

Unix Timestamps

As you start developing in Moodle you'll quickly find that Unix timestamps are used everywhere in fields like `timemodified`, `timecreated` etc.

It can be handy to know how to deal with these at the database level.

MySQL and MariaDB

To convert a standard date to unix timestamp format (note this won't include timezone)

```
select unix_timestamp('2019-01-01')
```

If you need the timezone (presuming your database is set to the correct timezone, otherwise you'll need to adjust `SYSTEM` to the relevant timezone).

```
select unix_timestamp(convert_tz('2019-01-01', '+00:00', 'SYSTEM'))
```

To convert a unix timestamp to standard date format (UTC timezone)

```
select from_unixtime(1546300800)
```

Remember this doesn't take into account the timezone and will return the timezone as UTC, so you might need to add/subtract your timezone offset in seconds. E.g. GMT+11 = 11 hours * 60 minutes in an hour * 60 seconds in a minute = 39,600 seconds.

```
select from_unixtime(1546300800-(11*60*60))
```

To get the current date only (no timestamp):

```
select unix_timestamp(curdate());
```

To get the current date and time

```
select unix_timestamp(now());
```

PostgreSQL

To convert a standard date to unix timestamp format (with timezone):

```
select extract(epoch from timestamp '2019-01-01')
```

To convert a unix timestamp to standard date format (with timezone):

```
select to_timestamp('1546300800');
```

To get the current date (no timestamp)

```
select trunc(extract(epoch from current_date));
```

To get the current date and time (this will include your timezone)

```
select trunc(extract(epoch from now()));
```

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