



Data Types: Worth the Hype

1 Whole Number

This is the most compressible data type, and therefore the most desirable data type, if the data is suitable.

1.3 Decimal

This is a floating point decimal number data type. It allows for up to 15 total digits, regardless of where the decimal point is. If you know that you will never have fractional values, change the column to **Whole Number**.

\$ Fixed Decimal

Always store currency values as **Fixed Decimal**. This data type ensures that four digits of precision will be saved, after the decimal place. You can display as many decimal places you want without affecting the stored value.

🕒 Date & Time

Dates are stored as serial numbers, starting on December 31, 1899.
Time is stored as a serial number, starting at midnight.

☑ True/False

This is the data type if the data will be a yes/no or a 1/0.

ABC Text

The **Text** data type (aka string) is the least compressible data type. Try to avoid having any text in your **Fact** table. Text fields are best placed in **Dimension** tables.

There are several other data types: percentage, binary, duration. But these are the "big six" that you will use the most.