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Creating and Deleting Indexes

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Diagnostic Tools

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Django and MongoDB

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Getting Started
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PyMongo and mod_wsgi

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Python Tutorial

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This page should redirect to Python Language Center.

Recommended Production Architectures
v0.8 Details

Existing Core Functionality

- Basic Mongo database functionality: inserts, deletes, queries, indexing.
- Master / Slave Replication
- Replica Pairs
- Server-side javascript code execution

New to v0.8

- Drivers for Java, C++, Python, Ruby.
- db shell utility
- (Very) basic security
- $or
- Clean up logging
- Performance test baseline
- getLastError
- Large capped collections
- Bug fixes (compound index keys, etc.)
- Import/Export utility
- Allow any _id that is unique, and verify uniqueness

Wanted, but may not make it

- AMI's
- Unlock eval()?
- Better disk full handling
- better replica pair negotiation logic (for robustness)

Building SpiderMonkey

Documentation

Dot Notation
Dot Notation

Getting the Software

Language Support

Mongo Administration Guide

Working with Mongo Objects and Classes in Ruby

MongoDB Language Support
Internals

Cursors

Tailable Cursors

See p/db/dbclient.h for example of how, on the client side, to support tailable cursors.

Set

```
Option_CursorTailable = 2
```

in the queryOptions int field to indicate you want a tailable cursor.

If you get back no results when you query the cursor, keep the cursor live if cursorid is still nonzero. Then, you can issue future `getMore` requests for the cursor.

If a `getMore` request has the `resultFlag ResultFlag_CursorNotFound` set, the cursor is not longer valid. It should be marked as "dead" on the client side.

```
ResultFlag_CursorNotFound = 1
```

See the Queries and Cursors section of the Mongo Developers’ Guide for more information about cursors.

See Also

- The Queries and Cursors section of the Mongo Developers’ Guide for more information about cursors

TreeNavigation

Old Pages

Storing Data
Why so many "Connection Accepted" messages logged?
Home

Events
Register for Mongo Boston September 20!
- MongoSF videos and slides
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- More events...

Getting Started
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Development
- Manual
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Production
Production Notes | Security | Replication | Sharding | Backup

Support
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Community
Blog | Articles | Twitter | [Forum] | Facebook | LinkedIn | Job Board | User groups: NY and SF

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| Deutsch | Español | Français | Italiano | | Português |

Quickstart

- Quickstart OS X
- Quickstart Unix
- Quickstart Windows

✔️ For an even quicker start go to http://try.mongodb.org/.

See Also
- SQL to Mongo Mapping Chart

Quickstart OS X
Install MongoDB

The easiest way to install MongoDB is to use a package manager or the pre-built binaries:

**Package managers**

If you use the Homebrew package manager, run:

```bash
$ brew install mongodb
```

If you use MacPorts you can install with:

```bash
$ sudo port install mongodb
```

This will take a while to install.

**32-bit binaries**

Note: 64-bit is recommended.

```bash
$ curl http://downloads.mongodb.org/osx/mongodb-osx-i386-1.4.4.tgz > mongo.tgz
$ tar xzf mongo.tgz
```

**64-bit binaries**

```bash
$ curl http://downloads.mongodb.org/osx/mongodb-osx-x86_64-1.4.4.tgz > mongo.tgz
$ tar xzf mongo.tgz
```

**Create a data directory**

By default MongoDB will store data in `/data/db`, but it won't automatically create that directory. To create it, do:

```bash
$ mkdir -p /data/db
```

You can also tell MongoDB to use a different data directory, with the `--dbpath` option.

**Run and connect to the server**

First, start the MongoDB server in one terminal:

```bash
$ ./mongodb-xxxxxxx/bin/mongod
```

In a separate terminal, start the shell, which will connect to localhost by default:

```bash
$ ./mongodb-xxxxxxx/bin/mongo
> db.foo.save( { a : 1 } )
> db.foo.find()
```

Congratulations, you've just saved and retrieved your first document with MongoDB!

**Learn more**

Once you have MongoDB installed and running, head over to the Tutorial.
Quickstart Unix

Install MongoDB

Note: If you are running an old version of Linux and the database doesn't start, or gives a floating point exception, try the "legacy static" version on the Downloads page instead of the versions listed below.

Package managers

Ubuntu and Debian users can now install nightly snapshots via apt. See Ubuntu and Debian packages for details.

CentOS and Fedora users should head to the CentOS and Fedora Packages page.

32-bit Linux binaries

Note: 64 bit is recommended.

```
$ curl http://downloads.mongodb.org/linux/mongodb-linux-i686-1.4.4.tgz > mongo.tgz
$ tar xzf mongo.tgz
```

64-bit Linux binaries

```
$ curl http://downloads.mongodb.org/linux/mongodb-linux-x86_64-1.4.4.tgz > mongo.tgz
$ tar xzf mongo.tgz
```

Other Unices

See the Downloads page for some binaries, and also the Building page for information on building from source.

Create a data directory

By default MongoDB will store data in /data/db, but it won't automatically create that directory. To create it, do:

```
$ sudo mkdir -p /data/db/
$ sudo chown `id -u` /data/db
```

You can also tell MongoDB to use a different data directory, with the --dbpath option.

Run and connect to the server

First, start the MongoDB server in one terminal:

```
$ ./mongodb-xxxxxxx/bin/mongod
```

In a separate terminal, start the shell, which will connect to localhost by default:

```
$ ./mongodb-xxxxxxx/bin/mongo
> db.foo.save( { a : 1 } )
> db.foo.find()
```

Congratulations, you've just saved and retrieved your first document with MongoDB!

Learn more
Once you have MongoDB installed and running, head over to the Tutorial.

**Quickstart Windows**

- **Download**
  - 32-bit binaries
  - 64-bit binaries
- **Unzip**
- **Create a data directory**
- **Run and connect to the server**
- **Learn more**

**Download**

The easiest (and recommended) way to install MongoDB is to use the pre-built binaries.

**32-bit binaries**

Download and extract the 32-bit .zip. The "Production" build is recommended.

**64-bit binaries**

Download and extract the 64-bit .zip.

Note: 64-bit is recommended, although you must have a 64-bit version of Windows to run that version.

**Unzip**

Unzip the downloaded binary package to the location of your choice. You may want to rename mongo-xxxxxxx to just "mongo" for convenience.

**Create a data directory**

By default MongoDB will store data in C:\data\db, but it won't automatically create that folder, so we do so here:

```
C:\> mkdir \data
C:\> mkdir \data\db
```

Or you can do this from the Windows Explorer, of course.

**Run and connect to the server**

The important binaries for a first run are:

- mongod.exe - the database server
- mongo.exe - the administrative shell

To run the database, click mongod.exe in Explorer, or run it from a CMD window.

```
C:\> cd \my_mongo_dir\bin
C:\my_mongo_dir\bin > mongod
```

Note: It is also possible to run the server as a Windows Service. But we can do that later.

Now, start the administrative shell, either by double-clicking mongo.exe in Explorer, or from the CMD prompt. By default mongo.exe connects to a mongod server running on localhost and uses the database named test. Run mongo --help to see other options.
C:\> cd \my_mongo_dir\bin
C:\my_mongo_dir\bin> mongo
> // the mongo shell is a javascript shell connected to the db
> 3+3
6
> db
> test
> // the first write will create the db:
> db.foo.insert( { a : 1 } )
> db.foo.find()
{ _id : ..., a : 1 }

Congratulations, you’ve just saved and retrieved your first document with MongoDB!

Learn more

- Tutorial
- Windows quick links
- [Mongo Shell]

Mongo Shell Info

Downloads

See also Packages.

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Previous Release

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Dev (unstable)

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Archived Releases

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</tbody>
</table>

- See Version Numbers
- The linux legacy-static builds are only recommended for older systems. If you try to run and get a floating point exception, try the legacy-static builds. Otherwise you should use the regular ones.
- Currently the mongod server must run on little-endian cpu (intel) so if you are using a ppc os x, mongod will not work.
• 32-bit builds are limited 2gb of data. See http://blog.mongodb.org/post/137788967/32-bit-limitations for more info
• See http://buildbot.mongodb.org/waterfall for details of builds and completion times.

Included in Distributions

• The MongoDB database server
• The MongoDB shell
• Backup and restore tools
• Import and export tools
• GridFS tool
• The MongoDB C++ client

Drivers

Information on how to separately download or install the drivers and tools can be found on the Drivers page.

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<tr>
<td>C++</td>
<td>included in database</td>
<td>github</td>
<td>api</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Drivers for more information and other languages.

Source Code

Source code for MongoDB and all drivers

Packages

MongoDB is included in several different package managers:

• For MacPorts, see the mongodb and mongodb-devel packages.
• For FreeBSD, see the mongodb and mongodb-devel packages.
• For Homebrew, see the mongodb formula.
• For ArchLinux, see the mongodb package in the AUR.
• For Debian and Ubuntu, see Ubuntu and Debian packages.
• For Fedora and CentOS, see CentOS and Fedora Packages.

Documentation

Pre-Exported

You can export yourself: HTML, PDF, or XML.

Logos

MongoDB logos are available for download as attachments on this page.

Powered By MongoDB Badges

We've made badges in beige, brown, blue and green for use on your sites that are powered by MongoDB. They are available below and in multiple sizes as attachments on this page.

Training
If you're just getting started with MongoDB, consider registering for an upcoming training course.

1.0 Changelist

Wrote MongoDB. See documentation.

1.2.x Release Notes

New Features

- More indexes per collection
- Faster index creation
- Map/Reduce
- Stored JavaScript functions
- Configurable fsync time
- Several small features and fixes

DB Upgrade Required

There are some changes that will require doing an upgrade if your previous version is <= 1.0.x. If you're already using a version >= 1.1.x then these changes aren't required. There are 2 ways to do it:

- --upgrade
  - stop your mongod process
  - run ./mongod --upgrade
  - start mongod again
- use a slave
  - start a slave on a different port and data directory
  - when its synced, shut down the master, and start the new slave on the regular port.

Ask in the forums or IRC for more help.

Replication Changes

- There have been minor changes in replication. If you are upgrading a master/slave setup from <= 1.1.2 you have to update the slave first.

mongoimport

- mongoimportjson has been removed and is replaced with mongoimport that can do json/csv/TSV

field filter changing

- We've changed the semantics of the field filter a little bit. Previously only objects with those fields would be returned. Now the field filter only changes the output, not which objects are returned. If you need that behavior, you can use $exists

other notes

http://www.mongodb.org/display/DOCS/1.1+Development+Cycle

1.4 Release Notes

We're pleased to announce the 1.4 release of MongoDB. 1.4 is a drop in replacement for 1.2. To upgrade you just need to shutdown mongod, then restart with the new binaries. (Users upgrading from release 1.0 should review the 1.2 release notes, in particular the instructions for upgrading the DB format.)

Release 1.4 includes the following improvements over release 1.2:

Core server enhancements

- concurrency improvements
- indexing memory improvements
- background index creation
- better detection of regular expressions so the index can be used in more cases
**Replication & Sharding**

- better handling for restarting slaves offline for a while
- fast new slaves from snapshots (--fastsync)
- configurable slave delay (--slavedelay)
- replication handles clock skew on master
- $inc replication fixes
- sharding alpha 3 - notably 2 phase commit on config servers

**Deployment & production**

- configure "slow threshold" for profiling
- ability to do fsync + lock for backing up raw files
- option for separate directory per db (--directoryperdb)
- [http://localhost:28017/_status](http://localhost:28017/_status) to get serverStatus via http
- REST interface is off by default for security (--rest to enable)
- can rotate logs with a db command, logRotate
- enhancements to serverStatus command (db.serverStatus()) - counters and replication lag stats
- new mongostat tool

**Query language improvements**

- `$all` with regex
- `$not`
- partial matching of array elements $elemMatch
- `$` operator for updating arrays
- `$addToSet`
- `$unset`
- `$pull` supports object matching
- `$set` with array indices

**Geo**

- 2d geospatial search
- geo `$center` and `$box` searches

**1.6 Release Notes**

MongoDB 1.6 is a drop-in replacement for 1.4. To upgrade, simply shutdown mongod then restart with the new binaries.

**Sharding**

Sharding is now production-ready, making MongoDB horizontally scalable, with no single point of failure. A single instance of mongod can now be upgraded to a distributed cluster with zero downtime when the need arises.

- Sharding Tutorial
- Sharding Documentation
- Upgrading a Single Server to a Cluster

**Replica Sets**

Replica sets, which provide automated failover among a cluster of n nodes, are also now available.

Please note that replica pairs are now deprecated; we strongly recommend that replica pair users upgrade to replica sets.

- Replica Set Tutorial
- Replica Set Documentation
- Upgrading Existing Setups to Replica Sets

**Other Improvements**

- The w option (and wtimeout) forces writes to be propagated to n servers before returning success (this works especially well with replica sets)
- $or queries
- Improved concurrency
- $slice operator for returning subsets of arrays
- 64 indexes per collection (formerly 40 indexes per collection)
- 64-bit integers can now be represented in the shell using NumberLong
The `findAndModify` command now supports upserts. It also allows you to specify fields to return
$showDiskLoc option to see disk location of a document
Support for IPv6 and UNIX domain sockets

**Installation**

- Windows service improvements
- The C++ client is a separate tarball from the binaries

**1.5.x Release Notes**

- 1.5.8
- 1.5.7
- 1.5.6
- 1.5.5
- 1.5.4
- 1.5.3
- 1.5.2
- 1.5.1
- 1.5.0

You can see a full list of all changes on [Jira](https://jira.mongodb.org). Thank you everyone for your support and suggestions!

