

Introduction to versioning

- Not a revision history of documents
- Elasticsearch stores an `_version` metadata field with every document
 - The value is an integer
 - It is incremented by one when modifying a document
 - The value is retained for 60 seconds when deleting a document
 - Configured with the `index.gc_deletes` setting
 - The `_version` field is returned when retrieving documents

Types of versioning

- The default versioning type is called *internal* versioning
- There is also an *external* versioning type
 - Useful when versions are maintained outside of Elasticsearch
 - E.g. when documents are also stored in a RDBMS

What's the point of versioning?

- You can tell how many times a document has been modified
 - Probably not *that* useful
- Versioning is hardly used anymore, and is mostly a thing from the past
- It was previously the way to do optimistic concurrency control
 - Now there is a better way, though
- You might see this field being used for clusters running old versions of Elasticsearch