

Updating existing mappings

- Suppose that product IDs may now include letters
- We need to change the `product_id` field's data type to either `text` or `keyword`
 - We won't use the field for full-text searches
 - We *will* use it for filtering, so the `keyword` data type is ideal

Limitations for updating mappings

- Generally, Elasticsearch field mappings **cannot be changed**
- We can add *new* field mappings, but that's about it
- A few mapping parameters *can* be updated for existing mappings

Limitations for updating mappings

- Being able to update mappings would be problematic for existing documents
 - Text values have already been analyzed, for instance
 - Changing between some data types would require rebuilding the whole data structure

Limitations for updating mappings

- Even for an empty index, we cannot update a mapping
- Field mappings also cannot be removed
 - Just leave out the field when indexing documents
- The Update By Query API can be used to reclaim disk space
- The solution is to reindex documents into a new index (sorry 😞)