

# MERGE Function

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Merges two or more columns of String type to generate output of String type. Optionally, you can insert a delimiter between the merged values.

**NOTE:** This function behaves exactly like the `merge` transform, although the syntax is different. See *Merge Transform*.

## Basic Usage

### String literal reference example:

```
derive type:single value:MERGE(['Hello,', 'World'], ' ') as:'Hi'
```

**Output:** Generates a new column called `Hi` with the value `Hello, World`.

### Column reference example:

```
derive type:single value:MERGE([string1,string2]) as:'merged_strings'
```

**Output:** Generates a new `merged_strings` column containing a single String value that is the merge of `string1` and `string2` values .

## Syntax and Arguments

```
derive type:single value:MERGE([string_ref1,string_ref2], 'string_delim')
```

Argument	Required?	Data Type	Description
<code>string_ref1</code>	Y	string	Name of first column or first string literal to apply to the function
<code>string_ref2</code>	Y	string	Name of second column or second string literal to apply to the function
<code>string_delim</code>	N	string	Optional delimiter string to insert between column or literal values

For more information on syntax standards, see *Language Documentation Syntax Notes*.

### **string\_ref1, string\_ref2**

String literal or name of the string column whose elements you want to merge together. You can merge together two or more strings.

### Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
Yes	String literal or column reference	myString1, myString2


### string\_delim

Optional string literal to insert between each string that is being merged.

### Usage Notes:

Required?	Data Type	Example Value
No	String literal	' - '

### Examples

 **Tip:** For additional examples, see *Common Tasks*.

### Example - Simple merge example

The following example contains the names of a set of American authors. You need to bring together these column values into a new column, called `FullName`.

#### Source:

FirstName	LastName	MiddleInitial
Jack	Kerouac	L
Paul	Theroux	E
J.D.	Salinger	
Philip	Dick	K

#### Transform:

```
derive type:single value:MERGE([FirstName,MiddleInitial,LastName], ' ') as:'FullName'
```

Since the entry for J.D. Salinger has no middle name, you might want to add the following transform:

```
replace col:FullName with:' ' on:' '
```

#### Results:

FirstName	LastName	MiddleInitial	FullName
Jack	Kerouac	L	Jack L Kerouac
Paul	Theroux	E	Paul E Theroux
J.D.	Salinger		J.D. Salinger
Philip	Dick	K	Philip K Dick

## Other Examples

While the syntax may be different, the `MERGE` function behaves exactly like the `merge` transform. For more examples, see *Merge Transform*.