

MongoDB CRUD Operations > Query Documents > Query for Null or Missing Fields

Query for Null or Missing Fields

This page provides examples in:

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Different query operators in MongoDB treat `null` values differently.

This page provides examples of operations that query for `null` values using the `db.collection.find()` method in the mongo shell. The examples on this page use the `inventory` collection. To populate the `inventory` collection, run the following:

```
db.inventory.insertMany([
  { _id: 1, item: null },
  { _id: 2 }
])
```

You can run the operation in the web shell below:

Connecting...

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connecting to: mongodb://127.0.0.1:27017/?

authSource=admin&compressors=disabled&gssapiServiceName=mongodb

Implicit session: session { "id" : UUID("b8dbce36-f192-46ae-8e13-28d8fa85bb28") } Full

MongoDB server version: 4.2.0

type "help" for help

```
>>> db.inventory.insertMany([
...   { _id: 1, item: null },
...   { _id: 2 }
... ])
```

Reset

```
{ "acknowledged" : true, "insertedIds" : [ 1, 2 ] }
```

Clear

```
>>> db.inventory.find( { item: null } )
```

```
{ "_id" : 1, "item" : null }
```

```
{ "_id" : 2 }
```

```
>>> db.inventory.find( { item : { $type: 10 } } )
```

```
{ "_id" : 1, "item" : null }
```

```
>>>
```

Equality Filter

The `{ item : null }` query matches documents that either contain the `item` field whose value is `null` or that do not contain the `item` field.

```
db.inventory.find( { item: null } )
```

The query returns both documents in the collection.

Type Check

The `{ item : { $type: 10 } }` query matches *only* documents that contain the `item` field whose value is `null`; i.e. the value of the `item` field is of BSON Type Null (type number 10) :

```
db.inventory.find( { item : { $type: 10 } } )
```

The query returns only the document where the `item` field has a value of `null`.

Existence Check

The following example queries for documents that do

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The `{ item : { $exists: false } }` query matches documents that do not contain the `item` field:

```
db.inventory.find( { item : { $exists: false } } )
```

The query only returns the document that does *not* contain the `item` field.

SEE ALSO:

Reference documentation for the `$type` and `$exists` operators.

- [1] Starting in MongoDB 4.2, users can no longer use the query filter `$type: 0` as a synonym for `$exists:false`. To query for null or missing fields, see [Query for Null or Missing Fields](#).