# Increment a var by one every 24 hours from a specific date

Asked 7 years, 5 months ago    Active 3 years, 8 months ago    Viewed 3k times

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I've never used Javascript before (or any other programming language) so sorry for asking this question because im sure it's very simple.

What I want to do is set a date in Javascript, then increment it by one every 24 hours. So three days after the date is set, 3 is displayed in the HTML (not the date itself). And after 100 days, 100 is displayed.

Thank you.

javascript    date    increment

asked Feb 19 '13 at 1:55

spamy
47 ● 1 ● 5

You should firstly understand that JavaScript running in browser sandbox and once user close the browser there will be no chance your JavaScript keep running, and once page reload the JavaScript variable will just be reset, so generally speaking in most cases you never get a chance see the number changed. You should find some other way to achieve your goal – Simon Wang Feb 19 '13 at 1:58

JavaScript has to run somewhere (most commonly in a web browser)...it's usually bad to assume that a web browser will be open for any length of time (or at a specific time). It would be much better to use a job/service which is designed with this level of durability in mind. – Tim Medora Feb 19 '13 at 1:58 ✎

You need to learn how to store data for long periods then look into the date object in javascript. – James Coyle Feb 19 '13 at 1:59

you can use setTimeout function for doing an action in fixed intervals – 999k Feb 19 '13 at 2:05

I don't suppose storing data is simple to do is it? – spamy Feb 19 '13 at 2:06

## 2 Answers

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You have to create two date objects, one representing your initial date, and another one representing right now. Then, calculate the difference:

```
// Calculate days since Dec 1st 2012
var initialDate = new Date(2012, 11, 1); // Attention: month is zero-based
var now = Date.now();
var difference = now - initialDate;
var millisecondsPerDay = 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000;
var daysSince = Math.floor(difference / millisecondsPerDay);
```

http://jsfiddle.net/TmTTc/

answered Feb 19 '13 at 2:14
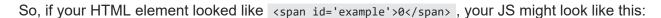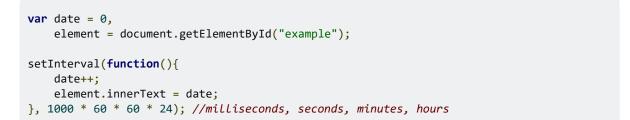
bfavaretto
**68k** ● 15 ● 95 ● 141

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If you are looking to show how many days the page has been open, you want to use the setInterval function: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/DOM/window.setInterval.

So, if your HTML element looked like `<span id='example'>0</span>`, your JS might look like this:

0

```
var date = 0,
    element = document.getElementById("example");

setInterval(function(){
    date++;
    element.innerText = date;
}, 1000 * 60 * 60 * 24); //milliseconds, seconds, minutes, hours
```

Though, it seems unlikely any page would sit unrefreshed for any significant length of time. If you need to persist the date variable beyond page refreshes you could look into localstorage.

answered Feb 19 '13 at 2:17

btbright
**76** ● 2

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