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# Calculated Columns in a database

Peter Jackson - 2024-04-02 - Databases

#### **Calculations**

You can set a text, long text, formatted text, number or date column in a Kahootz Database to be a calculated column instead of a user having to enter values directly.

This means that the values in that column are calculated based on other values in the entry each time it is saved. For example, adding up a set of other number columns or combining some text and displaying that value within the calculated column for you.

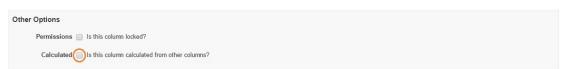
Your calculation can be a simple expression, such as adding or multiplying values, or it can contain code and logic.

You can also use a range of operators and functions within your calculation to obtain the required data. More information about the operators and functions you can use is given below.

If you add or update a calculation on a column, the existing database entries will be updated in the background. For a Database with many rows, this can take some time; calculations will also be updated when you add or change an entry.

A calculation column is added after initially creating a database by following these simple steps below.

- 1. Open the Database you want to add a calculated column, and under the "Actions" section, select "manage database" link.
- 2. Select the column and at the bottom of the page, under "other options" tick the checkbox for calculated as shown below.

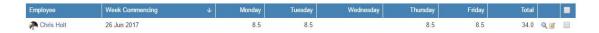


3. Add an expression or code and click save; see the screenshot below.



\* This would allow the following Database below to add all the hours from each weekday, totalling them into the last column.

 $\textbf{Kahootz Tip:} \ \text{Adding val ( } \{\{\text{column}\}\} \ ) \ \text{ignores any blank columns within your Database}.$ 



Please see below for more details on formats, expressions & coding.

#### **Basic Format**

You can use the value of other columns in your calculation by putting the column name between {{ and }}. A list of the available column names will be shown on the **add / modify column** page when you're adding calculations, and you can click on them to insert them into the calculation.

You can use round brackets () to make sure your calculation is evaluated in the order you expect - so (2 + 4)/2

will do the addition first, then the division - giving 3. Normal mathematical precedence will apply without the brackets, 2 + 4 / 2, so it will do 4 / 2 first, then + 2, giving 4.

You can search and sort on calculated columns.

You can use one calculated column in another calculation. They are evaluated in column order, so if you want to use one calculation in another, ensure the first one is higher up the column order.

If there is an error from your code due to particular inputs for a row, the column will be set to blank.

## **Simple Expressions**

Examples

Adding two number columns together: {{days on activity 1}} + {{days on activity 2}}

Multiplying two number columns together:  $\{\{cost\ per\ hour\}\} * \{\{total\ hours\}\}$ 

Showing one number column as a percentage of another:  ${\{\text{hours spent on activity}\}} / {\{\text{total hours}\}\} * 100}$ 

Showing that percentage as a whole number (no decimal places):  $int({hours spent on activity}}/{{total hours}}*100)$ 

Work out the number of days between two dates: daysBetween( {{start date}}}, {{end date}}})

#### **Numeric operators**

You can use the following operators to combine numbers:

Addition	number1 + number2	Example: To calculate the total number of days spent on activity1 and activity2: {{days on activity1}} + {{days on activity2}}
Subtraction	number1 - number2	Example: To calculate the cost after discount: {{Original cost}} - {{discount}}
Multiplication	number1 * number2	<pre>Example: To calculate the total cost of a number of items: {{Cost per item}} * {{number of items}}</pre>
Division	number1 / number2	<pre>Example: To calculate the cost per hour: {{Total cost}} / {{number of hours}}</pre>
Integer division	number1 \ number2	How many times one number can be divided by another in whole numbers, ignoring the remainder. eg:5 / 2 = $2.5$ but $5 \setminus 2 = 2$
Division-remainder	number1 mod number2	The remainder after dividing one number by another. eg: 5 mod $2 = 1$ (2*2=4, with 1 remaining)
Blank column/value	val ( {{column}} )	In all these operators, if a numeric column/value is blank it'll be treated as an error, to treat empty columns as 0.  Use this expression - please refer to the example/screenshot above.