**CentOS and Fedora Packages**

10gen now publishes yum-installable RPM packages for CentOS 5.4 (x86 and x86_64) and Fedora 11, 12, and 13 (x64_64 only for the moment). For each revision in stable, unstable, and snapshot, there are four packages, e.g., `mongo-stable`, `mongo-stable-server`, `mongo-stable-devel`, `mongo-stable-debuginfo`, for each of the client, server, headers, and debugging information, respectively.

To use these packages, add one of the following files in `/etc/yum.repos.d`, and then `yum update` and `yum install` your preferred complement of packages.

**For CentOS 5.4 on x86_64:**

```
[10gen]
name=10gen Repository
baseurl=http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/centos/5.4/os/x86_64/
gpgcheck=0
```

**For CentOS 5.4 on x86**

```
[10gen]
name=10gen Repository
baseurl=http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/centos/5.4/os/i386/
gpgcheck=0
```

**For Fedora 13:**

```
[10gen]
name=10gen Repository
baseurl=http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/fedora/13/os/x86_64/
gpgcheck=0
```

**For Fedora 12:**

```
[10gen]
name=10gen Repository
baseurl=http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/fedora/12/os/x86_64/
gpgcheck=0
```

**For Fedora 11:**

```
For the moment, these packages aren't signed. (If anybody knows how to automate signing RPMs, please let us know!)

**Ubuntu and Debian packages**

Please read the notes on the Downloads page. Also, note that these packages are updated daily, and so if you find you can't download the packages, try updating your apt package lists, e.g., with 'apt-get update' or 'aptitude update'.

10gen publishes apt-gettable packages. Our packages are generally fresher than those in Debian or Ubuntu. We publish 3 distinct packages, named "mongodb-stable", "mongodb-unstable", "mongodb-snapshot", corresponding to our latest stable release, our latest development release, and the most recent git checkout at the time of building. Each of these packages conflicts with the others, and with the "mongodb" package in Debian/Ubuntu.

The packaging is still a work-in-progress, so we invite Debian and Ubuntu users to try them out and let us know how the packaging might be improved.

To use the packages, add a line to your /etc/apt/sources.list, then 'aptitude update' and one of 'aptitude install mongodb-stable', 'aptitude install mongodb-unstable' or 'aptitude install mongodb-snapshot'.

For Ubuntu Lucid (10.4) (built using a prerelease installation):

```
deb http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/ubuntu 10.4 10gen
```

For Ubuntu Karmic (9.10):

```
deb http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/ubuntu 9.10 10gen
```

For Ubuntu Jaunty (9.4):

```
deb http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/ubuntu 9.4 10gen
```

For Debian Lenny (5.0):

```
deb http://downloads.mongodb.org/distros/debian 5.0 10gen
```

These packages are snapshots of our git master branch, and we plan to update them frequently, so package version numbers will be of the form YYYYMMDD; when reporting issues with these packages, please include the package version in your report.

The public gpg key used for signing these packages follows. It should be possible to import the key into apt's public keyring with a command like this:

```
sudo apt-key adv --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv 7F0CEB10
```

To configure these packages beyond the defaults, have a look at /etc/mongodb.conf, and/or the initialization script, (/etc/init.d/mongodb on older, non-Upstart systems, /etc/init/mongodb.conf on Upstart systems). Most MongoDB operational settings are in /etc/mongodb.conf, a few other settings are in the initialization script. Note that if you customize the userid in the initialization script or the dbpath or logpath settings in /etc/mongodb.conf, you must ensure that the directories and files you use are writable by the userid you run the server as.

Packages for other distros coming soon!
Version Numbers

MongoDB uses the odd-numbered versions for development releases.

There are 3 numbers in a MongoDB version: A.B.C

- **A** is the major version. This will rarely change and signify very large changes
- **B** is the release number. This will include many changes including features and things that possible break backwards compatibility. Even Bs will be stable branches, and odd Bs will be development.
- **C** is the revision number and will be used for bugs and security issues.

For example:

- **1.0.0** : first GA release
- **1.0.x** : bug fixes to 1.0.x - highly recommended to upgrade, very little risk
- **1.1.x** : development release. this will include new features that are not fully finished, and works in progress. Some things may be different than 1.0
- **1.2.x** : second GA release. this will be the culmination of the 1.1.x release.

Drivers

MongoDB currently has client support for the following programming languages:

```
mongodb.org Supported

  C
  C++
  Java
  Javascript
  Perl
  PHP
  Python
  Ruby
```
Community Supported

- REST
- C# and .NET
- Clojure
- ColdFusion
- Delphi
- Clojure
- Go
- Groovy
- Erlang
- Factor
- Fantom
- Haskell
- Javascript
- Lua
- Node.js
- Objective C
- Fantom
- PHP
- PowerShel
- Python
- Ruby
- Scala
- Scheme (PLT)
- Smalltalk

Get Involved, Write a Driver!

- Writing Drivers and Tools

C Language Center

- C Driver
  - Download
  - Build
  - Notable Projects

C Driver

The MongoDB C Driver is the 10gen-supported driver for MongoDB. It's written in pure C. The goal is to be super strict for ultimate portability, no dependencies, and very embeddable anywhere.

- Tutorial
- C Driver README
- Source Code

Download
The C driver is hosted at GitHub.com. Check out the latest version with git.

```shell
$ git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo-c-driver.git
```

**Build**

Building with gcc:

```shell
$ gcc --std=c99 -Isrc/path/to/mongo-c-driver/src/*.c YOUR_APP.c
```

Building with scons:

```shell
$ scons # this will produce libbson.a and libmongoc.a
$ scons --c99 # this will use c99 mode in gcc (recommended)
$ scons test # this will compile and run the unit tests (optional)
$ scons test --test-server=123.4.5.67 # use remote server for tests
```

**Notable Projects**

**NuMongodb** – An Objective-C wrapper around the MongoDB C driver. It is intended for use with Nu but may be useful in other Objective-C programming applications.

If you're working on a project that you'd like to have included, let us know.

**C Tutorial**

- Writing Client Code
  - Connecting
  - BSON
  - Inserting
    - Single
    - Batch
  - Querying
    - Simple Queries
    - Complex Queries
      - Sorting
      - Hints
      - Explain
  - Indexing
  - Updating
  - Further Reading

This document is an introduction to usage of the MongoDB database from a C program.

First, install Mongo -- see the Quickstart for details.

Next, you may wish to take a look at the Developer's Tour guide for a language independent look at how to use MongoDB. Also, we suggest some basic familiarity with the mongo shell -- the shell is one's primary database administration tool and is useful for manually inspecting the contents of a database after your C program runs.

A working C program complete with examples from this tutorial can be found here.

**Writing Client Code**

For brevity, the examples below are simply inline code.

**Connecting**

Let's make a tutorial.c file that connects to the database:
```c
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include "bson.h"
#include "mongo.h"

int main() {
    mongo_connection conn[1]; /* ptr */
    mongo_connection_options opts[1];
    mongo_conn_return status;

    strcpy( opts->host , "127.0.0.1" );
    opts->port = 27017;
    status = mongo_connect( conn, opts );

    switch (status) {
        case mongo_conn_success: printf("connection succeeded\n"); break;
        case mongo_conn_bad_arg: printf("bad arguments\n"); return 1;
        case mongo_conn_no_socket: printf("no socket\n"); return 1;
        case mongo_conn_fail: printf("connection failed\n"); return 1;
        case mongo_conn_not_master: printf("not master\n"); return 1;
    }

    /* CODE WILL GO HERE */

    mongo_destroy( conn);
    printf("\nconnection closed\n");
    return 0;
}
```

If you are using gcc on Linux or OS X, you would compile with something like this, depending on location of your include files:

```
$ gcc -Isrc --std=c99 /path/to/mongo-c-driver/src/*.c -I /path/to/mongo-c-driver/src/ tutorial.c -o tutorial
$ ./tutorial
connection succeeded
connection closed
```

**BSON**

The Mongo database stores data in **BSON** format. BSON is a binary object format that is JSON-like in terms of the data which can be stored (some extensions exist, for example, a Date datatype).

To save data in the database we must create **bson** objects. We use bson_buffer to make **bson** objects, and bson_iterator to enumerate **bson** objects.

Let's now create a BSON "person" object which contains name and age. We might invoke:

```c
bson b[1];
bson_buffer buf[1];

bson_buffer_init ( buf )
bson_append_string( buf, "name", "Joe" );
bson_append_int( buf, "age", 33 );
bson_from_buffer( b, buf );
```

Use the bson_append_new_oid() helper to add an object id to your object. The server will add an _id automatically if it is not included explicitly.
bson b[1];
bson_buffer buf[1];
bson_buffer_init( buf );
bson_append_new_oid( buf, "_id" );
bson_append_string( buf, "name", "Joe" );
bson_append_int( buf, "age", 33 );
bson_from_buffer( b, buf );

bson_buffer_new_oid( ..., "_id" ) should be at the beginning of the generated object.

When you are done using the object remember to use bson_destroy() to free up the memory allocated by the buffer.

```c
bson_destroy( b )
```

**Inserting**

**Single**

We now save our person object in a persons collection in the database:

```c
mongo_insert( conn, "tutorial.persons", b );
```

The first parameter to `mongo_insert` is the pointer to the `mongo_connection` object. The second parameter is the namespace. `tutorial` is the database and `persons` is the collection name. The third parameter is a pointer to the bson "person" object that we created before.

**Batch**

We can do batch inserts as well:

```c
static void tutorial_insert_batch( mongo_connection *conn ) {
    bson *p, **ps;
    bson_buffer *p_buf;
    char *names[4];
    int ages[] = { 29, 24, 24, 32 };
    int i, n = 4;

    ps = ( bson ** )malloc( sizeof( bson * ) * n);

    for ( i = 0; i < n; i++ ) {
        p = ( bson * )malloc( sizeof( bson ) );
        p_buf = ( bson_buffer * )malloc( sizeof( bson_buffer ) );
        bson_buffer_init( p_buf );
        bson_append_new_oid( p_buf, "_id" );
        bson_append_string( p_buf, "name", names[i] );
        bson_append_int( p_buf, "age", ages[i] );
        bson_from_buffer( p, p_buf );
        ps[i] = p;
        free( p_buf );
    }

    mongo_insert_batch( conn, "tutorial.persons", ps, n );

    for ( i = 0; i < n; i++ ) {
        bson_destroy( ps[i] );
        free( ps[i] );
    }
}
```
**Querying**

**Simple Queries**

Let's now fetch all objects from the persons collection, and display them.

```c
static void tutorial_empty_query( mongo_connection *conn) {
    mongo_cursor *cursor;
    bson empty[1];
    bson_empty( empty );

    cursor = mongo_find( conn, "tutorial.persons", empty, empty, 0, 0, 0 );
    while( mongo_cursor_next( cursor ) ) {
        bson_print( &cursor->current );
    }

    mongo_cursor_destroy( cursor );
    bson_destroy( empty );
}
```

`empty` is the empty BSON object -- we use it to represent {} which indicates an empty query pattern (an empty query is a query for all objects).

We use `bson_print()` above to print out information about each object retrieved. `bson_print()` is a diagnostic function which prints an abbreviated JSON string representation of the object.

⚠️ `mongo_find()` returns a `mongo_cursor` which must be destroyed after use.

Let's now write a function which prints out the name (only) of all persons in the collection whose age is a given value:

```c
static void tutorial_simple_query( mongo_connection *conn ) {
    bson query[1];
    bson_buffer query_buf[1];
    mongo_cursor *cursor;

    bson_buffer_init( query_buf );
    bson_append_int( query_buf, "age", 24 );
    bson_from_buffer( query, query_buf );

    cursor = mongo_find( conn, "tutorial.persons", query, NULL, 0, 0, 0 );
    while( mongo_cursor_next( cursor ) ) {
        bson_iterator it[1];
        if ( bson_find( it, &cursor->current, "name" )) {
            printf("name: %s\n", bson_iterator_string( it ) );
        }
    }

    bson_destroy( query );
}
```

Our query above, written as JSON, is of the form

```json
{ age : <agevalue> }
```

Queries are BSON objects of a particular format.

In the mongo shell (which uses javascript), we could invoke:

```bash
use tutorial;
db.persons.find( { age : 24 } );
```
Complex Queries

Sometimes we want to do more than a simple query. We may want the results to be sorted in a special way, or what the query to use a certain index.

Sorting

Let's now make the results from previous query be sorted alphabetically by name. To do this, we change the query statement from:

```c
bson_buffer_init( query_buf );
bson_append_int( query_buf, "age", 24 );
bson_from_buffer( query, query_buf );
```

to:

```c
bson_buffer_init( query_buf );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "$query" );
bson_append_int( query_buf, "age", 24 );
bson_append_finish_object( query_buf );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "$orderby" );
bson_append_int( query_buf, 1 );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "name" );
bson_from_buffer( query, query_buf );
```

Hints

While the mongo query optimizer often performs very well, explicit "hints" can be used to force mongo to use a specified index, potentially improving performance in some situations. When you have a collection indexed and are querying on multiple fields (and some of those fields are indexed), pass the index as a hint to the query:

```c
bson_buffer_init( query_buf );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "$query" );
bson_append_int( query_buf, 24 );
bson_append_string( query_buf, "name", "Mathias" );
bson_append_finish_object( query_buf );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "$hint" );
bson_append_int( query_buf, 1 );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "name" );
bson_from_buffer( query, query_buf );
```

Explain

A great way to get more information on the performance of your database queries is to use the $explain feature. This will return "explain plan" type info about a query from the database.

