

## Re: Stipping all alpha characters from a string

*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.mseq/2004-04/0096.html>

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**From:** Vishal Parkar (*REMOVE\_THIS\_vgparkar\_at\_yahoo.co.in*)

**Date:** 04/27/04

Date: Wed, 28 Apr 2004 02:36:34 +0530

hi alyx,

if i understand you correctly, you will have to make use of user defined function.

ex:

--function

```
create function dbo.fn_numeric (@strn as varchar(8000))
```

```
returns varchar(8000)
```

```
AS
```

```
begin
```

```
    WHILE PATINDEX('%[^0-9]%', @strn) > 0
```

```
        SET @strn = REPLACE(@strn,SUBSTRING(@strn,PATINDEX('%[^0-9]%',
```

```
@strn),1),")
```

```
    RETURN @strn
```

```
end
```

```
GO
```

--sample data

```
create table t(strn varchar(50))
```

```
insert into t select 'call me' union all
```

```
select '1 (555) 555-8888' union all
```

```
select 'please email' union all
```

```
select '+049.890.9876' union all
```

```
select '0x0x0x' union all
```

```
select 'Work: (444) 123-4567'
```

--usage of above function

```
select strn, dbo.fn_numeric(strn) 'numeric'
```

```
from t
```

```
where isnumeric (dbo.fn_numeric (strn)) = 1
```

--

Vishal Parkar

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"Alyx" <alyxk@labx.com> wrote in message  
news:5a70dddd.0404271211.5669d2b7@posting.google.com...  
> *I need to strip all characters that are not a number from a string*  
> *variable in a sql procedure. There is not clear pattern to the*  
> *character the user can input.*  
>  
> *Example input for the phone field*  
> *1. call me*  
> *2. 1 (555) 555-8888*  
> *3. please email*  
> *4. +049.890.9876*  
> *5. 0x0x0x*  
> *6. Work: (444) 123-4567*  
>  
> *I need to strip the characters down to only a number so I can evalute*  
> *if a correct entry was made.*  
>  
> *After stripping and checking above example numbers 2,4, and 6 would be*  
> *the only examples that would come back valid.*  
>  
> *Any help would be appreciated.*  
>  
> *Thanks,*  
>  
> *Alyx*