#### **Number Functions**

You can use the following functions to manipulate numbers:

The absolute value of a number is the Absolute value abs( number ) number without a sign, eg: abs(2) = 2 and abs(-2) = 2Gives the closest whole number, rounding up or down as nearest. eg: round(1.1) = 1 and round(1.9) = 2Halves will be rounded to the nearest Rounding round( number ) even number to avoid bias eg: round(1.5) = 2 and round(2.5) = 2 and round(3.5)Gives the closest whole number, always rounding up. Rounding up ceiling( number ) eg: ceiling(1.1) = 2 and ceiling(1.9) = 2Gives the closest whole number, always rounding down. Rounding down int( number ) eg: int(1.1) = 1 and int(1.9) =Return the maximum of number1 and Maximum max( number1, number2 ) number2. Only handles two numbers, not more. Return the minimum of number1 and **Minimum** min( number1, number2) number2. Only handles two numbers,

### **Text Operator**

for adding numbers. You will also need to put in spaces explicitly where wanted.

eg: {{first name}} & " " & {{surname}}

not more.

Note that this does not use + which is

Performs a case-sensitive or insensitive

## **Text Functions**

comparison of two text columns. compare( text1, text2 ) Return a negative number if text1 is less Comparing text compareNoCase( text1, text2 ) than text2; returns 0 if text1 is equal to text2; returns a positive number if text1 is greater than text2. Finds the first occurrence of a text\_to\_find in text. find is case sensitive, findNoCase is find( text\_to\_find, text ) Find position findNoCase(text\_to\_find, text) Returns the position of text to find in text; or 0, if text\_to\_find is not in text Return text with text to insert inserted into text after character position. If position=0, it prefixes text\_to\_insert to text. Insert at position insert( text\_to\_insert, text, position ) eg:insert(" My ","Hello Friend",5)
returns "Hello My Friend" Return a text with num chars removed starting at position start\_position. Remove from position removeChars( text, start\_position, num\_chars ) eg:removeChars("Hello Friend",5,7) returns "Hello' Convert to lower case lcase( text ) Return text converted to lower case. Convert to upper case ucase( text ) Return text converted to upper case. Return text in reverse order. eg: reverse("kahootz") returns reverse( text ) Reverse "ztoohak' Return the length - how many characters -Length of text len( text ) are in text. Includes spaces and other punctuation.

Return the leftmost num chars characters of Characters from left left( text, num\_chars ) text. Counting includes spaces and other punctuation. Return the rightmost num chars characters Characters from right right( text, num chars ) of text. Counting includes spaces and other punctuation. Return num chars of characters from text mid( text, start\_position, num\_chars ) Characters from position starting at position start\_position.eg:
mid("kahootz",3,4) returns "hoot" Return text with occurrences of remove replaced by insert. If the scope is "1" then just the first occurrence is replaced. replace(text, remove, insert [, scope]) Find and replace If the scope is "ALL" then all occurrences replaceNoCase( text, remove, insert [, scope] ) are replaced. (Versions using Regular Expressions for very advanced use are available - ask support!) Return characters from text, from the beginning until the first character in characters to exclude. The search is case sensitive, so if you want to stop at either A **Substring until** spanExcluding( text, characters to exclude ) or a, then put both in characters\_to\_exclude. spanExcluding("kahootz.doc",".,/") returns "kahootz" Return characters from text, from the beginning until the first character that is NOT in characters to include. The search is case sensitive, so if you want to include both Substring until not spanIncluding( text, characters\_to\_include ) A and a, then put both in characters to include. eg: spanIncluding("aardvark", "aeiou") returns "aa" Return text with any leading and trailing Trim spaces trim( text ) spaces removed. Return text with any spaces at the Trim leading spaces ltrim( text ) beginning removed. Return text with any spaces at the end Trim trailing spaces rtrim( text ) Return text converted to a number. Handles decimal places. Text that can't be returned to a number will cause an error, and thus a Convert to number val( text ) blank calculated column (but see conditional operator 'isNumeric() in the code section below)

