Invoke External Function

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Through the Search panel, you can access and apply functions that have been developed external to Trifacta®.

Pre-requisites

> **Also known as user-defined functions, external functions must be developed in an environment external to the product and then registered for use in it. These steps require developer skills. For more information, see *User-Defined Functions*.**

Invoke

After an external function has been registered with the product, you can complete the following steps to invoke the function within your recipe.

Steps:

1. In the Transform Builder, you can search for any of the following:
   a. `udf`
   b. `invoke external function`

   > **NOTE:** You cannot search for the name of the external function.

2. Select **Invoke external function**.
3. The list of available external functions is displayed. Select the function to use.
4. Depending on the function, the following options may be available:
   a. Columns: specify the column or columns to which to apply the function.
   b. Arguments: If the function accepts arguments, you can enter them on individual lines.
   c. New column name: Some functions generate a new column. Enter a new column name.
5. To add the instance of the function to your recipe, click **Add**.
6. The step is added to your recipe.

Examples

You can create these examples functions in Java for use in the platform. For more information, see *Java UDFs*.

ConcatUDF

The ConcatUDF function concatenates two strings together.

> **Tip:** This function is provided for demonstration purposes only. In practice, you should use the MERGE function instead. See *MERGE Function*.

Transformation Name	Invoke external function
Parameter: Column	colA, colB
Parameter: Arguments	(empty)
Parameter: New column name	myConcatUDFColumn

AdderUDF

The AdderUDF function adds an input value to a constant that is submitted by parameter. The following invocation of AdderUDF adds colA and the constant 100.

> **Tip:** This function is provided for demonstration purposes only. In practice, you should use the ADD function instead. See *ADD Function*.

Transformation Name	Invoke external function
Parameter: Column	colA
Parameter: Arguments	100
Parameter: New column name	myAdderUDFColumn