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

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
03-January-2009	3/1/1970
24-March-2010	24/3/1970
14-March-2010	14/3/1970
27-January-2008	27/1/1970
22-November-2010	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-MMM-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
03-January-2009	3/1/2009
24-March-2010	24/3/2010
14-March-2010	14/3/2010
27-January-2008	27/1/2008
22-November-2010	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
27/01/2008
22/11/2010
19/01/2012
30/12/2008
13/01/2012
20/02/2011
22/11/2010
 Timestamp

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  symbol in the field.

Date Format

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



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.

Date Conversion - Start Date

CSV Data Format

Close

You must specify the format of the data in the CSV column. Use the following format patterns:

yyyy	Full Year (2016)	HH	Hour Of Day (0-23)
yy	Short Year (16)	hh	Hour in AM/PM (1-12)
MM/MM	Full Month Name (November)	mm	Minute (0-59)
MM/MM	Short Month Name (Nov)	ss	Second (0-59)
MM	Month (1-12)	S	Millisecond (0-999)
dd	Day Of Month (1-31)	a	AM/PM Marker
EEEE	Full Day Of Week (Friday)	z, Z	Time Zone
EEE	Short Day Of Week (Fri)	text	Other Text

Examples:

Date
2016.11.11 at 11:14:45 AEDT
11/11/16
Fri, Nov 11, 2016
11:14 AM
Friday, 11 Nov 2016 11:14:45 +1100
2016-11-11T11:14:45.226+1100

Date Format
yyyyMMdd at HHmmss z
6/M/yy
EEE, MMM d, yyyy
h:mm a
EEEE, d MMM yyyy HH:mm:ss Z
yyyy-MM-ddTHH:mm:ss.SSSZ

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