# **Dates and Times**

Date values in the following functions can either be taken from columns (of date, date and time, month and year, entry creation date / date-time or entry modify date / date-time types) or entered as explicit dates in the format yyyymmdd - eg 20170401 is 1st April 2017

*Time* values in the following functions can either be taken from columns (of date and time, time, entry creation date-time or entry modify date-time types) or entered as explicit times in the format *hhmmss* 

To show a calculated value in a 'date' column the result must be a valid date, but you can use the other result formats in text or number columns.

#### **Date Functions - returning a number**

Day of Week	dayOfWeek( date )	day of the week of <i>date</i> in the range 1 (Sunday) to 7 (Saturday)
Day Of Year	dayOfYear( date )	Return a number of the day of the year, in the range 1 (1st Jan) - 365 (31st Dec - or 366 in leap year)
Days in Month	daysInMonth( date )	Returns the number of days in the specified month (ie: 28, 29, 30 or 31)
Days In Year	daysInYear( date )	Return the number of days in the specified year (ie: 365 or 366 for leap years)

Return a number for the

appropriate part of the year( date ) specified date/time. Year is month( date ) returned in four figures Parts of a Date / Time day( date ) (2017); Month as 1-12; Day hour(time) as 1-31; Hour in 24-hour minute(time) notation as 0-23; Minute as 0-59 Return the number of days that date2 is after date1. If date2 is before date1, a Days after daysAfter( date1, date2 ) negative number is returned. If either is not a valid date, then empty text is returned. Return the number of days between date1 and date2. It doesn't matter which date Days between daysBetween( date1, date2) is earlier, and will always return a positive number. If either is not a valid date, then empty text is returned. Return the number of "units" by which date1 is less than date2. datepart should be one of the following strings "yyyy": Years"q": Quarters (any 3 month period)"m": Date / Time Difference dateDiff(datepart, date1, date2 ) Months"d": Days"ww": Weeks"h": Hours"n": MinutesIf date2 is before date1, a negative number is returned. If either is not a valid date, then empty text is returned. Return -1 if date1 is earlier than date2; Return 0 if date1 is the same as date2; **Date / Time Comparison** dateCompare( date1, date2 ) Return 1 if date1 is later than date2; Accurate to the second if used with datetimes or times. Uses the date the entry was last saved or updated of **Current Date** which can be used in now () various calculations, see

Return a number for the

For example, you have a database using a "date" column and you want to return the total number of days the entries have been open/outstanding.

You can use this function to show the elapsed days between the created date and today's date by adding "now ()" to the calculation, as shown below.

Calculation

daysBetween( {{Created Date}}, now() )

100	-	o /	
2 69	(	0 /	
3 41		o /	
10	(	0 /	
	2 69 3 41	2 69 d 3 41 d	2 69 <b>o /</b> 41 <b>o /</b>

**Kahootz Tip:** The example above **will not update automatically**, therefore, when you view the database the next day - the values will not have changed.

The calculation for "current date" uses the date of when the calculation was last saved/updated - (please **remember** this if you're going to use this value)

# Date Functions - returning a date

Add to / Subtract from a date dateAdd(datepart, number, date)

Create Date createDate( year, month, day )

Create Date - Time createDateTime( year, month, day, hour, minute, second )

Return a new date by adding the specified number of units to date. datepart should be one of the following strings "yyyy": Years"q": Quarters"m": Months"d": Days"w": Weekdays (Mon-Fri, skipping Sat and Sun. Simple addition, not aware of public holidays etc)"ww": Weeks "h": Hours"m": Minutes If number is positive you'll get dates after date, ie: forwards in time. To go backwards in time use a negative value for number.

