

## Re: SSIS and unicode data types

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- *From:* Todd C <[ToddC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:ToddC@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 21 Feb 2006 05:51:28 -0800
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Thanks for the tips.

However, my varchar columns are at most 50 characters. They will never be over the 255 threshold to make them be seen as DT\_NTEXT. Besides, the destination column in the SQL database destination is only varchar(50) or less.

I can see all the metadata definitions by opening the data flow paths, sources, transforms, and destinations. I did not see any attachment in your post.

By the way, where are these datatypes coming from? Is there any documentation about what 'conversions' are allowed? I'm used to working with char, varchar, nvarchar, etc and now I am thrown "DT\_NTEXT", "DT\_STR" and the like.

So, the question still remains: How do I get an Excel column of datatype DT\_WSTR into a SQL column of datatype varchar? Note that the Excel column was derived from the SQL column in the first place, and that it works flawlessly in DTS and SQL 2000.

Thanks for your help.  
Todd C

"Allan Mitchell" wrote:

Hello Todd,

Ok So here is what I did

I took an Excel source

I made sure that a column had > 255 chars in it otherwise the adapter sees it as a DT\_WSTR. The source adapter now sees the column as DT\_NTEXT.

NOTE: if you hover over the column in the columns menu of the source adapter you will see

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it says DT\_NTEXT. Once you have joined the path to a downstream component, double click on the path and look at the metadata to see what it says is the datatype of the column.

What I then did is I converted the column to a DT\_WSTR 2000. I added a couple of derived columns to tell me some things about the data and It came back with no errors. See attachment

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Allan, thanks for getting back. I took another look at the package ...

All fields that went out of SQL Server as VARCHAR to Excel (in another package) are coming back into the SSIS package as DT\_NTEXT. The OLE Db connection to the Server expects those column as DT\_STR. So I simply need to put in a Data Conversion Transform that will take it from DT\_NTEXT to DT\_STR.

BUT ...

When I do that, there is now a red X in the Data Conversion (indicating an error) that states: "Conversion from DT\_NTEXT to DT\_STR is not supported".

My beef (With Microsoft) is two-fold:

1. I created this exact same package in DTS 2000 inside of a minute and it worked flawlessly first time and every time. Why can't the 'improved' SSIS do the same thing.

AND

2. It left SQL Server as a VARCHAR and went into (Microsoft) Excel, then it comes back from Excel as a datatype that cannot be converted back to VARCHAR?

What's up with that?

I apologize if I sound a bit frustrated with this issue. I have been battling it for several days and nothing seems to work. I very much appreciate your response and look forward to any further input you have.

Todd

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"Allan Mitchell" wrote:

Hello Todd,

Before you do anything double click on the path between the source and the destination. Have a look at what the path metadata thinks is coming from the source.

What i would do is remove any paths between the Source and the destination Now add back a path.

In the Advanced properties for both the source adapter and the destination adapter have a look at the columns that are giving you the problem.

My guess is that one of them is

DT\_STR and the other is DT\_WSTR

You would use a Data Conversion transform to do the conversion between datatypes

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I have two simple DTS packages in version 2000 that are about as simple as they come. One extracts from a table and dumps into an Excel file, the other takes the Excel file and appends it into the table from which it came. These took all of about two minutes to create usine DTS in SQL Server 2000.

I have tried to re-create them in SSIS 2005 and get errors when trying to run them. Using the Import/Export wizard, the packages get created OK. The first one, whcih extracts from a SQL Server table and dumps into Excel works OK. But the

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one that takes the Excel data  
and loads it back into SQL Server gives this  
error on any column  
defined as VARCHAR:

Column "Name" cannot  
convert between unicode  
and non-unicode string  
data types. <

So, basically what I am seeing is that the  
wizard creates the Excel  
file and assigns the appropriate data types,  
but then cannot figure  
out how to get that same data back!

I have tried using a Data Conversion  
transform but any data type I  
try to assign does not work.

How do I get SQL Server to accept data  
from a Text column in Excel?