Importing external data: I get ZERO's when importing DATE and TIME types

It is an issue with the data type. DATE and TIME data types - and their implementations - differ quite a lot across database systems. And things do not get less complicated as there is an ODBC-layer 'in-between' the source and the target. It simply is not possible to take every detail of every implementation into account automatically.

Note that

- By default SQLyog Import External Data Tool map such types to a MySQL TIMESTAMP type. We believe that that is most often what most users want and need. But In 'non-strict' mode an invalid value for a TIMESTAMP is silently converted to a ZERO-date by the MySQL server. So this is the reason for the occurring ZERO's
- After import you may want to adjust the column definition using the 'on update CURRENT_TIMESTAMP' clause on MySQL versions that support it.
- The MySQL TIMESTAMP type does not support dates like 1919-01-01 for instance. MySQL TIMESTAMP starts at '1970-01-01 00:00:00'. You will need to use a DATETIME (or a DATE if there is not 'time of day' involved) for such data. You can set the mapping behind the 'map' button for each column.
- There are 'range' restrictions with DATE and DATETIME too but they are rarely of practical importance! However with 'archeological data' you may need to construct your own date format using more columns of simple types - or simply use an signed integer for instance.

Also refer to the MySQL docs at:

http://mysql.com/doc/refman/5.0/en/date-and-time-types.html

(please note that the implementation of those types differ slightly with different MySQL versions!)

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