Converting Attribute Types in MDM

Description:

Sometimes, data is imported or added where the attribute type is incorrect and needs to be changed, for example, from Text to numeric or from numeric to coupled numeric.

MDM allows you to convert an attribute between types using the Convert Type command.

Text to Numeric:

When you convert from text to numeric, MDM opens a dialog that includes the ratings and options controls of the Attribute Detail tab and a two-column grid. The first column lists the entire set of text values for the attribute; the second column lists the corresponding numeric values and units of measure.

MDM then assists you in converting the values, as follows:

- Sets the rating for the converted attribute to Nominal, the Dimension and Default Unit to None, Decimal Places to 0, and Show Fractions off.
- Populates the first column with text strings of all of the distinct text values for the text attribute across the entire repository.
- Populates the second column with as many converted numeric values as it can discern in the corresponding text strings.
- When you specify a Dimension, updates the second column with as many converted unit of measure values as it can discern in the corresponding text strings.
- When you specify a Default Unit, updates the second column with units of measure for all remaining values that do not yet have a unit of measure.
- Allows you to specify a setting for the Decimal Places option.
- When you set the Show Fractions option, updates the second column to display the numeric values as fractions, where possible.
- Allows you to manually enter numeric values and/or units of measure that it cannot discern, or override values that it has populated automatically.
- Finally, MDM converts the attribute from text to numeric based on the values you specify.

NOTE: you must enter a numeric value (and unit of measure, if you have specified a dimension) for every text value in the list before MDM permits you to press Ok. Otherwise, MDM would not have enough information to convert the attribute.

To change an attribute’s type from text to numeric:

1. In the Attributes pane, select the text attribute whose type you want to Convert to numeric.
2. Right-click on the attribute and choose Convert Type from the context menu, or choose Attributes > Convert Type from the main menu.
3. Choose to Numeric from the cascading menu of conversions to open the Convert Attribute Type from Text to Numeric dialog shown in Figure ".
4. MDM populates the first column of the grid with text strings of all of the distinct text values for the text attribute across the entire repository and the second column with the converted numeric values.
5. Choose the single Rating for the converted attribute.
6. Specify the Dimension for the converted attribute.
7. Specify the settings for the number of Decimal Places and the Show Fractions option of the converted attribute.
8. Enter or override the numeric value and/or unit of measure for each Text value.
9. Click Ok when you are done to close the dialog.
10. MDM converts the selected attribute.

Converting from text to coupled is very similar to converting from text to Numeric as described under "Text to Numeric" above, except that the converted attribute requires a Coupled Name, and the grid includes a third column for the converted numeric values and associated units of Measure of the coupled dimension.

NOTE: MDM uses the '@' as the separator when it attempts to parse and convert each text string into two measurement values.

To change an attribute’s type from text to coupled numeric:

1. In the Attributes pane, select the text attribute whose type you want to Convert to coupled.
2. Right-click on the attribute and choose Convert Type from the context Menu, or choose Attributes > Convert Type from the main menu.

3. Choose to Coupled from the cascading menu of conversions to open the dialog shown in Figure.

4. MDM populates the first column of the grid with text strings of all of the Distinct text values for the text attribute across the entire repository and the second and third columns with the converted numeric values.

5. Enter a Coupled Name for the converted attribute.


7. Specify the settings for the number of Decimal Places and the Show Fractions option for both dimensions of the converted attribute.

8. Enter or override the pair of numeric values and units of measure for each text value.

9. Click OK when you are done to close the dialog.

10. MDM converts the selected attribute.

**Numeric or Coupled Numeric to Text:**

When you convert from numeric or coupled numeric to text, MDM can convert every numeric value or value pair into a text string automatically and the conversion proceeds without user intervention.

To change an attribute's type from either numeric or coupled numeric to text:

1. In the Attributes pane, select the numeric or coupled numeric attribute whose type you want to convert to text.

2. Right-click on the attribute and choose Convert Type from the context Menu, or choose Attributes > Convert Type from the main menu.

3. Choose to Text from the cascading menu of conversions.

4. MDM prompts you to confirm that you really want to convert the Attribute. Click OK to convert the attribute type to text.

5. MDM creates a text value list that includes a text value for each distinct Numeric value (or value pair) that existed for the numeric (or coupled Numeric) attribute across the entire repository, generated by converting each numeric value (or value pair) into a text string.

**Numeric to Coupled Numeric:**

When you convert from numeric to coupled numeric, MDM opens a dialog that requires you to supply the coupled information, and just a single coupled numeric value.

To change an attribute's type from numeric to coupled numeric:

1. In the Attributes pane, select the numeric attribute whose type you want to convert to coupled numeric.

2. Right-click on the attribute and choose Convert Type from the context Menu, or choose Attributes > Convert Type from the main menu.

3. Choose to Coupled from the cascading menu of conversions to open the dialog shown in Figure.

4. Enter a Coupled Name for the converted attribute.

5. Specify the coupled Dimension for the converted attribute.

6. Specify the settings for the number of Decimal Places and the Show Fractions option for the coupled dimension of the converted attribute.

7. Enter a single numeric value and unit of measure for all of the coupled values of the converted attribute.

8. Click OK when you are done to close the dialog.

9. MDM converts the selected attribute.

**Coupled Numeric to Numeric:**

When you convert from coupled numeric to numeric, MDM truncates the coupled numeric value from every value pair for the coupled numeric attribute across the entire repository.

To change an attribute's type from coupled numeric to numeric:

1. In the Attributes pane, select the coupled numeric attribute whose type you want to convert to numeric.

2. Right-click on the attribute and choose Convert Type from the context menu, or choose Attributes > Convert Type from the main menu.

3. Choose To Numeric from the cascading menu of conversions.

4. MDM prompts you to confirm that you really want to convert the attribute, and warn you that the numeric values associated with the coupled
dimension will be discarded. Click OK to convert the attribute type to numeric.

5. MDM converts the selected attribute.

* Convert Attribute Type Constraints:

For Convert to Text:

Following are the constraints:

1. Must be in Taxonomy mode
2. Attributes pane must have focus
3. Exactly one attribute must be selected
4. The selected attribute cannot be in a matching set
5. The selected attribute must be numeric or coupled, and if numeric, cannot have multiple ratings

For Convert to Numeric:

Following are the constraints:

1. Must be in Taxonomy mode
2. Attributes pane must have focus
3. Exactly one attribute must be selected
4. The selected attribute cannot be in a matching set
5. The selected attribute must be text or coupled

For Convert to Coupled:

Following are the constraints:

1. Must be in Taxonomy mode
2. Attributes pane must have focus
3. Exactly one attribute must be selected
4. The selected attribute cannot be in a matching set
5. The selected attribute must be text or numeric, and if numeric, cannot have multiple ratings