```c
bson_buffer_init( query_buf );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "$query" );
bson_append_int( query_buf, 33 );
bson_append_bool( query_buf, 1 );
bson_append_start_object( query_buf, "$explain" );
bson_from_buffer( query, query_buf );
```

Indexing

Let's suppose we want to have an index on age so that our queries are fast. We would use:
void tutorial_index( mongo_connection * conn ) {  
  bson key[1];
  bson_buffer key_buf[1];

  bson_buffer_init( key_buf );
  bson_append_int( key_buf, "name", 1 );  
  bson_from_buffer( key, key_buf );

  mongo_create_index( conn, "tutorial.persons", key, 0, NULL );

  bson_destroy( key );

  printf( "simple index created on \"name\"\n" );

  bson_buffer_init( key_buf );
  bson_append_int( key_buf, "age", 1 );
  bson_append_int( key_buf, "name", 1 );
  bson_from_buffer( key, key_buf );

  mongo_create_index( conn, "tutorial.persons", key, 0, NULL );

  bson_destroy( key );

  printf( "compound index created on \"age\", \"name\"\n" );
}

Updating

Use the mongo_update() method to perform a database update. For example the following update in the mongo shell:

```bash
> use tutorial
> db.persons.update( { name : 'Joe', age : 33 },
...                  { $inc : { visits : 1 } } )
```

is equivalent to running the following C function:

```c
static void tutorial_update( mongo_connection *conn ) {  
  bson cond[1], op[1];
  bson_buffer cond_buf[1], op_buf[1];

  bson_buffer_init( cond_buf );
  bson_append_string( cond_buf, "name", "Joe" );
  bson_append_int( cond_buf, "age", 33 );
  bson_from_buffer( cond, cond_buf );

  bson_buffer_init( op_buf );
  bson_append_start_object( op_buf, "$inc" );
  bson_append_int( op_buf, "visits", 1 );
  bson_from_buffer( op, op_buf );

  mongo_update(conn, "tutorial.persons", cond, op, 0);

  bson_destroy( cond );
  bson_destroy( op );
}
```

Further Reading

This overview just touches on the basics of using Mongo from C++. There are many more capabilities. For further exploration:

- See the language-independent Developer’s Tour;
• Experiment with the *mongo shell*;
• Consider getting involved to make the product (either C driver, tools, or the database itself) better!

**C Sharp Language Center**

**C# Drivers**

- `mongodb-csharp` driver
- `simple-mongodb` driver
- NoRM

**F#**

- F# Example

**Community Articles**

- A List of C# MongoDB Tools
- Experimenting with MongoDB from C#
- Using MongoDB from C#
- Introduction to MongoDB for .NET
- Using Json.NET and Castle Dynamic Proxy with MongoDB
- Implementing a Blog Using ASP.NET MVC and MongoDB
- Intro Article using a Post and Comments Example

**Tools**

- MongoDB.Emitter Document Wrapper
- log4net appender

**Support**

- [http://groups.google.com/group/mongodb-csharp](http://groups.google.com/group/mongodb-csharp)
- [http://groups.google.com/group/mongodb-user](http://groups.google.com/group/mongodb-user)
- IRC: #mongodb on freenode

**See Also**

- C++ Language Center

**Driver Syntax Table**

The wiki generally gives examples in JavaScript, so this chart can be used to convert those examples to any language.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JavaScript</th>
<th>Python</th>
<th>PHP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[]</td>
<td>[]</td>
<td>array()</td>
<td>[]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>()</td>
<td>()</td>
<td>new stdClass</td>
<td>{}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>{x:1}</code></td>
<td><code>{x:1}</code></td>
<td>array(<code>x</code> =&gt; 1)</td>
<td><code>{x: =&gt; 1}</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connect(<code>&quot;www.example.net&quot;</code>)</td>
<td>Connection(<code>&quot;www.example.net&quot;</code>)</td>
<td>new Mongo(<code>&quot;www.example.net&quot;</code>)</td>
<td>Mongo.new(<code>&quot;www.example.net&quot;</code>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cursor.next()</td>
<td>cursor.next()</td>
<td>$cursor-&gt;getNext()</td>
<td>cursor.next_object()</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cursor.hasNext()</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>$cursor-&gt;hasNext()</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>collection.findOne()</td>
<td>collection.find_one()</td>
<td>$collection-&gt;findOne()</td>
<td>collection.find_one()</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>db.eval()</td>
<td>db.eval()</td>
<td>$db-&gt;execute()</td>
<td>db.eval()</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* does not exist in that language
Javascript Language Center

MongoDB can be
- Used by clients written in Javascript;
- Uses Javascript internally server-side for certain options such as map/reduce;
- Has a shell that is based on Javascript for administrative purposes.

[node.JS and V8]
See the node.JS page.

SpiderMonkey
The MongoDB shell extends SpiderMonkey. See the MongoDB shell documentation.

Narwhal
- http://github.com/sergi/narwhal-mongodb

MongoDB Server-Side Javascript
Javascript may be executed in the MongoDB server processes for various functions such as query enhancement and map/reduce processing. See Server-side Code Execution.

node.JS
Node.js is used to write event-driven, scalable network programs in server-side JavaScript. It is similar in purpose to Twisted, EventMachine, etc. It runs on Google’s V8.

Web Frameworks
- ExpressJS Mature web framework with MongoDB session support.

3rd Party ORM/ODM
- Mongoose - Asynchronous JavaScript Driver with optional support for Modeling.

3rd Party Drivers
- node-mongodb - Async Node interface to MongoDB (written in C)
- node-mongodb-native - Native async Node interface to MongoDB.
- mongo-v8-driver - V8 MongoDB driver (experimental, written in C++)

JVM Languages
moved to Java Language Center

Python Language Center

Redirection Notice
This page should redirect to http://api.mongodb.org/python.

PHP Language Center

Using MongoDB in PHP

To access MongoDB from PHP you will need:
- The MongoDB server running - the server is the "mongod" file, not the "mongo" client (note the "d" at the end)
The MongoDB PHP driver installed

Installing the PHP Driver

*NIX

Run:

```
sudo pecl install mongo
```

Open your php.ini file and add to it:

```
extension=mongo.so
```

It is recommended to add this to the section with the other "extensions", but it will work from anywhere within the php.ini file.

Restart your web server (Apache, nginx, etc.) for the change to take effect.

See the installation docs for configuration information and OS-specific installation instructions.

Windows

  - VC6 is for Apache (VC9 is for IIS)
  - Thread safe is for running PHP as an Apache module (typical installation), non-thread safe is for CGI
- Unzip and add the php_mongo.dll file to your PHP extensions directory (usually the "ext" folder in your PHP installation.)
- Add to your php.ini:

  ```
extension=php_mongo.dll
  ```

- Restart your web server (Apache, IIS, etc.) for the change to take effect

For more information, see the Windows section of the installation docs.

Using the PHP Driver

To get started, see the Tutorial. Also check out the API Documentation.

See Also

- PHP Libraries, Frameworks, and Tools for working with Drupal, Cake, Symfony, and more from MongoDB.
- Admin UIs

Installing the PHP Driver

**Redirection Notice**


PHP Libraries, Frameworks, and Tools

The PHP community has created a huge number of libraries to make working with MongoDB easier and integrate it with existing frameworks.

**CakePHP**

- MongoDB datasource for CakePHP. There's also an introductory blog post on using it with Mongo.

**Codeigniter**

- MongoDB-Codeigniter-Driver
Doctrine

ODM (Object Document Mapper) is an experimental Doctrine MongoDB object mapper. The Doctrine\ODM\Mongo namespace is an experimental project for a PHP 5.3 MongoDB Object Mapper. It allows you to easily write PHP 5 classes and map them to collections in MongoDB. You just work with your objects like normal and Doctrine will transparently persist them to Mongo.

This project implements the same "style" of the Doctrine 2 ORM project interface so it will look very familiar to you and it has lots of the same features and implementations.

- Documentation - API, Reference, and Cookbook
- Official blog post
- Screencast
- Blog post on using it with Symfony
- Bug tracker

Drupal

- MongoDB Integration - Views (query builder) backend, a watchdog implementation (logging), and field storage.

Fat-Free Framework

Fat-Free is a powerful yet lightweight PHP 5.3+ Web development framework designed to help you build dynamic and robust applications - fast!

Kohana Framework

- Mango at github
  An ActiveRecord-like library for PHP, for the Kohana PHP Framework. See also PHP Language Center#MongoDB PHP ODM further down.

Lithium

Lithium supports Mongo out-of-the-box.

- Tutorial on creating a blog backend.

Log4php

- A log4php appender for MongoDB

Memcached

- MongoDBNode
  PHP script that replicates MongoDB objects to Memcached.

Symfony 2

- Symfony 2 Logger
  A centralized logger for Symfony applications. See the blog post.

- sfMongoSessionStorage - manages session storage via MongoDB with symfony.

- sfStoragePerformancePlugin - This plugin contains some extra storage engines (MongoDB and Memcached) that are currently missing from the Symfony (>= 1.2) core.

Vork

Vork, the high-performance enterprise framework for PHP natively supports MongoDB as either a primary datasource or used in conjunction with an RDBMS. Designed for scalability & Green-IT, Vork serves more traffic with fewer servers and can be configured to operate without any disk-IO.

Vork provides a full MVC stack that outputs semantically-correct XHTML 1.1, complies with Section 508 Accessibility guidelines & Zend-Framework coding-standards, has SEO-friendly URLs, employs CSS-reset for cross-browser display consistency and is written in well-documented object-oriented E_STRICT PHP5 code.

An extensive set of tools are built into Vork for ecommerce (cc-processing, SSL, PayPal, AdSense, shipment tracking, QR-codes), Google Maps, translation & internationalization, Wiki, Amazon Web Services, Social-Networking (Twitter, Meetup, ShareThis, YouTube, Flickr) and much more.

Zend Framework

- Shanty Mongo is a prototype mongodb adapter for the Zend Framework. It's intention is to make working with mongodb documents as
natural and as simple as possible. In particular allowing embedded documents to also have custom document classes.

- ZF Cache Backend
  A ZF Cache Backend for MongoDB. It supports tags and automatic cleaning.

- There is a [Zend Nosql_Mongo component proposal](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php).

### Stand-Alone Tools

**ActiveMongo**

ActiveMongo is a really simple ActiveRecord for MongoDB in PHP.

There’s a nice introduction to get you started at [http://crodas.org/activemongo.php](http://crodas.org/activemongo.php).

**MapReduce API**

A MapReduce abstraction layer. See the [blog post](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php).


**MongoDB PHP ODM**

MongoDB PHP ODM is a simple object wrapper for the Mongo PHP driver classes which makes using Mongo in your PHP application more like ORM, but without the suck. It is designed for use with Kohana 3 but will also integrate easily with any PHP application with almost no additional effort.

**Mongodloid**

A nice library on top of the PHP driver that allows you to make more natural queries (`$query->query('a == 13 AND b >= 8 && c % 3 == 41');`), abstracts away annoying $-syntax, and provides getters and setters.

- [Downloads](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php)
- [Documentation](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php)

**Morph**

A high level PHP library for MongoDB. Morph comprises a suite of objects and object primitives that are designed to make working with MongoDB in PHP a breeze.

- [Morph](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php) at code.google.com

**simplemongophp**

Very simple layer for using data objects see [blog post](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php)

- [simplemongophp](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php) at github

**Uniform Server 6-Carbo with MongoDB and phpMoAdmin**

The Uniform Server is a lightweight WAMP server solution for running a web server under Windows without having anything to install; just unpack and run it. Uniform Server 6-Carbo includes the latest versions of Apache2, Perl5, PHP5, MySQL5 and phpMyAdmin. The Uniform Server MongoDB plugin adds the MongoDB server, phpMoAdmin browser administration interface, the MongoDB PHP driver and a Windows interface to start and stop both Apache and MongoDB servers. From this interface you can also start either the Mongo-client or phpMoAdmin to administer MongoDB databases.

- [Uniform Server 6-Carbo and MongoDB plugin](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php) at SourceForge
- [Uniform Server](http://www.php.net/manual/en/class.mongogridfs.php) web site

### PHP - Storing Files and Big Data

**Redirection Notice**


### Troubleshooting the PHP Driver
Ruby Language Center

This is an overview of the available tools and suggested practices for using Ruby with MongoDB. Those wishing to skip to more detailed discussion should check out the Ruby Driver Tutorial, Getting started with Rails or Rails 3, and MongoDB Data Modeling and Rails. There are also a number of good external resources worth checking out.

- Ruby Driver
  - Installing / Upgrading
  - BSON
- Object Mappers
- Notable Projects

Ruby Driver

⚠️ Install the C extension for any performance-critical applications.

The MongoDB Ruby driver is the 10gen-supported driver for MongoDB. It's written in pure Ruby, with a recommended C extension for speed. The driver is optimized for simplicity. It can be used on its own, but it also serves as the basis for various object-mapping libraries.

- Tutorial
- Ruby Driver README
- API Documentation
- Source Code

Installing / Upgrading

The ruby driver is hosted at Rubygems.org. Before installing the driver, make sure you're using the latest version of rubygems (currently 1.3.6):

$ gem update --system

Then install the gems:

$ gem install mongo

To stay on the bleeding edge, check out the latest source from github:

$ git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo-ruby-driver.git
$ cd mongo-ruby-driver/

Then, install the driver from there:

$ rake gem:install

BSON

In versions of the Ruby driver prior to 0.20, the code for serializing to BSON existed in the mongo gem. Now, all BSON serialization is handled by the required bson gem.

gem install bson

For significantly improved performance, install the bson extensions gem:
As long it's in Ruby's load path, `bson_ext` will be loaded automatically when you require `bson`.

Note that beginning with version 0.20, the mongo_ext gem is no longer used.

To learn more about the Ruby driver, see the Ruby Tutorial.

### Object Mappers

If you need validations, associations, and other high-level data modeling functions, consider using one of the available object mappers. Many of these exist in the Ruby ecosystem; here we host a list of the most popular ones.

### Notable Projects

Tools for working with MongoDB in Ruby are being developed daily. A partial list can be found in the Projects and Libraries section of our external resources page.

If you're working on a project that you'd like to have included, let us know.

### Ruby Tutorial

This tutorial gives many common examples of using MongoDB with the Ruby driver. If you're looking for information on data modeling, see MongoDB Data Modeling and Rails. Links to the various object mappers are listed on our object mappers page.

Interested in GridFS? Checkout GridFS in Ruby.

As always, the latest source for the Ruby driver can be found on github.

- Installation
- A Quick Tour
  - Using the RubyGem
  - Making a Connection
  - Listing All Databases
  - Dropping a Database
  - Authentication (Optional)
  - Getting a List Of Collections
  - Getting a Collection
  - Inserting a Document
  - Finding the First Document In a Collection using `find_one()`
  - Adding Multiple Documents
  - Counting Documents in a Collection
  - Using a Cursor to get all of the Documents
  - Getting a Single Document with a Query
  - Getting a Set of Documents With a Query
  - Querying with Regular Expressions
  - Creating An Index
  - Creating and querying on a geospatial index
  - Getting a List of Indexes on a Collection
  - Database Administration

- See Also

### Installation

The mongo-ruby-driver gem is served through Rubygems.org. To install, make sure you have the latest version of rubygems.

