# Substring

| Block Group: | String Operations |
|---|---|
| Icon: |  |

The Substring block returns a specific substring from a string.

The block checks for parameters in the following order of importance:

- A start character position and length
- A start character position and end character position
- An end character position and length

For information on using dataflow blocks, see Dataflow.

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## Input/Output Properties

The following properties of the Substring block can take input and give output.

- input *(string)*
- start *(number)*
- length *(number)*
- end *(number)*

**input** specifies the text string that contains the characters to extract.

**start** determines the position of the first character to extract. A value of 0 indicates the first character in the input. A negative value counts from the end of the input; for example, -3 indicates the third character from the end.

**length** specifies the number of characters to extract.

**end** determines the position after the last character to extract. The character at the **end** position is not included. A negative value counts from the end of the input.

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## Output Property

The following property of the Substring block can give output but cannot take input.

- output *(string)*

**output** returns the substring.

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## Special Cases

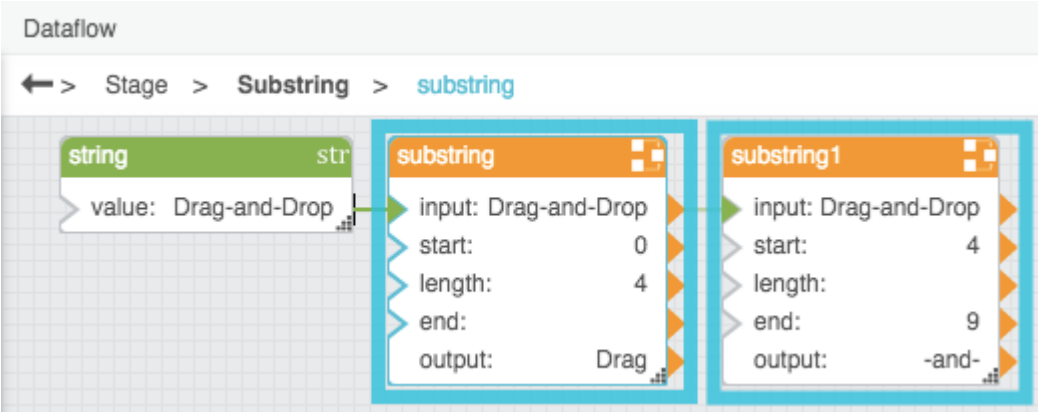
The following are special cases for the Substring block:

- If **start**, **length**, and **end** are null, the full input string is returned.
- If only **length** is set, the first **length** characters are returned.
- If only **end** and **length** are set, the substring of **length** characters that ends at **end** is returned.
- If **end** is 0 and **start** or **length** is greater than 0, **end** is treated as the end of the input.
- If **start** or **end** is outside the input, or if **start** plus **length** exceeds the length of **input**, **output** returns null.
- If **input** is null, **output** returns null.

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## Examples

The following image demonstrates two examples of the Substring block. The leftmost Substring block returns a four-character substring that begins with the character at position 0. The rightmost Substring block returns a substring that begins with the character at position 9.




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