Introduction to `date` fields

- Specified in one of three ways;

  - Specially formatted strings

  - Milliseconds since the epoch (long)

  - Seconds since the epoch (integer)

- Epoch refers to the 1st of January 1970

- Custom formats are supported

Default behavior of `date` fields

- Three supported formats;

  - A date *without* time

  - A date *with* time

  - Milliseconds since the epoch (long)

- UTC timezone assumed if none is specified

- Dates must be formatted according to the ISO 8601 specification

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How `date` fields are stored

- Stored internally as milliseconds since the epoch (long)

- Any valid value that you supply at index time is converted to a long value internally

- Dates are converted to the UTC timezone

- The same date conversion happens for search queries, too

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Lecture summary

- Dates are specified in one of three ways;

  - Specially formatted strings (defaults to ISO 8601 — can use custom formats)

  - Milliseconds since the epoch

  - Seconds since the epoch

- Dates are stored as `long` values internally (converted to UTC first)

  - The same conversion happens for search queries

- **Don't provide UNIX timestamps for default `date` fields**

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