```bash
$ gem update --system
```

Next, install the mongo rubygem:

```bash
$ gem install mongo
```

The required `bson` gem will be installed automatically.

For optimum performance, install the `bson_ext` gem:
After installing, you may want to look at the examples directory included in the source distribution. These examples walk through some of the basics of using the Ruby driver.

The full API documentation can be viewed here.

**A Quick Tour**

**Using the RubyGem**

All of the code here assumes that you have already executed the following Ruby code:

```
require 'rubygems'  # not necessary for Ruby 1.9
require 'mongo'
```

**Making a Connection**

An Mongo::Connection instance represents a connection to MongoDB. You use a Connection instance to obtain an Mongo::DB instance, which represents a named database. The database doesn't have to exist - if it doesn't, MongoDB will create it for you.

You can optionally specify the MongoDB server address and port when connecting. The following example shows three ways to connect to the database "mydb" on the local machine:

```
db = Mongo::Connection.new.db("mydb")
db = Mongo::Connection.new("localhost").db("mydb")
db = Mongo::Connection.new("localhost", 27017).db("mydb")
```

At this point, the `db` object will be a connection to a MongoDB server for the specified database. Each DB instance uses a separate socket connection to the server.

If you're trying to connect to a replica set, see Replica Sets in Ruby.

**Listing All Databases**

```
connection = Mongo::Connection.new  # (optional host/port args)
connection.database_names.each { |name| puts name }
connection.database_info.each { |info| puts info.inspect }
```

**Dropping a Database**

```
connection.drop_database('database_name')
```

**Authentication (Optional)**

MongoDB can be run in a secure mode where access to databases is controlled through name and password authentication. When run in this mode, any client application must provide a name and password before doing any operations. In the Ruby driver, you simply do the following with the connected mongo object:

```
auth = db.authenticate(my_user_name, my_password)
```

If the name and password are valid for the database, `auth` will be `true`. Otherwise, it will be `false`. You should look at the MongoDB log for further information if available.

**Getting a List Of Collections**

Each database has zero or more collections. You can retrieve a list of them from the db (and print out any that are there):
```ruby
db.collection_names.each { |name| puts name }
```

and assuming that there are two collections, name and address, in the database, you would see

```ruby
name
address
```

as the output.

### Getting a Collection

You can get a collection to use using the `collection` method:

```ruby
coll = db.collection("testCollection")
```

This is aliased to the `[]` method:

```ruby
coll = db["testCollection"]
```

Once you have this collection object, you can now do things like insert data, query for data, etc.

### Inserting a Document

Once you have the collection object, you can insert documents into the collection. For example, lets make a little document that in JSON would be represented as

```json
{
  "name": "MongoDB",
  "type": "database",
  "count": 1,
  "info": {
    "x": 203,
    "y": 102
  }
}
```

Notice that the above has an "inner" document embedded within it. To do this, we can use a Hash or the driver’s OrderedHash (which preserves key order) to create the document (including the inner document), and then just simply insert it into the collection using the `insert()` method.

```ruby
doc = {
  "name": "MongoDB",
  "type": "database",
  "count": 1,
  "info": {
    "x": 203,
    "y": 102
  }
}
coll.insert(doc)
```

### Finding the First Document In a Collection using `find_one()`

To show that the document we inserted in the previous step is there, we can do a simple `find_one()` operation to get the first document in the collection. This method returns a single document (rather than the `Cursor` that the `find()` operation returns).

```ruby
my_doc = coll.find_one()
pputs my_doc.inspect
```

and you should see:

```ruby
{"_id"=><BSON::ObjectID:0x118576c ...>, "name"=>"MongoDB", "info"=>{"x"=>203, "y"=>102}, "type"=>"database", "count"=>1}
```

Note the `_id` element has been added automatically by MongoDB to your document.
**Adding Multiple Documents**

To demonstrate some more interesting queries, let's add multiple simple documents to the collection. These documents will have the following form:

```
{  
  "i" : value 
}
```

Here's how to insert them:

```
100.times { |i| coll.insert("i" => i) }
```

Notice that we can insert documents of different "shapes" into the same collection. These records are in the same collection as the complex record we inserted above. This aspect is what we mean when we say that MongoDB is "schema-free".

**Counting Documents in a Collection**

Now that we've inserted 101 documents (the 100 we did in the loop, plus the first one), we can check to see if we have them all using the method.

```
puts coll.count()
```

and it should print 101.

**Using a Cursor to get all of the Documents**

To get all the documents from the collection, we use the `find()` method. `find()` returns a Cursor object, which allows us to iterate over the set of documents that matches our query. The Ruby driver's Cursor implemented Enumerable, which allows us to use `Enumerable#each`, `Enumerable#map`, etc. For instance:

```
coll.find().each { |row| puts row.inspect }
```

and that should print all 101 documents in the collection.

**Getting a Single Document with a Query**

We can create a query hash to pass to the `find()` method to get a subset of the documents in our collection. For example, if we wanted to find the document for which the value of the "i" field is 71, we would do the following:

```
coll.find("i" => 71).each { |row| puts row.inspect }
```

and it should just print just one document:

```
(  
  "_id"=>4<<BSON::ObjectId:0x117de90 ...>,  
  "i"=>71
)
```

**Getting a Set of Documents With a Query**

We can use the query to get a set of documents from our collection. For example, if we wanted to get all documents where "i" > 50, we could write:

```
coll.find("i" => { "$gt" => 50}).each { |row| puts row }
```

which should print the documents where i > 50. We could also get a range, say 20 < i <= 30:

```
coll.find("i" => { "$gt" => 20, "$lte" => 30}).each { |row| puts row }
```

**Querying with Regular Expressions**
Regular expressions can be used to query MongoDB. To find all names that begin with ‘a’:

```ruby
coll.find({"name" => /^a/})
```

You can also construct a regular expression dynamically. To match a given search string:

```ruby
search_string = params['search']

# Constructor syntax
coll.find({"name" => Regexp.new(search_string)})

# Literal syntax
coll.find({"name" => /#{search_string}/})
```

Although MongoDB isn't vulnerable to anything like SQL-injection, it may be worth checking the search string for anything malicious.

**Creating An Index**

MongoDB supports indexes, and they are very easy to add on a collection. To create an index, you specify an index name and an array of field names to be indexed, or a single field name. The following creates an ascending index on the “i” field:

```ruby
# create_index assumes ascending order; see method docs
# for details
coll.create_index("i")
```

To specify complex indexes or a descending index you need to use a slightly more complex syntax - the index specifier must be an Array of [field name, direction] pairs. Directions should be specified as `Mongo::ASCENDING` or `Mongo::DESCENDING`:

```ruby
# explicit "ascending"
coll.create_index(["i", Mongo::ASCENDING])
```

**Creating and querying on a geospatial index**

First, create the index on a field containing long-lat values:

```ruby
people.create_index(["loc", Mongo::GEO2D])
```

Then get a list of the twenty locations nearest to the point 50, 50:

```ruby
people.find({"loc" => {"$near" => [50, 50]}, {"limit" => 20}}).each do |p|
  puts p.inspect
end
```

**Getting a List of Indexes on a Collection**

You can get a list of the indexes on a collection using `coll.index_information()`.

**Database Administration**

A database can have one of three profiling levels: off (:off), slow queries only (:slow_only), or all (:all). To see the database level:

```ruby
puts db.profiling_level  # => off (the symbol :off printed as a string)
db.profiling_level = :slow_only
```

Validating a collection will return an interesting hash if all is well or raise an exception if there is a problem.
p db.validate_collection('coll_name')

See Also

- Ruby Driver Official Docs
- MongoDB Koans A path to MongoDB enlightenment via the Ruby driver.
- MongoDB Manual

Replica Pairs in Ruby

⚠️ Replica Sets will replace replica pairs in MongoDB 1.6. If you are just now setting up an instance, you may want to wait for that and use master/slave replication in the meantime.

Here follow a few considerations for those using the Ruby driver with MongoDB and replica pairing.

- Setup
- Connection Failures
- Recovery
- Testing
- Further Reading

Setup

First, make sure that you've correctly paired two mongod instances. If you want to do this on the same machine for testing, make sure you've created two data directories. The init commands are as follows:

```
./mongod --pairwith localhost:27018 --dbpath /data/left --port 27017
./mongod --pairwith localhost:27017 --dbpath /data/right --port 27018
```

When you instantiate a Ruby connection, you'll have to make sure that the driver knows about both instances:

```
@connection = Connection.paired([['localhost', 27017], ['localhost', 27018]])
```

Connection Failures

Imagine that our master node goes offline. How will the driver respond?

At first, the driver will try to send operations to what was the master node. These operations will fail, and the driver will raise a ConnectionFailure exception. It then becomes the client's responsibility to decide how to handle this.

If the client decides to retry, it's not guaranteed that the former slave will have been promoted to master yet, so it's still possible that the driver will raise another ConnectionFailure. However, once the former slave has become master, typically within a few seconds, subsequent operations will succeed.

Recovery

Driver users may wish to wrap their database calls with failure recovery code. Here's one possibility:
Of course, the proper way to handle connection failures will always depend on the individual application. We encourage object-mapper and application developers to publish any promising results.

Testing

The Ruby driver (>= 0.17.2) includes some unit tests for verifying proper replica pair behavior. They reside in tests/replca. You can run them individually with the following rake tasks:

```
rake test:pair_count
rake test:pair_insert
rake test:pair_query
```

Make sure you have a replica pair running locally before trying to run these tests.

Further Reading

- Replica Pairs
- Pairing Internals

Replica Sets in Ruby

Here follow a few considerations for those using the Ruby driver with MongoDB and replica sets.

- Setup
- Connection Failures
- Recovery
- Testing
- Further Reading

Setup

First, make sure that you've configured and initialized a replica set.

Connecting to a replica set from the Ruby driver is easy. If you only want to specify a single node, simply pass that node to Connection.new:

```
@connection = Connection.new('foo.local', 27017)
```

If you want to pass in multiple seed nodes, use Connection.multi:
In both cases, the driver will attempt to connect to a master node and, when found, will merge any other known members of the replica set into the seed list.

**Connection Failures**

Imagine that our master node goes offline. How will the driver respond?

At first, the driver will try to send operations to what was the master node. These operations will fail, and the driver will raise a `ConnectionFailure` exception. It then becomes the client's responsibility to decide how to handle this.

If the client decides to retry, it's not guaranteed that another member of the replica set will have been promoted to master right away, so it's still possible that the driver will raise another `ConnectionFailure`. However, once a member has been promoted to master, typically within a few seconds, subsequent operations will succeed.

The driver will essentially cycle through all known seed addresses until a node identifies itself as master.

**Recovery**

Driver users may wish to wrap their database calls with failure recovery code. Here's one possibility:

```ruby
# Ensure retry upon failure
def rescue_connection_failure(max_retries=5)
  success = false
  retries = 0
  while !success
    begin
      yield
      success = true
    rescue Mongo::ConnectionFailure => ex
      retries += 1
      raise ex if retries >= max_retries
      sleep(1)
    end
    end
  end
end

# Wrapping a call to #count()
rescue_connection_failure do
  @db.collection('users').count()
end
```

Of course, the proper way to handle connection failures will always depend on the individual application. We encourage object-mapper and application developers to publish any promising results.

**Testing**

The Ruby driver (>= 1.0.6) includes some unit tests for verifying replica set behavior. They reside in `tests/replica_sets`. You can run them individually with the following rake tasks:

```bash
rake test:replica_set_count
rake test:replica_set_insert
rake test:pooled_replica_set_insert
rake test:replica_set_query
```

Make sure you have a replica set running on localhost before trying to run these tests.

**Further Reading**

- [Replica Sets](#)
- [Replicas Set Configuration](#)
GridFS in Ruby

GridFS, which stands for "Grid File Store," is a specification for storing large files in MongoDB. It works by dividing a file into manageable chunks and storing each of those chunks as a separate document. GridFS requires two collections to achieve this: one collection stores each file's metadata (e.g., name, size, etc.) and another stores the chunks themselves. If you’re interested in more details, check out the GridFS Specification.

Prior to version 0.19, the MongoDB Ruby driver implemented GridFS using the GridFS::GridStore class. This class has been deprecated in favor of two new classes: Grid and GridFileSystem. These classes have a much simpler interface, and the rewrite has resulted in a significant speed improvement. Reads are over twice as fast, and write speed has been increased fourfold. 0.19 is thus a worthwhile upgrade.

- The Grid class
  - Saving files
  - File metadata
  - Safe mode
  - Deleting files
- The GridFileSystem class
  - Saving files
  - Deleting files
  - Metadata and safe mode
- Advanced Users

The Grid class

The Grid class represents the core GridFS implementation. Grid gives you a simple file store, keyed on a unique ID. This means that duplicate filenames aren’t a problem. To use the Grid class, first make sure you have a database, and then instantiate a Grid:

```ruby
@db = Mongo::Connection.new.db('social_site')
@grid = Grid.new(@db)
```

Saving files

Once you have a Grid object, you can start saving data to it. The data can be either a string or an IO-like object that responds to a #read method:

```ruby
# Saving string data
id = @grid.put("here’s some string / binary data")

# Saving IO data and including the optional filename
image = File.open("me.jpg")
id2   = @grid.put(image, :filename => "me.jpg")
```

Grid#put returns an object id, which you can use to retrieve the file:

```ruby
# Get the string we saved
file = @grid.get(id)

# Get the file we saved
image = @grid.get(id2)
```

File metadata

There are accessors for the various file attributes:
When putting a file, you can set many of these attributes and write arbitrary metadata:

```
# Saving IO data
file = File.open("me.jpg")
id2  = @grid.put(file,
  :filename     => "my-avatar.jpg",
  :content_type => "application/jpg",
  :_id          => 'a-unique-id-to-use-in-lieu-of-a-random-one',
  :chunk_size   => 100 * 1024,
  :metadata     => {'description' => "taken after a game of ultimate")})
```

Safe mode

A kind of safe mode is built into the GridFS specification. When you save a file, an MD5 hash is created on the server. If you save the file in safe mode, an MD5 will be created on the client for comparison with the server version. If the two hashes don't match, an exception will be raised.