Create a date from three numbers, eg: CreateDate(2017,2,14) represents 14th Feb 2017

Create a date-time from six

numbers, eg:
CreateDateTime(2017,2,14,15,5,17)
represents 14th Feb 2017 15:05:17
- just after 3pm

### **Comma-Separated Lists**

ListFirst	ListFirst( {{column}}, delimiter )	Returns the first element in a list: This function will return the first element in a list delimited by the character specified in the expression. For example: {{ column }} is a,b,c,d,e,f using the expression ListFirst( {{ column }},',') will return a
ListLast	ListLast( {{column}}, delimiter)	Returns the last element in a list: This function will return the last element in a list delimited by the character specified in the expression. For example: {{ column }} is a,b,c,d,e,f using the expression ListLast( {{ column}}, ',') will return f
ListRest	ListRest( {{column}}, delimiter)	Returns all but the first element from a list: This function will return the list without the first element in the list as delimited by the character specified in the expression. For example: $\{\{\text{column}\}\}\$ is a,b,c,d,e,f using the expression ListRest( $\{\{\text{column}\}\}$ ,',') will return b,c,d,e,f
ListGetAt	ListGetAt( {{column}}, pos, delimiter )	Returns the element in the specified position from a list: This function will return a single element from the delimited list at a position specified in the expression. For example: $\{\{\text{column}\}\}\$ is $a/b/c/d/e/f$ using the expression ListGetAt( $\{\{\text{column}\}\}, 3, '/'$ ) will return c
ListFind	ListFind( {{column}}, value, delimiter)	Returns the index of the list that is matched by the value supplied. If no match is found, 0 will be returned. For example $\{\{\text{column }\}\}$ is Orange,Apple,Banana using the expression ListFind( $\{\{\text{column }\}\}, \text{'Banana'}, ',')$ will return 3. As ListFind is case sensitive if the expression were ListFind( $\{\{\text{column }\}\}, \text{'banana'}, ',')$ , the value returned would be 0.
ListFindNoCase	If you are unsure of the case of the value use: ListFindNoCase( {{column}}, value, delimiter )	Returns the index of the list that is matched by the value supplied whilst ignoring the case of the value and column. If no match is found, 0 will be returned. For example {{ column }} is oRaNGe,aPPLe,BaNaNa using the expression ListFind( {{ column }}, 'banana', ',') will return 3
ListDeleteAt	ListDeleteAt( {{column}}, position, delimiter)	Returns the list after removing the element specified with the position value.  For example: {{ column }} is hop,skip,run,jump, using the expression ListDeleteAt( {{ column }}, 3, ',') will returnly skip jump'

returnhop,skip,jump`

ListAppend	ListAppend( {{column}}, value, delimiter )	Returns a list with a new value added to the end of the list.  For example: {{column}} is Hola/Bonjour/Salve, using the expression ListAppend( {{column}}, 'Hello', '/') would return the Hola/Bonjour/Salve/Hello
ListPrepend	ListPrepend( {{column}}, value, delimter)	Returns a list with a new value added to the start of the list.  For example: {{column}} is Hola,Bonjour,Salve, using the expression ListPrepend( {{column}}, 'Hello', ',') would return the Hello,Hola,Bonjour,Salve
ListRemoveDuplicates	$List Remove Duplicates (\ \{\{column\}\},\ delimiter\ )$	Returns a value where any duplicate values have been removed from the list. For example {{column}} is dog,cat,bird,dog,fish,rabbit, using the expression ListRemoveDuplicates( {{column}},',') would return dog,cat,bird,fish,rabbit.
ListSort	ListSort( {{column}}, sortType, sortOrder, delimiter)	Returns a list where each element has been sorted. Options for sortType are: numeric and text. The options for sortOrder are: asc and desc. To sort a {{column}} whose value is 8,3,9,12,1,5,2 in ascending numerical order the expression would be ListSort({{column}}, 'numeric', 'asc', ',') and the value would be 1,2,3,5,8,9,12
ListLen	ListLen( {{column}}, delimiter)	Returns the number of elements in a list: This function will return the number of elements in a list as delimited by the character specified in the expression. For example: {{ column }} is a;b;c;d;e;f using the expression ListLen({{column}}, ';') will return 6
PatternFind	PatternFind( {{column}}, mask, startPos)	Returns a value from the column that matches the pattern specified in the expression. If a startPos is supplied, any characters before the startPos position will be ignored when matching for patterns. Using this expression, it is possible to utilise pattern masks that behave like input masks used for sanitising user input into forms. More information on Masks can be found at <a href="https://help.kahootz.com/kb/articles/input-masks">https://help.kahootz.com/kb/articles/input-masks</a>

