Overview of Target Matching

Contents:

In Designer Cloud Powered by Trifacta® Enterprise Edition, a **target** is the set of columns, their order, and their formats to which you are attempting to wrangle your dataset. This target can be defined through imported or created datasets and must be assigned to an existing recipe. After it is assigned to a recipe, a target appears in the Transformer page to assist in your wrangling efforts. You can also apply changes to selected columns based on the target.

Overview

In general, a target consists of the set of information required to define the expected data in a dataset. Often referred to as a "schema, " this target schema information can include:

- Names of columns
- Order of columns
- Column data types
- Data type format

A dataset associated with a target is expected to conform to the requirements of the schema. Where there are differences between target schema and dataset schema, a validation indicator is displayed.

Targets in the platform

In Designer Cloud Powered by Trifacta Enterprise Edition, a target is created from the information in a dataset and can be applied to a recipe in a flow. When you are working with the flow, the target information is available as your target for your wrangling activities. As you make changes in your recipe through the Transformer page, the target schema is available as a reference to see if your latest changes get you closer to matching the dataset to the target.

NOTE: A target schema contains information on column names, column data types, and the order in which the columns are organized in the target. The length of individual columns is not maintained or enforced.

Known Limitations

- Targets are applied only after initial type inferencing has been applied to the loaded dataset.

  Tip: As needed, you can disable initial type inferencing when data is imported into the product. See *Import Data Page*.

- Type-based matching applies a `settype` transform to any selected column. No pattern matching or standardization is applied. For more information, see *Overview of Pattern Matching*.
- A target schema is a snapshot of the source at the time of creation. You cannot modify a target schema within the product. You must delete it and recreate it.

> **Tip:** If your target schema source is a recipe, then you can modify the recipe as needed and use it as your target again.

Creating Targets

Sources for creating a target

The schema used to define a target can be imported and assigned from any of the following objects, including:

- Output of a recipe in the same flow
- A reference dataset from another flow
- An imported dataset

> **NOTE:** Changes to the underlying objects of a target schema are not reflected in the schema. A target schema is a snapshot of the object at the time of its creation. To update, delete the target and create a new one. For more information, see *Create Target*.

Ideally, the source of the target schema should come from the publishing target. If you are publishing to a pre-existing target, you can create do one of the following:

- **Reference the target:** If the schema is represented in a dataset to which you have access in Designer Cloud Powered by Trifacta Enterprise Edition, you can use it as your target schema.
- **Import the target:** Import the target table or schematized source into Designer Cloud Powered by Trifacta Enterprise Edition as an imported dataset. Then, it can be selected as the target schema for any recipe to which you have access. See *Import Data Page*.
- **Extract target to a supported format:** If you cannot import the target directly into Designer Cloud Powered by Trifacta Enterprise Edition, you could create an extract of a few rows, including the header, for the target into one of the formats supported for import. For more information, see *Supported File Formats*.

Creating a target for a recipe

You can create a target through one of the following mechanisms:

- **Flow View:** Select a recipe. From the context menu in the right panel, select **Assign Target to Recipe**. See *Flow View Page*.
- **Transformer Page:** Above the data grid, click the Target icon and select **Attach a new Target**.
  - See *Transformer Toolbar*.
  - You can do the same thing in the Column Browser panel. See *Column Browser Panel*.
- **Export Results Window:** After you have exported results and then imported them successfully into the target system, you can create a new dataset from the Export Results window. Through Flow View, this imported dataset can be used as the schema for wrangling. See *Export Results Window*.

For more information, see *Create Target*.

Using a target

After a target has been attached to a recipe, the target schema appears in a toolbar above the data grid along with a preview of the data. You can then make modifications to the data so that each column matches the definition for the corresponding column in the schema. See *Data Grid Panel*.

Through the data grid and the Column Browser, you can perform operations on selected columns in your dataset to align them with the target schema. For more information, see *Column Browser Panel*.

Running jobs on recipes with assigned targets

> **NOTE:** You can run a job even if there are differences between the schema and your dataset. In Designer Cloud Powered by Trifacta Enterprise Edition, no error checking is performed between schema and data prior to job execution. If you are publishing to a target that has a predefined schema, a publication error may be generated.

Disabling target matching

For more information on disabling this feature, see *Miscellaneous Configuration*.