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## Article

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## View stream properties in SQL

Stream datatypes are not displayed when you execute SQL (in SMP for example).

The following query (SAMPLES namespace):

```
SELECT TOP 2 ID, Notes FROM Sample.Employee
```

Produces this output:

ID	Notes
101	1%Stream.GlobalCharacter^Sample.PersonS
102	3%Stream.GlobalCharacter^Sample.PersonS

To get around that use [SUBSTRING](#) operator:

```
SELECT TOP 2 ID, SUBSTRING(Notes, 1) FROM Sample.Employee
```

It produces much more useful output:

ID	Notes
101	Juanita used to work at TelePedia Inc. as a(n) Associate Manager
102	Danielle used to work at MetaTel Corp. as a(n) Assistant WebMaster

To limit the length of the stream property use three argument form:

```
SELECT TOP 10 ID, SUBSTRING(Notes, 1, 100) FROM Sample.Employee
```

In this example only the first 100 characters from a stream would be returned.

[#SQL](#) [#Caché](#)

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