MongoDB is an open-source NoSQL database management program. It’s a non-relational database technology that arose in the mid 2000’s under the NoSQL banner. Instead of using tables and rows as in [relational databases](https://www.techtarget.com/searchdatamanagement/definition/relational-database), the MongoDB architecture is made up of collections and documents. To understand this further we look at how MongoDB works. You see, MongoDB makes use of records which are basically made up of documents that contain a data structure composed of field and value pairs. Sets of those documents are called collections. Now those Documents are the basic unit of data in MongoDB.. The documents are similar to [JavaScript’s Object Notation](https://theserverside.techtarget.com/definition/JSON-Javascript-Object-Notation), but use a variant called Binary JSON (BSON). The real benefit of using BSON is that it accommodates more data types.

Now you may ask what the differences between MongoDB and MySQL are. MySQL is a popular open space RDBMS. IT stores data using tables and rows enforces referential integrity and uses SQL for data access. When users want to retrieve whatever data from MySQL they have to construct and SQL query that joins tables together to create the view they require. MongoDB does not have an out of the box type auto-increment functionality like SQL databases does. Basically, by default, it uses the 12-byte ObjectId for the \_Id field as the primary key to uniquely identify the documents. Being styled as a [non-relational](https://www.mongodb.com/compare/https/www.mongodb.com/non-relational-database) (or NoSQL) system, MongoDB adopts a very different approach to storing data, representing information as a series of JSON-like documents (stored as [BSON](https://www.mongodb.com/json-and-bson)), as opposed to the table and row format of relational systems.

<https://www.techtarget.com/searchdatamanagement/definition/MongoDB#:~:text=MongoDB%20is%20an%20open%20source,information%2C%20store%20or%20retrieve%20information>.

<https://www.mongodb.com/compare/mongodb-mysql>