```
image = File.open("me.jpg")
id2   = @grid.put(image, :safe => true)
```

Deleting files

Deleting a file is as simple as providing the id:

```
@grid.delete(id2)
```

The GridFileSystem class

GridFileSystem is a light emulation of a file system and therefore has a couple of unique properties. The first is that filenames are assumed to be unique. The second, a consequence of the first, is that files are versioned. To see what this means, let's create a GridFileSystem instance:

```
@db = Mongo::Connection.new.db("social_site")
@fs = GridFileSystem.new(@db)
```

Now suppose we want to save the file 'me.jpg.' This is easily done using a filesystem-like API:
We can then retrieve the file by filename:

```ruby
image = @fs.open("me.jpg", "r") { |f| f.read }
```

No problems there. But what if we need to replace the file? That too is straightforward:

```ruby
image = File.open("me-dancing.jpg")
@fs.open("me.jpg", "w") do |f|
  f.write image
end
```

But a couple things need to be kept in mind. First is that the original 'me.jpg' will be available until the new 'me.jpg' saves. From then on, calls to the #open method will always return the most recently saved version of a file. But, and this the second point, old versions of the file won't be deleted. So if you're going to be rewriting files often, you could end up with a lot of old versions piling up. One solution to this is to use the :delete_old options when writing a file:

```ruby
image = File.open("me-dancing.jpg")
@fs.open("me.jpg", "w", :delete_old => true) do |f|
  f.write image
end
```

This will delete all but the latest version of the file.

**Deleting files**

When you delete a file by name, you delete all versions of that file:

```ruby
@fs.delete("me.jpg")
```

**Metadata and safe mode**

All of the options for storing metadata and saving in safe mode are available for the GridFileSystem class:

```ruby
image = File.open("me.jpg")
@fs.open('my-avatar.jpg', w, :content_type => "application/jpg",
  :metadata => {'description' => "taken on 3/1/2010 after a game of ultimate"},
  :_id => 'a-unique-id-to-use-instead-of-the-automatically-generated-one',
  :safe => true) { |f| f.write image }
```

**Advanced Users**

Astute code readers will notice that the Grid and GridFileSystem classes are merely thin wrappers around an underlying GridIO class. This means that it's easy to customize the GridFS implementation presented here; just use GridIO for all the low-level work, and build the API you need in an external manager class similar to Grid or GridFileSystem.

**Rails - Getting Started**
Using Rails 3? See Rails 3 - Getting Started

This tutorial describes how to set up a simple Rails application with MongoDB, using MongoMapper as an object mapper. We assume you're using Rails versions prior to 3.0.

- Configuration
- Testing
- Coding

Using a Rails Template
All of the configuration steps listed below, and more, are encapsulated in this Rails template (raw version), based on a similar one by Ben Scofield. You can create your project with the template as follows:

`rails project_name -m "http://gist.github.com/219223.txt"`

Be sure to replace `project_name` with the name of your project.

If you want to set up your project manually, read on.

**Configuration**

1. We need to tell MongoMapper which database we'll be using. Save the following to `config/initializers/database.rb`:

   ```ruby
   MongoMapper.database = "db_name-#{Rails.env}"
   
   Replace `db_name` with whatever name you want to give the database. The `Rails.env` variable will ensure that a different database is used for each environment.
   
   2. If you're using Passenger, add this code to `config/initializers/database.rb`.

   ```ruby
   if defined?(PhusionPassenger)
     PhusionPassenger.on_event(:starting_worker_process) do |forked|
       MongoMapper.connection.connect_to_master if forked
     end
   end
   ```

   3. Clean out `config/database.yml`. This file should be blank, as we're not connecting to the database in the traditional way.

   4. Remove ActiveRecord from `environment.rb`.

   ```ruby
   config.frameworks -= [:active_record]
   ```

   5. Add MongoMapper to the environment. This can be done by opening `config/environment.rb` and adding the line:

   ```ruby
   config.gem 'mongo_mapper'
   ```

   Once you've done this, you can install the gem in the project by running:

   ```bash
   rake gems:install
   rake gems:unpack
   ```

**Testing**

It's important to keep in mind that with MongoDB, we cannot wrap test cases in transactions. One possible work-around is to invoke a teardown method after each test case to clear out the database.

To automate this, I've found it effective to modify `ActiveSupport::TestCase` with the code below.
```ruby
## Drop all columns after each test case.
def teardown
  Mongomapper.database.collections.each do |coll|
    coll.remove
  end
end

## Make sure that each test case has a teardown
## method to clear the db after each test.
def inherited(base)
  base.define_method teardown do
    super
  end
end
```

This way, all test classes will automatically invoke the teardown method. In the example above, the teardown method clears each collection. We might also choose to drop each collection or drop the database as a whole, but this would be considerably more expensive and is only necessary if our tests manipulate indexes.

Usually, this code is added in `test/test_helper.rb`. See the aforementioned rails template for specifics.

**Coding**

If you've followed the foregoing steps (or if you've created your Rails with the provided template), then you're ready to start coding. For help on that, you can read about **modeling your domain in Rails**.

### Rails 3 - Getting Started

It's not difficult to use MongoDB with Rails 3. Most of it comes down to making sure that you're not loading ActiveRecord and understanding how to use **Bundler**, the new Ruby dependency manager.

- Install the Rails 3 Pre-release
- Configure your application
- Bundle and Initialize
  - Bundling
  - Initializing
- Running Tests
- ActiveRecord Compatibility
- Conclusion
- See also

**Install the Rails 3 Pre-release**

If you haven't done so already, install the Rails 3 pre-release. This requires installing the dependencies manually and then installing the Rails 3 pre-release gem:

```bash
# Use sudo if your setup requires it
gem install tzinfo builder i18n memcache-client rack
rake rack-test rack-mount erubis mail text-format
thor bundler

gem install rails --prerelease
```

**Configure your application**

The important thing here is to avoid loading ActiveRecord. One way to do this is with the `--skip-activerecord` switch. So you'd create your app skeleton like so:

```
rails my_app --skip-activerecord
```

Alternatively, if you've already created your app (or just want to know what this actually does), have a look at `config/application.rb` and change the first lines from this:
require "rails/all"

to this:

require "action_controller/railtie"
require "action_mailer/railtie"
require "active_resource/railtie"
require "rails/test_unit/railtie"

It's also important to make sure that the reference to active_record in the generator block is commented out:

```ruby
# Configure generators values. Many other options are available, be sure to check the documentation.
# config.generators do |g|
#   g.orm             :active_record
#   g.template_engine :erb
#   g.test_framework  :test_unit, :fixture => true
# end
```

As of this writing, it's commented out by default, so you probably won't have to change anything here.

**Bundle and Initialize**

The final step involves bundling any gems you'll need and then creating an initializer for connecting to the database.

**Bundling**

**Edit** Gemfile, located in the Rails root directory. By default, our Gemfile will only load Rails:

```ruby
gem "rails", "3.0.0.beta"
```

Normally, using MongoDB will simply mean adding whichever OM framework you want to work with, as these will require the "mongo" gem by default:

```ruby
# Edit this Gemfile to bundle your application's dependencies.
source 'http://gemcutter.org'
gem "rails", "3.0.0.beta"
gem "mongo_mapper"
```

However, there's currently an issue with loading mongo_ext, as the current gemspec isn't compatible with the way Bundler works. We'll be fixing that soon; just pay attention to this issue.

In the meantime, you can use the following work-around:

```ruby
# Edit this Gemfile to bundle your application's dependencies.
require 'rubygems'
require 'mongo'
source 'http://gemcutter.org'
gem "rails", "3.0.0.beta"
gem "mongo_mapper"
```
Requiring `rubygems` and `mongo` before running the `gem` command will ensure that `mongo_ext` is loaded. If you'd rather not load `rubygems`, just make sure that both `mongo` and `mongo_ext` are in your load path when you require `mongo`.

Once you've configured your Gemfile, run the bundle installer:

```bash
bundle install
```

Initializing

Last item is to create an initializer to connect to MongoDB. Create a Ruby file in `config/initializers`. You can give it any name you want; here we'll call it `config/initializers/mongo.rb`:

```ruby
MongoMapper.connection = Mongo::Connection.new('localhost', 27017)
MongoMapper.database = "#myapp-#{Rails.env}"

if defined?(PhusionPassenger)
  PhusionPassenger.on_event(:starting_worker_process) do |forked|
    if forked
      MongoMapper.connection.connect_to_master if forked
    end
  end
end
```

Running Tests

A slight modification is required to get `rake test` working (thanks to John P. Wood). Create a file `lib/tasks/mongo.rake` containing the following:

```ruby
namespace :db do
  namespace :test do
    task :prepare do
      # Stub out for MongoDB
    end
  end
end
```

Now the various `rake test` tasks will run properly. See John's post for more details.

ActiveModel Compatibility

ActiveModel is a series of interfaces designed to make any object-mapping library compatible with the various helper methods across the Rails stack. To see the status of ActiveModel integration on the various object mappers, see our object mappers page.

Briefly, Mongoid supports ActiveModel via a prerelease branch. MongoMapper will be adding support in the near future. In the meantime, use the `MongoMapper Rails 3 Branch`.

Conclusion

That should be all. You can now start creating models based on whichever OM you've installed.

Note that this document is a work in progress. If you have any helpful comments, please add them below.

See also

- Rails 3 App skeleton with MongoMapper
- Rails 3 Release Notes

MongoDB Data Modeling and Rails

This tutorial discusses the development of a web application on Rails and MongoDB. MongoMapper will serve as our object mapper. The goal is to provide some insight into the design choices required for building on MongoDB. To that end, we'll be constructing a simple but non-trivial social news application. The source code for `newsmonger` is available on github for those wishing to dive right in.
Modeling Stories

A news application relies on stories at its core, so we’ll start with a Story model:

```ruby
class Story
  include MongoMapper::Document

  key :title, String
  key :url, String
  key :slug, String
  key :voters, Array
  key :votes, Integer, :default => 0
  key :relevance, Integer, :default => 0

  # Cached values.
  key :comment_count, Integer, :default => 0
  key :username, String

  # Note this: ids are of class ObjectId.
  key :user_id, ObjectId
  timestamps!

  # Relationships.
  belongs_to :user

  # Validations.
  validates_presence_of :title, :url, :user_id

end
```

Obviously, a story needs a title, url, and user_id, and should belong to a user. These are self-explanatory.

Caching to Avoid N+1

When we display our list of stories, we’ll need to show the name of the user who posted the story. If we were using a relational database, we could perform a join on users and stores, and get all our objects in a single query. But MongoDB does not support joins and so, at times, requires a bit of denormalization. Here, this means caching the ‘username’ attribute.

A Note on Denormalization

Relational purists may be feeling uneasy already, as if we were violating some universal law. But let’s bear in mind that MongoDB collections are not equivalent to relational tables; each serves a unique design objective. A normalized table provides an atomic, isolated chunk of data. A document, however, more closely represents an object as a whole. In the case of a social news site, it can be argued that a username is intrinsic to the story being posted.

What about updates to the username? It’s true that such updates will be expensive; happily, in this case, they’ll be rare. The read savings achieved in denormalizing will surely outweigh the costs of the occasional update. Alas, this is not hard and fast rule: ultimately, developers must evaluate their applications for the appropriate level of normalization.

Fields as arrays

With a relational database, even trivial relationships are blown out into multiple tables. Consider the votes a story receives. We need a way of recording which users have voted on which stories. The standard way of handling this would involve creating a table, ‘votes’, with each row referencing user_id and story_id.

With a document database, it makes more sense to store those votes as an array of user ids, as we do here with the ‘voters’ key.

For fast lookups, we can create an index on this field. In the MongoDB shell:
db.stories.ensureIndex('voters');

Or, using MongoMapper, we can specify the index in config/initializers/database.rb:

Story.ensure_index(:voters)

To find all the stories voted on by a given user:

Story.all(:conditions => {:voters => @user.id})

Atomic Updates

Storing the voters array in the Story class also allows us to take advantage of atomic updates. What this means here is that, when a user votes on a story, we can

1. ensure that the voter hasn't voted yet, and, if not,
2. increment the number of votes and
3. add the new voter to the array.

MongoDB's query and update features allows us to perform all three actions in a single operation. Here's what that would look like from the shell:

```ruby
// Assume that story_id and user_id represent real story and user ids.
db.stories.update({_id: story_id, voters: {'$ne': user_id}},
                  {'$inc': {votes: 1}, '$push': {voters: user_id}});
```

What this says is "get me a story with the given id whose voters array does not contain the given user id and, if you find such a story, perform two atomic updates: first, increment votes by 1 and then push the user id onto the voters array."