A mask can form a series of characters to represent the characters matched by the pattern. PatternFind will only return the first match found, so if multiple possible matches are in a column, only the first match will be returned.

For example: Where {{column}} is abc1 def2 ghi3

The expression patternFind(  $\{\{column\}\}, 'AAAN', 1$ ) attempts to match any string that has 3 mandatory letters followed by a number.

While each element in the column would match the pattern, the value abc1 would be returned from the function.

PatternFindPosition( {{column}}, mask, startPos) Returns the start position of a value from the column that matches the pattern specified in the expression.

If a startPos is supplied any characters before the startPos position will be ignored when matching for patterns.

### **Writing Code**

You can also write code to make decisions, as well as simple expressions.

There is a range of tags and logical operators for this. You can also use variables in your code to store intermediate values.

When you write code, you must set a variable called calcResult, which will be displayed in the Database cell.

Kahootz Tip: when writing code, there is a maximum character limit of 50,000

# **Tags**

**<SET** var\_name = expression> - Set the variable var\_name to the result of calculating expression.

Kahootz Tip: Note that all variable names must begin with the string "var\_".

#### Conditional Operators - return true or false, used in IF or ELSEIF conditions

The logical operators AND, OR and NOT are supported, returning true or false

value1 EQ value2 - Test if value1 equals value2 - works on both numbers and text (case insensitive)

value1 NEQ value2 - Test if value1 is not equal to value2- works on both numbers and text (case insensitive)

number1 GT number2 - Test if number1 is greater than number2

number1 GTE number2 - Test if number1 is greater than or equal to number2

number1 LT number2 - Test if number1 is less than number2

number1 LTE number2 - Test if number1 is less than or equal to number2

**isNumeric(** *text* ) - Test if *text* can be converted to a number - true if it can, false if it can't. (eg: can be used to check if something is a valid number and explain the error if it can't rather than let the calculation fail and return blank.)

#### **Using Conditions**

<IF condition>
CODE
</IF>
<IF condition1>
CODE1
<ELSEIF condition2>
CODE2
<ELSEIF condition3>
CODE3
<ELSE>
CODE4
</IF>

Executes CODE if the condition is true. The format of a condition block starts with <IF condition> and it requires an end marked </IF> .

This is an example of conditional branching, it executes one of the CODE blocks depending on which condition is true. If none of the conditions are true then the CODE following <ELSE> is executed (CODE4). You can have as many <elseif condition> blocks as you like, but only one <else>. Again the conditional IF statement must finish with the end marker </IF> .

### **Example**

```
<SET var_daysAfterTargetDate = daysAfter( {{delivery date}}, {{planned delivery date}} )>
<IF var_daysAfterTargetDate EQ "">
<SET calcResult = "Bad date!"><ELSEIF var_daysAfterTargetDate LT 0>
<SET calcResult = "Early"><ELSEIF var_daysAfterTargetDate EQ 0>
<SET calcResult = "On time"><ELSE>
<SET calcResult = "Late"></IF>
```

### **Related Content**

- Evaluated Columns in a Database
- How-To use Linked Databases
- <u>Linking Databases Together</u>
- Database Column Types & Maximum Character Limits
- Using a database for time recording