

# ObjectId in MongoDB

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An **ObjectId** is a BSON type (12 bytes) with the following structure:

The first 4 bytes represent the **number of seconds** from UNIX Epoch.

The next 3 bytes is the machine **id** .

The next 2 bytes are the **process id** .

And the last 3 bytes are a **random counting value** .

MongoDB uses ObjectId as the default value of the **\_id** field for each Document that is created while creating any Document. The complex combination of ObjectId makes all **\_id** fields unique.

## Create a new ObjectId in MongoDB

To create a new ObjectId, you use:

```
> newObjectId = ObjectId ( )
```

The above command returns the following unique created id:

```
ObjectId ( "5349b4ddd2781d08c09890f3" )
```

In MongoDB, instead of creating ObjectId, you can also provide an ID of 12 bytes as follows:

```
> myObjectId = ObjectId ( "5349b4ddd2781d08c09890f4" )
```

## Get the Timestamp of a Document

By default, **\_id** ObjectId stores a Timestamp of 4 bytes in length, so in most cases, you do not need to store the creation time of any Document. You can get the creation time of a Document using the **getTimestamp** method:

```
> ObjectId ( "5349b4ddd2781d08c09890f4" ). getTimestamp ( )
```

This command will return the creation time of this Document in ISO Date format:

```
ISODate ( "2014-04-12T21:49:17Z" )
```

## Convert ObjectId into String in MongoDB

In some cases, you may need the value of ObjectId in string format. To convert ObjectId into a string, you use:

```
> newObjectId . str
```

The above code will return Guid's string format:

```
5349b4ddd2781d08c09890f3
```

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