This operation highly efficient; it's also reliable. The one caveat is that, because update operations are "fire and forget," you won't get a response from the server. But in most cases, this should be a non-issue.

A MongoMapper implementation of the same update would look like this:

```ruby
def self.upvote(story_id, user_id)
    collection.update({'_id' => story_id, 'voters' => {'$ne' => user_id}},
                      {'$inc' => {'votes' => 1}, '$push' => {'voters' => user_id}})
end
```

Modeling Comments

In a relational database, comments are usually given their own table, related by foreign key to some parent table. This approach is occasionally necessary in MongoDB; however, it's always best to try to embed first, as this will achieve greater query efficiency.

Linear, Embedded Comments

Linear, non-threaded comments should be embedded. Here are the most basic MongoMapper classes to implement such a structure:

```ruby
class Story
  include MongoMapper::Document
  many :comments
end
```
If we were using the Ruby driver alone, we could save our structure like so:

```ruby
@stories = @db.collection('stories')
@document = {:title => "MongoDB on Rails",
             :comments => [{:body => "Revelatory! Loved it!",
                            :username => "Matz"},
                           {:body => "Agreed.",
                            :username => "rubydev29"}]
@stories.save(@document)
```

Essentially, comments are represented as an array of objects within a story document. This simple structure should be used for any one-to-many relationship where the many items are linear.

### Nested, Embedded Comments

But what if we're building threaded comments? An admittedly more complicated problem, two solutions will be presented here. The first is to represent the tree structure in the nesting of the comments themselves. This might be achieved using the Ruby driver as follows:

```ruby
@stories = @db.collection('stories')
@document = {:title => "MongoDB on Rails",
             :comments => [{:body => "Revelatory! Loved it!",
                            :username => "Matz",
                            :comments => [{:body => "Agreed.",
                                           :username => "rubydev29"}]}]
@stories.save(@document)
```

Representing this structure using MongoMapper would be tricky, requiring a number of custom mods.

But this structure has a number of benefits. The nesting is captured in the document itself (this is, in fact, how Business Insider represents comments). And this schema is highly performant, since we can get the story, and all of its comments, in a single query, with no application-side processing for constructing the tree.

One drawback is that alternative views of the comment tree require some significant reorganizing.

### Comment collections

We can also represent comments as their own collection. Relative to the other options, this incurs a small performance penalty while granting us the greatest flexibility. The tree structure can be represented by storing the unique path for each leaf (see Mathias's original post on the idea). Here are the relevant sections of this model:
class Comment
  include MongoMapper::Document

  key :body, String
  key :depth, Integer, :default => 0
  key :path, String, :default => ""

  # Note: we're intentionally storing parent_id as a string
  key :parent_id, String
  key :story_id, ObjectId

  timestamps!

  # Relationships.
  belongs_to :story

  # Callbacks.
  after_create :set_path

  private

  # Store the comment's path.
  def set_path
    unless self.parent_id.blank?
      parent = Comment.find(self.parent_id)
      self.story_id = parent.story_id
      self.depth = parent.depth + 1
      self.path = parent.path + ":" + parent.id
    end
    save
  end

The path ends up being a string of object ids. This makes it easier to display our comments nested, with each level in order of karma or votes. If we specify an index on story_id, path, and votes, the database can handle half the work of getting our comments in nested, sorted order.

The rest of the work can be accomplished with a couple grouping methods, which can be found in the newsmonger source code.

It goes without saying that modeling comments in their own collection also facilitates various site-wide aggregations, including displaying the latest, grouping by user, etc.

Unfinished business

Document-oriented data modeling is still young. The fact is, many more applications will need to be built on the document model before we can say anything definitive about best practices. So the foregoing should be taken as suggestions, only. As you discover new patterns, we encourage you to document them, and feel free to let us know about what works (and what doesn’t).

Developers working on object mappers and the like are encouraged to implement the best document patterns in their code, and to be wary of recreating relational database models in their apps.

Object Mappers for Ruby and MongoDB

Although it’s possible to use the Ruby driver by itself, sometimes you want validations, associations, and many of the other conveniences provided by ActiveRecord. Here, then, is a list of the most popular object mappers available for working with Ruby and MongoDB.

- Recommendations
- Libraries
  - MongoMapper
  - MongoDoc
  - Mongoid
  - Candy
  - MongoRecord

Recommendations

First we advise that you get to know how the database itself works. This is best accomplished by playing with the shell and experimenting with the Ruby driver (or any of the other drivers, for that matter)*.

Once you understand how MongoDB works, you’ll be in a good position to choose the object mapper that best suits your needs. So long as you
pick an OM that's used in production and is actively developed, you really can't make a bad choice.

**Libraries**

**MongoMapper**

John Nunemaker's OM. Used in production and actively-developed. ActiveModel support forthcoming.

**Installation:**

- gem install mongo_mapper

**Source:**

- mongo_mapper on github

**Documentation:**

- [MongoMapper on google groups](http://example.com)
- #mongomapper on freenode.

**Articles:**

- [Getting Started with MongoMapper](http://example.com)
- [MongoMapper and Rails](http://example.com)
- [More MongoMapper Awesomeness.](http://example.com)

**MongoDoc**

MongoDoc is a simple, fast ODM for MongoDB. The project will eventually be merged into Mongoid.

**Installation:**

- gem install mongodoc

**Source:**

- mongodoc on github

**MongoModel**

Sam Pohlenz's OM. Actively-developed.

**Notes:**

An OM with emphasis on ActiveModel compatibility.

**Installation:**

- gem install mongomodel

**Source:**

- mongomodel on github

**Candy**

Stephen Eley's OM. Actively-developed.

**Notes:**

From the README:

Candy's goal is to provide the simplest possible object persistence for the MongoDB database. By "simple" we mean "nearly invisible." Candy doesn't try to mirror ActiveRecord or DataMapper. Instead, we play to MongoDB's unusual strengths – extremely fast writes and a set of field-specific update operators – and do away with the cumbersome, unnecessary methods of last-generation workflows.

**Installation:**

- gem install candy

**Source:**

- candy on github
Using Mongoid

Mongoid is a mature ODM for MongoDB. Much work has gone into the project, and it sports an active user community and excellent documentation. That said, we've seen a few of Mongoid's design decisions cause problems for users in production. This page is an attempt to make current and future users aware of these issues.

Most of the issues mentioned here will be resolved with the release of Mongoid 2.0.

These principles should be applied to every MongoDB object mapper, regardless of implementation language. We still recommend Mongoid, but only if the following points are taken into account:

- Object ids should be stored as object ids, not as strings.
- Index creation shouldn't be defined in the model and triggered on load.
- Embedded documents and related documents are both appropriate solutions.
- Automated sorting by _id ( #last method).
- Safe mode should not be enabled for every operation by default.

Object ids should be stored as object ids, not as strings.

Problem:
Mongoid currently stores object ids as string, by default. There are a couple of problems with this. The first is that the object id type is the reigning convention; if you ever need to switch languages or ODMs, you'll find yourself in trouble, since all other projects will expect an object id proper and not a string. Since it's impossible to change the _id attribute, the only way to convert a collection to use object ids proper is to rewrite the collection. For many users, this would be incredibly inconvenient.

The second problem is that storing an object id as a string requires 16 extra bytes of storage per object id. This will be duplicated in any index where it appears. Thus, storing object ids as strings needlessly increases storage size.

A final problem with storing object ids as strings is that upserts will always insert an object id proper. If you ever want to use upserts, you must store object ids and object ids proper. Otherwise, your collection will contain object ids of multiple types.

Solution
In the Mongoid config, make sure you set
use_object_ids: true

All object mappers should use real, non-string object ids by default.

*Index creation shouldn't be defined in the model and triggered on load.*

**Problem**
Mongoid (and MongoMapper) allows developers to define indexes on the model layer. Because of this, we've now seen numerous examples of developers accidentally triggering new index builds on production boxes. This can cause unwanted downtime and worse, depending on how the developers react.

We've also noticed that this index creation API doesn't encourage compound indexes, which are often the best choice for certain queries. If you're not familiar with compound indexes, read our [indexing advice](#).

**Solution**
The best solution for the moment is to avoid defining indexes in the model. We'd recommend creating some kind of rake task that updates indexes so that you never inadvertently trigger an index creation. You can easily accomplish this with the Ruby driver API. Read the docs on create_index.

It's also important to know how and when to create compound indexes. Again, check our this [indexing advice](#).

*Embedded documents and related documents are both appropriate solutions.*

**Problem**
The Mongoid API and documentation can lead newer users to believe that embedded documents are almost always the way to represent one-to-many relations. However, there are plenty of situations where storing the related documents in a separate collection is the better choice.

Too much embedding can lead to extra large documents (> 100kb), which can be hard to work with. In addition, these large documents can be inefficient when updating on the server, transferring across the network, and/or serializing to and from BSON.

**Solution**
Know that related documents can be a good choice just as frequently as embedded documents. Consult these schema design resources:

- Schema design docs
- MongoDB Schema Design slides
- Schema Design in MongoDB Video from MongoNY

 automated sorting by _id (#last method).

**Problem**
We've seen methods that invoke automated sorts by _id to preserve order. This is fine if the right indexes are defined, but can start to result in slow queries as the collection grows.

**Solution**
If you have large collections, be sure that you have the proper indexes defined so that sorts on _id don't slow down your system.

*Safe mode should not be enabled for every operation by default.*

**Problem**
Mongoid uses :safe mode by default for every insert and update. This isn't always necessary. Safe mode should be used when an error is expected or when you want to use replication acknowledgment.

**Solution**
We suggest disabling safe mode in the Mongoid config, especially if performance is critical.

```
persist_in_safe_mode: false
```

Then, decide which operations actually need it. If you have a unique on a collection, or if you're doing updates that you think could fail, then safe mode is a good idea. If you're logging, doing analytics, or performing a bulk insert, it may not be necessary.

The API should allow users to set safe mode on individual insert and update operations.

**Final thoughts**
This isn't an indictment of Mongoid or of any other object mapper. We think Mongoid is a great project, and we hope to see it continue to flourish.
But we’ve seen enough pain caused by some of its design decisions to warrant this page. Our only hope is that the recommendations here help users have a better experience with Mongoid and MongoDB.

Ruby External Resources

There are a number of good resources appearing all over the web for learning about MongoDB and Ruby. A useful selection is listed below. If you know of others, do let us know.

- **Screencasts**
- **Presentations**
- **Articles**
- **Projects**
- **Libraries**

**Screencasts**

- **Introduction to MongoDB - Part I**
  An introduction to MongoDB via the MongoDB shell.

- **Introduction to MongoDB - Part II**
  In this screencast, Joon You teaches how to use the Ruby driver to build a simple Sinatra app.

- **Introduction to MongoDB - Part III**
  For the final screencast in the series, Joon You introduces MongoMapper and Rails.

- **RailsCasts: MongoDB & MongoMapper**
  Ryan Bates’ RailsCast introducing MongoDB and MongoMapper.

**Presentations**

- **Introduction to MongoDB (Video)**
  Mike Diroll’s introduction to MongoDB at Pivotal Labs, SF.

- **MongoDB: A Ruby Document Store that doesn’t rhyme with ‘Ouch’ (Slides)**
  Wynn Netherland’s introduction to MongoDB with some comparisons to CouchDB.

- **MongoDB (is) for Rubyists (Slides)**
  Kyle Banker’s presentation on why MongoDB is for Rubyists (and all human-oriented programmers).

- **Introduction to Mongoid and MongoDB (Video)**
  Durran Jordan discusses Mongoid, MongoDB, and how HashRocket uses these tools in production.

**Articles**

- **Why I Think Mongo is to Databases What Rails was to Frameworks**
  What if a key-value store mated with a relational database system?
  John Nunemaker’s articles on MongoDB.

  A series of articles on aggregation with MongoDB and Ruby:
  1. **Part I: Introduction of Aggregation in MongoDB**
  2. **Part II: MongoDB Grouping Elaborated**
  3. **Part III: Introduction to Map-Reduce in MongoDB**

- **Does the MongoDB Driver Support Feature X?**
  An explanation of how the MongoDB drivers usually automatically support new database features.

**Projects**

- **Mongo Queue**
  An extensible thread safe job/message queueing system that uses mongodb as the persistent storage engine.

- **Resque-mongo**
  A port of the Github’s Resque to MongoDB.

- **Mongo Admin**
  A Rails plugin for browsing and managing MongoDB data. See the live demo.

- **Sinatra Resource**
  Resource Oriented Architecture (REST) for Sinatra and MongoMapper.

- **Shorty**
  A URL-shortener written with Sinatra and the MongoDB Ruby driver.
NewsMonger
A simple social news application demonstrating MongoMapper and Rails.

Data Catalog API
From Sunlight Labs, a non-trivial application using MongoMapper and Sinatra.

Watchtower
An example application using Mustache, MongoDB, and Sinatra.

Shapado
A question and answer site similar to Stack Overflow. Live version at shapado.com.

Libraries

ActiveExpando
An extension to ActiveRecord to allow the storage of arbitrary attributes in MongoDB.

ActsAsTree (MongoMapper)
ActsAsTree implementation for MongoMapper.

Machinist adapter (MongoMapper)
Machinist adapter using MongoMapper.

Mongo-Delegate
A delegation library for experimenting with production data without altering it. A quite useful pattern.

Remarkable Matchers (MongoMapper)
Testing / Matches library using MongoMapper.

OpenIdAuthentication, supporting MongoDB as the datastore
Brandon Keepers' fork of OpenIdAuthentication supporting MongoDB.

MongoTree (MongoRecord)
MongoTree adds parent / child relationships to MongoRecord.

Merb_MongoMapper
a plugin for the Merb framework for supporting MongoMapper models.

