

Chapter 39: Timestamps

Section 39.1: High-resolution timestamps

[`performance.now\(\)`](#) returns a precise timestamp: The number of milliseconds, including microseconds, since the current web page started to load.

More generally, it returns the time elapsed since the [`performanceTiming.navigationStart`](#) event.

```
t = performance.now();
```

For example, in a web browser's main context, `performance.now()` returns **6288.319** if the web page began to load 6288 milliseconds and 319 microseconds ago.

Section 39.2: Get Timestamp in Seconds

To get the timestamp in seconds

```
Math.floor((new Date().getTime()) / 1000)
```

Section 39.3: Low-resolution timestamps

[`Date.now\(\)`](#) returns the number of whole milliseconds that have elapsed since 1 January 1970 00:00:00 UTC.

```
t = Date.now();
```

For example, `Date.now()` returns **1461069314** if it was called on 19 April 2016 at 12:35:14 GMT.

Section 39.4: Support for legacy browsers

In older browsers where `Date.now()` is unavailable, use [`\(new Date\(\)\).getTime\(\)`](#) instead:

```
t = (new Date()).getTime();
```

Or, to provide a `Date.now()` function for use in older browsers, [use this polyfill](#):

```
if (!Date.now) {  
  Date.now = function now() {  
    return new Date().getTime();  
  };  
}
```