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Working with GUIDs in MongoDB and ASP.NET MVC3

BY CHARLES CHEN · JULY 29, 2011

Just a small tip for those looking to use GUIDs as document IDs in MongoDB in conjunction with ASP.NET MVC3: it's a lot more straightforward than it may seem at the onset.

These examples are based off of [the ASP.NET MVC3 tutorials](#)...except with MongoDB instead of EF+SQL Server.

I've set up my model class like so:

```
1 public class Movie
2 {
3     [BsonId]
4     public Guid ID { get; set; }
5     public string Title { get; set; }
6     public DateTime ReleaseDate { get; set; }
7     public string Genre { get; set; }
8     public decimal Price { get; set; }
9 }
```

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When the application creates an object and persists it to the database, you'll see that it shows up like this in the Mongo console (I've formatted the JSON for clarity):

```
1 > db.movies.find()
2 {
3   "_id":BinData(3,"n2FLBkAkhEOckX42BGXRqg=
4   "Title":"Test",
5   "ReleaseDate":  ISODate("2011-05-11T04:
6   "Genre":"Comedy",
7   "Price":"9.99"
8 }
```

If you try to serialize this to JSON, instead of getting a GUID string, you'll get:

```
1 // Get a document
2 BsonDocument document = movies.FindOneAs<Bs
3
4 // Direct to JSON
5 document.ToJson();
6 /*
7 {
8   "_id":new BinData(3,
9   "n2FLBkAkhEOckX42BGXRqg==" ),
10   "Title":"Test",
11   "ReleaseDate":  ISODate("2011-05-11T04:
12   "Genre":"Comedy",
13   "Price":"9.99"
14 }
15 */
16
17 // With settings
18 JsonWriterSettings settings = new JsonWrite
19 document.ToJson(settings);
20 /*
21 {
22   "_id":{
23     "$binary":"n2FLBkAkhEOckX42BGXRqg==",
24     "$type":"03"
25   },
26   "Title":"Test",
27   "ReleaseDate":Date(1305086400000),
28   "Genre":"Comedy",
29   "Price":"9.99"
30 }
31 */
```

This is somewhat inconvenient if you want to work with it from a pure JavaScript perspective; I was hoping that it would have returned a GUID as a string instead. I was also concerned that this meant that I'd have to manage this

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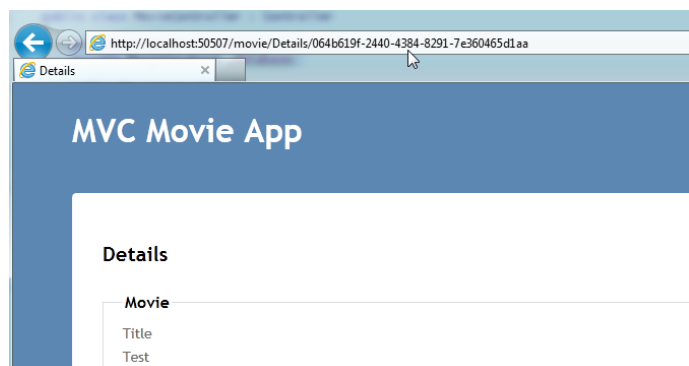
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manually as well on the server side in my actions, but it turns out that it works better than expected. The only caveat is that you have to use “_id” when creating queries; otherwise, you can use the GUID as-is and the Mongo APIs will convert it behind the scenes:

```
1 public ActionResult Details(Guid id)
2 {
3     MongoClient<Movie> movies = _databa
4
5     // No need to mess with the GUID; use i
6     Movie movie = movies.FindOneAs<Movie>(Q
7
8     return View(movie);
9 }
```

You can see the result below in the browser:



Note the properly formatted GUID in the URL

So far, so good with my little Mongo+MVC3 experiment 😊

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