Mongolytics (MongoMapper)
A web analytics tool.

Rack-GridFS
A Rack middleware component that creates HTTP endpoints for files stored in GridFS.

Frequently Asked Questions - Ruby

This is a list of frequently asked questions about using Ruby with MongoDB. If you have a question you'd like to have answered here, please add it in the comments.

- Can I run [insert command name here] from the Ruby driver?
- Does the Ruby driver support an EXPLAIN command?
- I see that BSON supports a symbol type. Does this mean that I can store Ruby symbols in MongoDB?
- Why can't I access random elements within a cursor?
- Why can't I save an instance of TimeWithZone?

Can I run [insert command name here] from the Ruby driver?

Yes. You can run any of the available database commands from the driver using the DB#command method. The only trick is to use an OrderedHash when specifying the command. For example, here's how you'd run an asynchronous fsync from the driver:
# This command is run on the admin database.
@db = Mongo::Connection.new.db('admin')

# Build the command.
cmd = OrderedHash.new
  cmd['fsync'] = 1
  cmd['async'] = true

# Run it.
@db.command(cmd)

It's important to keep in mind that some commands, like `fsync`, must be run on the admin database, while other commands can be run on any database. If you're having trouble, check the command reference to make sure you're using the command correctly.

Does the Ruby driver support an EXPLAIN command?

Yes. `explain` is, technically speaking, an option sent to a query that tells MongoDB to return an explain plan rather than the query's results. You can use `explain` by constructing a query and calling `explain` at the end:

```
@collection = @db['users']
result = @collection.find({:name => 'jones'}).explain
```

The resulting explain plan might look something like this:

```
{
  "cursor"=>"BtreeCursor name_1",
  "startKey"=>{"name":"Jones"},
  "endKey"=>{"name":"Jones"},
  "nscanned"=>1.0,
  "n"=>1,
  "millis"=>0,
  "oldPlan"=>{
    "cursor"=>"BtreeCursor name_1",
    "startKey"=>{"name":"Jones"},
    "endKey"=>{"name":"Jones"}
  },
  "allPlans"=>[
    {
      "cursor"=>"BtreeCursor name_1",
      "startKey"=>{"name":"Jones"},
      "endKey"=>{"name":"Jones"}
    }
  ]
}
```

Because this collection has an index on the "name" field, the query uses that index, only having to scan a single record. "n" is the number of records the query will return. "millis" is the time the query takes, in milliseconds. "oldPlan" indicates that the query optimizer has already seen this kind of query and has, therefore, saved an efficient query plan. "allPlans" shows all the plans considered for this query.

I see that BSON supports a symbol type. Does this mean that I can store Ruby symbols in MongoDB?

You can store Ruby symbols in MongoDB, but only as values. BSON specifies that document keys must be strings. So, for instance, you can do this:

```
@collection = @db['test']

boat_id = @collection.save({:vehicle => :boat})
car_id = @collection.save({:vehicle => :car})

@collection.find_one('_id' => boat_id)

@collection.find_one('_id' => car_id)
```

```
{ "_id" => ObjectID('4bb372a8238d3b5c8c000001'), "vehicle" => "boat" }
{ "_id" => ObjectID('4bb372a8238d3b5c8c000002'), "vehicle" => "car" }
```
Notice that the symbol values are returned as expected, but that symbol keys are treated as strings.

Why can't I access random elements within a cursor?

MongoDB cursors are designed for sequentially iterating over a result set, and all the drivers, including the Ruby driver, stick closely to this directive. Internally, a Ruby cursor fetches results in batches by running a MongoDB getmore operation. The results are buffered for efficient iteration on the client-side.

What this means is that a cursor is nothing more than a device for returning a result set on a query that's been initiated on the server. Cursors are not containers for result sets. If we allow a cursor to be randomly accessed, then we run into issues regarding the freshness of the data. For instance, if I iterate over a cursor and then want to retrieve the cursor's first element, should a stored copy be returned, or should the cursor re-run the query? If we returned a stored copy, it may not be fresh. And if the the query is re-run, then we're technically dealing with a new cursor.

To avoid those issues, we're saying that anyone who needs flexible access to the results of a query should store those results in an array and then access the data as needed.

Why can't I save an instance of TimeWithZone?

MongoDB stores times in UTC as the number of milliseconds since the epoch. This means that the Ruby driver serializes Ruby Time objects only. While it would certainly be possible to serialize a TimeWithZone, this isn't preferable since the driver would still deserialize to a Time object.

All that said, if necessary, it'd be easy to write a thin wrapper over the driver that would store an extra time zone attribute and handle the serialization/deserialization of TimeWithZone transparently.

Java Language Center

Basics

- Tutorial
- API Documentation
- Downloads

Specific Topics

- Concurrency
- Saving Objects
- Data Types

3rd Party

POJO Mappers

- Morphia - Type-Safe Wrapper with DAO/Datastore abstractions
- pojo to MongoDB
- mungbean
- daybreak PoJo mapping for Java & MongoDB using Java 5 annotations.

  Code Generation

  - Sculptor - mongodb-based DSL -> Java (code generator)
  - GuicyData - DSL -> Java generator with Guice integration
    - Blog Entries

Misc

- log4j -> mongodb appender
- (Experimental, Type4) JDBC driver

Other JVM-based Languages

- Clojure
- Groovy
  - Groovy Tutorial for MongoDB
  - MongoDB made more Groovy
  - gMongo, a Groovy wrapper to the mongodb Java driver
  - GMongo 0.5 Released
- Scala
  - Lift-MongoDB - Wrapper, Mapper, and Record back-end implementation. Part of the Lift Web Framework
    - Wiki
    - Mailing list
**Casbah** Casbah is a Scala oriented series of wrappers and extensions to the MongoDB Java driver to provide a more scala-friendly interface to MongoDB. Implements the Scala 2.8 collection interfaces to improve interaction, and a fluid query syntax which closely matches the MongoDB interface. Support for ORM-style Object mapping is coming soon, as well.

- **Tutorial**
- **Mailing List**
- **GitHub Project Page**

**JavaScript**

- **MongoDB-Rhino** - A toolset to provide full integration between the Rhino JavaScript engine for the JVM and MongoDB. Uses the MongoDB Java driver.

If there is a project missing here, just add a comment or email the list and we'll add it.

**Presentations**

- **Using MongoDB with Scala** - Brendan McAdams' Presentation at the New York Scala Enthusiasts (August 2010)
- **Java Development** - Brendan McAdams' Presentation from MongoNYC (May 2010)
- **Java Development** - James Williams' Presentation from MongoSF (April 2010)
- **Building a Mongo DSL in Scala at Hot Potato** - Lincoln Hochberg’s Presentation from MongoSF (April 2010)

**Java Driver Concurrency**

The Java MongoDB driver is thread safe. If you are using in a web serving environment, for example, you should create a single Mongo instance, and you can use it in every request. The Mongo object maintains an internal pool of connections to the database (default pool size of 10).

However, if you want to ensure complete consistency in a "session" (maybe an http request), you probably want the driver to use the same socket for that session (which isn't necessarily the case since Mongo instances have built-in connection pooling). This is only necessary for a write heavy environment, where you might read data that you wrote.

To do that, you would do something like:

```java
DB db...;
db.requestStart();

code....
db.requestDone();
```

**Java - Saving Objects Using DBOBJECT**

The Java driver provides a DBOBJECT interface to save custom objects to the database.

For example, suppose one had a class called Tweet that they wanted to save:

```java
public class Tweet implements DBOBJECT {
    /* ... */
}
```

Then you can say:

```java
Tweet myTweet = new Tweet();
myTweet.put("user", userId);
myTweet.put("message", msg);
myTweet.put("date", new Date());

collection.insert(myTweet);
```

When a document is retrieved from the database, it is automatically converted to a DBOBJECT. To convert it to an instance of your class, use `DBCollection.setObjectClass()`:

```java
DBCollection.setObjectClass(Tweet);
Tweet myTweet = (Tweet)collection.findOne();
```
Java Tutorial

- Introduction
- A Quick Tour
  - Making A Connection
  - Authentication (Optional)
  - Getting A List Of Collections
  - Getting A Collection
  - Inserting a Document
  - Finding the First Document In A Collection using findOne()
  - Adding Multiple Documents
  - Counting Documents in A Collection
  - Using a Cursor to Get All the Documents
  - Getting A Single Document with A Query
  - Getting A Set of Documents With a Query
  - Creating An Index
  - Getting a List of Indexes on a Collection
- Quick Tour of the Administrative Functions
  - Getting A List of Databases
  - Dropping A Database

Introduction

This page is a brief overview of working with the MongoDB Java Driver.

For more information about the Java API, please refer to the online API Documentation for Java Driver

A Quick Tour

Using the Java driver is very simple. First, be sure to include the driver jar mongo.jar in your classpath. The following code snippets come from the examples/QuickTour.java example code found in the driver.

Making A Connection

To make a connection to a MongoDB, you need to have at the minimum, the name of a database to connect to. The database doesn't have to exist - if it doesn't, MongoDB will create it for you.

Additionally, you can specify the server address and port when connecting. The following example shows three ways to connect to the database mydb on the local machine:

```java
import com.mongodb.Mongo;
import com.mongodb.DB;
import com.mongodb.DBCollection;
import com.mongodb.BasicDBObject;
import com.mongodbDBObject;
import com.mongodb.DBCursor;

Mongo m = new Mongo();
Mongo m = new Mongo( "localhost" );
Mongo m = new Mongo( "localhost" , 27017 );

DB db = m.getDB( "mydb" );
```

At this point, the db object will be a connection to a MongoDB server for the specified database. With it, you can do further operations.

Note: The Mongo object instance actually represents a pool of connections to the database; you will only need one object of class Mongo even with multiple threads. See the concurrency doc page for more information.

Authentication (Optional)

MongoDB can be run in a secure mode where access to databases is controlled through name and password authentication. When run in this mode, any client application must provide a name and password before doing any operations. In the Java driver, you simply do the following with the connected mongo object:

```java
boolean auth = db.authenticate(myUserName, myPassword);
```

If the name and password are valid for the database, auth will be true. Otherwise, it will be false. You should look at the MongoDB log for further information if available.
Most users run MongoDB without authentication in a trusted environment.

**Getting A List Of Collections**

Each database has zero or more collections. You can retrieve a list of them from the db (and print out any that are there):

```java
Set<String> colls = db.getCollectionNames();
for (String s : colls) {
    System.out.println(s);
}
```

and assuming that there are two collections, name and address, in the database, you would see

```
name
address
```

as the output.

**Getting A Collection**

To get a collection to use, just specify the name of the collection to the `getCollection` method:

```java
DBCollection coll = db.getCollection("testCollection")
```

Once you have this collection object, you can now do things like insert data, query for data, etc

**Inserting a Document**

Once you have the collection object, you can insert documents into the collection. For example, lets make a little document that in JSON would be represented as

```
{
    "name" : "MongoDB",
    "type" : "database",
    "count" : 1,
    "info" : {
        "x" : 203,
        "y" : 102
    }
}
```

Notice that the above has an "inner" document embedded within it. To do this, we can use the `BasicDBObject` class to create the document (including the inner document), and then just simply insert it into the collection using the `insert()` method.

```java
BasicDBObject doc = new BasicDBObject();
    doc.put("name", "MongoDB");
    doc.put("type", "database");
    doc.put("count", 1);
    BasicDBObject info = new BasicDBObject();
    info.put("x", 203);
    info.put("y", 102);
    doc.put("info", info);
    coll.insert(doc);
```

**Finding the First Document In A Collection using `findOne()`**
To show that the document we inserted in the previous step is there, we can do a simple findOne() operation to get the first document in the collection. This method returns a single document (rather than the DBCursor that the find() operation returns), and it’s useful for things where there only is one document, or you are only interested in the first. You don't have to deal with the cursor.

```java
DBObject myDoc = coll.findOne();
System.out.println(myDoc);
```

and you should see

```json
{ 
  "_id": "49902cde5162504500b45c2c",
  "name": "MongoDB",
  "type": "database",
  "count": 1,
  "info": {
    "x": 203,
    "y": 102,
    "ns": "testCollection"
  }
}
```

Note the _id and _ns elements have been added automatically by MongoDB to your document. Remember, MongoDB reserves element names that start with _ for internal use.

---

**Adding Multiple Documents**

In order to do more interesting things with queries, let's add multiple simple documents to the collection. These documents will just be

```java
{
  "i": value
}
```

and we can do this fairly efficiently in a loop

```java
for (int i=0; i < 100; i++) {
    coll.insert(new BasicDBObject().append("i", i));
}
```

Notice that we can insert documents of different "shapes" into the same collection. This aspect is what we mean when we say that MongoDB is "schema-free"

---

**Counting Documents in A Collection**

Now that we’ve inserted 101 documents (the 100 we did in the loop, plus the first one), we can check to see if we have them all using the getCount() method.

```java
System.out.println(coll.getCount());
```

and it should print 101.

---

**Using a Cursor to Get All the Documents**

In order to get all the documents in the collection, we will use the find() method. The find() method returns a DBCursor object which allows us to iterate over the set of documents that matched our query. So to query all of the documents and print them out :

```java
DBCursor cur = coll.find();
while(cur.hasNext()) {
    System.out.println(cur.next());
}
```

and that should print all 101 documents in the collection.

---

**Getting A Single Document with A Query**

We can create a query to pass to the find() method to get a subset of the documents in our collection. For example, if we wanted to find the document for which the value of the "i" field is 71, we would do the following :
BasicDBObject query = new BasicDBObject();
    query.put("i", 71);
    cur = coll.find(query);
    while(cur.hasNext()) {
        System.out.println(cur.next());
    }

and it should just print just one document

{ "_id" : "49903677516250c1008d624e" , "i" : 71 , "_ns" : "testCollection" }

**Getting A Set of Documents With a Query**

We can use the query to get a set of documents from our collection. For example, if we wanted to get all documents where "i" > 50, we could write:

```java
query = new BasicDBObject();
    query.put("i", new BasicDBObject("$gt", 50)); // e.g. find all where i > 50
    cur = coll.find(query);
    while(cur.hasNext()) {
        System.out.println(cur.next());
    }
```

which should print the documents where i > 50. We could also get a range, say 20 < i <= 30:

```java
query = new BasicDBObject();
    query.put("i", new BasicDBObject("$gt", 20).append("$lte", 30)); // i.e. 20 < i <= 30
    cur = coll.find(query);
    while(cur.hasNext()) {
        System.out.println(cur.next());
    }
```

**Creating An Index**

MongoDB supports indexes, and they are very easy to add on a collection. To create an index, you just specify the field that should be indexed, and specify if you want the index to be ascending (1) or descending (-1). The following creates an ascending index on the "i" field:

```java
coll.createIndex(new BasicDBObject("i", 1)); // create index on "i", ascending
```

**Getting a List of Indexes on a Collection**

You can get a list of the indexes on a collection:

```java
List<DBObject> list = coll.getIndexInfo();
    for (DBObject o : list) {
        System.out.println(o);
    }
```

and you should see something like
Quick Tour of the Administrative Functions

Getting A List of Databases
You can get a list of the available databases:

```java
Mongo m = new Mongo();
for (String s : m.getDatabaseNames()) {
    System.out.println(s);
}
```

Dropping A Database
You can drop a database by name using the Mongo object:

```java
m.dropDatabase("my_new_db");
```

Java Types

- Object Ids
- Regular Expressions
- Dates/Times
- Database References
- Binary Data
- Embedded Documents
- Arrays

Object Ids
`com.mongodb.ObjectId` is used to autogenerate unique ids.

```java
ObjectId id = new ObjectId();
ObjectId copy = new ObjectId(id);
```

Regular Expressions
The Java driver uses `java.util.regex.Pattern` for regular expressions.

```java
Pattern john = Pattern.compile("joh?n", CASE_INSENSITIVE);
BasicDBObject query = new BasicDBObject("name", john);
// finds all people with "name" matching /joh?n/i
DBCursor cursor = collection.find(query);
```

Dates/Times
The `java.util.Date` class is used for dates.

```java
Date now = new Date();
BasicDBObject time = new BasicDBObject("ts", now);
collection.save(time);
```
**Database References**

`com.mongodb.DBRef` can be used to save database references.

```java
DBRef addressRef = new DBRef(db, "foo.bar", address_id);
DBObject address = addressRef.fetch();

DBObject person = BasicDBObjectBuilder.start()
    .add("name", "Fred")
    .add("address", addressRef)
    .get();
collection.save(person);

DBObject fred = collection.findOne();
DBRef addressObj = (DBRef)fred.get("address");
addressObj.fetch()
```

**Binary Data**

An array of bytes `byte[]` can be used for binary data.

**Embedded Documents**

Suppose we have a document that, in JavaScript, looks like:

```javascript
{
    "x" : {
        "y" : 3
    }
}
```

The equivalent in Java is:

```java
BasicDBObject y = new BasicDBObject("y", 3);
BasicDBObject x = new BasicDBObject("x", y);
```

**Arrays**

Anything that extends List in Java will be saved as an array.

So, if you are trying to represent the JavaScript:

```javascript
{
    "x" : [
        1,
        2,
        {"foo" : "bar"},
        4
    ]
}
```

you could do:
A C++ driver is available for communicating with the MongoDB. As the database is written in C++, the driver actually uses some core MongoDB code -- this is the same driver that the database uses itself for replication.

The driver has been compiled successfully on Linux, OS X, Windows, and Solaris.

- **API Documentation**
- **MongoDB C++ Client Tutorial**
- **Using BSON from C++**
- **HOWTO**
  - Connecting
  - Tailable Cursors
- **Mongo Database and C++ Driver Source Code** (at github). See the client subdirectory for client driver related files.
- **Download**

**Additional Notes**

- The Building documentation covers compiling the entire database, but some of the notes there may be helpful for compiling client applications too.
- There is also a pure C driver for MongoDB. For true C++ apps we recommend using the C++ driver.

**C++ BSON Library**

- **Overview**
- **Examples**
- **API Docs**
- **Short Class Names**

**Overview**

The MongoDB C++ driver library includes a bson package that implements the BSON specification (see [http://www.bsonspec.org/](http://www.bsonspec.org/)). This library can be used standalone for object serialization and deserialization even when one is not using MongoDB at all.

Include bson/bson.h or db/jsobj.h in your application (not both). bson.h is new and may not work in some situations, was is good for light header-only usage of BSON (see the bsondemo.cpp example).

Key classes:

- **BSONObj** a BSON object
- **BSONElement** a single element in a bson object. This is a key and a value.
- **BSONObjBuilder** used to make BSON objects
- **BSONObjIterator** to enumerate BSON objects

Let's now create a BSON "person" object which contains name and age. We might invoke:

```c++
ArrayList x = new ArrayList();
x.add(1);
x.add(2);
x.add(new BasicDBObject("foo", "bar"));
x.add(4);
BasicDBObject doc = new BasicDBObject("x", x);
```
BSONObjBuilder b;
b.append("name", "Joe");
b.append("age", 33);
BSONObj p = b.obj();

Or more concisely:

BSONObj p = BSONObjBuilder().append("name", "Joe").append("age", 33).obj();

We can also create objects with a stream-oriented syntax:

BSONObjBuilder b;
b << "name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33;
BSONObj p = b.obj();

The macro BSON lets us be even more compact:

BSONObj p = BSON( "name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33 );

Use the GENOID helper to add an object id to your object. The server will add an _id automatically if it is not included explicitly.

BSONObj p = BSON( GENOID << "name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33 );
// result is: { _id : ..., name : "Joe", age : 33 }

GENOID should be at the beginning of the generated object. We can do something similar with the non-stream builder syntax:

BSONObj p =
BSONObjBuilder().genOID().append("name","Joe").append("age",33).obj();

Examples

• http://github.com/mongodb/mongo/blob/master/bson/bsondemo/bsondemo.cpp

API Docs

• http://api.mongodb.org/cplusplus/

Short Class Names

Add

using namespace bson;

to your code to use the following shorter more C++ style names for the BSON classes:

// from bsonelement.h
namespace bson {
  typedef mongo::BSONElement be;
  typedef mongo::BSONObj bo;
  typedef mongo::BSONObjBuilder bob;
}

(Or one could use bson::bo fully qualified for example).
Also available is `bo::iterator` as a synonym for `BSONObjIterator`.

### C++ Tutorial

- Installing the Driver Library and Headers
  - Unix
    - From Source
  - Windows
- Compiling
- Writing Client Code
  - Connecting
  - BSON
  - Inserting
  - Querying
  - Indexing
  - Sorting
  - Updating
- Further Reading

This document is an introduction to usage of the MongoDB database from a C++ program.

First, install Mongo -- see the [Quickstart](#) for details.

Next, you may wish to take a look at the [Developer's Tour](#) guide for a language independent look at how to use MongoDB. Also, we suggest some basic familiarity with the [mongo shell](#), the shell is one's primary database administration tool and is useful for manually inspecting the contents of a database after your C++ program runs.

### Installing the Driver Library and Headers

A good source for general information about setting up a MongoDB development environment on various operating systems is the building page.

#### Unix

**From Source**

For Unix, the Mongo driver library is `libmongoclient.a`.

When installing from source, use `scons --full install` to install the libraries. `--full` tells the install target to include the library and header files; by default library and header files are installed in `/usr/local`. You can use `--prefix` to change the install path: `scons --prefix /opt/mongo --full install`. You can also specify `--sharedclient` to build a shared library instead of a statically linked library.

The normal db distribution used to include the C++ driver, but now you have to build from source.

#### Windows

The MongoDB Windows binary packages include a file `lib/mongoclient.lib`. Include this library in your client project.

For more information on Boost setup see the Building for Windows page.

### Compiling

The C++ drivers requires the `pcre` and `boost` libraries (with headers) to compile. Be sure they are in your include and lib paths. You can usually install them from your OS's package manager if you don't already have them.

### Writing Client Code

Note: for brevity, the examples below are simply inline code. In a real application one will define classes for each database object typically.

### Connecting

Let's make a tutorial.cpp file that connects to the database (see client/examples/tutorial.cpp for full text of the examples below):
```cpp
#include <iostream>
#include "client/dbclient.h"
using namespace mongo;

void run() {
    DBClientConnection c;
    c.connect("localhost");
}

int main() {
    try {
        run();
        cout << "connected ok" << endl;
    } catch (DBException &e) {
        cout << "caught " << e.what() << endl;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

If you are using gcc on Linux or OS X, you would compile with something like this, depending on location of your include files and libraries:

```
$ g++ tutorial.cpp -lmongoclient -lboost_thread-mt -lboost_filesystem -lboost_program_options -o tutorial
$ ./tutorial
connected ok
```

Depending on your boost version you might need to link against the `boost_system` library as well: `-lboost_system`. Also, you may need to append "-mt" to `boost_filesystem` and `boost_program_options`. And, of course, you may need to use `-l` and `-L` to specify the locations of your mongo and boost headers and libraries.

**BSON**

The Mongo database stores data in BSON format. BSON is a binary object format that is JSON-like in terms of the data which can be stored (some extensions exist, for example, a Date datatype).

To save data in the database we must create objects of class `BSONObj`. The components of a BSONObj are represented as `BSONElement` objects. We use `BSONObjBuilder` to make BSON objects, and `BSONObjIterator` to enumerate BSON objects.

Let's now create a BSON "person" object which contains name and age. We might invoke:

```cpp
BSONObjBuilder b;
b.append("name", "Joe");
b.append("age", 33);
BSONObj p = b.obj();
```

Or more concisely:

```cpp
BSONObj p = BSONObjBuilder().append("name", "Joe").append("age", 33).obj();
```

We can also create objects with a stream-oriented syntax:

```cpp
BSONObjBuilder b;
b << "name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33;
BSONObj p = b.obj();
```

The macro BSON lets us be even more compact:
Use the GENOID helper to add an object id to your object. The server will add an _id automatically if it is not included explicitly.

```c++
BSONObj p = BSON( GENOID << "name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33);
// result is: { _id : ... , name : "Joe", age : 33 }
```

GENOID should be at the beginning of the generated object. We can do something similar with the non-stream builder syntax:

```c++
BSONObj p = BSONObjBuilder().genOID().append("name","Joe").append("age",33).obj();
```

**Inserting**

We now save our person object in a persons collection in the database:

```c++
c.insert("tutorial.persons", p);
```

The first parameter to insert is the namespace. tutorial is the database and persons is the collection name.

**Querying**

Let's now fetch all objects from the persons collection, and display them. We'll also show here how to use count().

```c++
cout << "count:" << c.count("tutorial.persons") << endl;
auto_ptr<DBClientCursor> cursor =
c.query("tutorial.persons", emptyObj);
while( cursor->more() ) {
  cout << cursor->next().toString() << endl;
}
```

emptyObj is the empty BSON object -- we use it to represent {} which indicates an empty query pattern (an empty query is a query for all objects).

We use BSONObj::toString() above to print out information about each object retrieved. BSONObj::toString is a diagnostic function which prints an abbreviated JSON string representation of the object. For full JSON output, use BSONObj::jsonString.

Let's now write a function which prints out the name (only) of all persons in the collection whose age is a given value:

```c++
void printIfAge(DBClientConnection& c, int age) {
  auto_ptr<DBClientCursor> cursor =
c.query("tutorial.persons", QUERY("age" << age));
  while( cursor->more() ) {
    BSONObj p = cursor->next();
    cout << p.getStringField("name") << endl;
  }
}
```

getStringField() is a helper that assumes the "name" field is of type string. To manipulate an element in a more generic fashion we can retrieve the particular BSONElement from the enclosing object:

```c++
BSONElement name = p["name"]; // or:
//BSONElement name = p.getField("name");
```

See the api docs, and jsobj.h, for more information.

Our query above, written as JSON, is of the form
Queries are BSON objects of a particular format -- in fact, we could have used the BSON() macro above instead of QUERY(). See class Query in dbclient.h for more information on Query objects, and the Sorting section below.

In the mongo shell (which uses javascript), we could invoke:

```javascript
use tutorial;
db.persons.find( { age : 33 } );
```

**Indexing**

Let's suppose we want to have an index on age so that our queries are fast. We would use:

```javascript
c.ensureIndex("tutorial.persons", fromjson("{age:1}")};
```

The ensureIndex method checks if the index exists; if it does not, it is created. ensureIndex is intelligent and does not repeat transmissions to the server; thus it is safe to call it many times in your code, for example, adjacent to every insert operation.

In the above example we use a new function, fromjson. fromjson converts a JSON string to a BSONObj. This is sometimes a convenient way to specify BSON. Alternatively we could have written:

```javascript
c.ensureIndex("tutorial.persons", BSON("age" << 1)));
```

**Sorting**

Let's now make the results from printIfAge sorted alphabetically by name. To do this, we change the query statement from:

```cpp
auto_ptr<DBClientCursor> cursor = c.query("tutorial.persons", QUERY("age" << age)));
```

to

```cpp
to auto_ptr<DBClientCursor> cursor = c.query("tutorial.persons", QUERY("age" << age).sort("name")
```

Here we have used Query::sort() to add a modifier to our query expression for sorting.

**Updating**

Use the update() method to perform a database update. For example the following update in the mongo shell:

```bash
> use tutorial
> db.persons.update( { name : 'Joe', age : 33 },
...                  { $inc : { visits : 1 } } )
```

is equivalent to the following C++ code:

```cpp
db.update( "tutorial.persons",
           BSON( "name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33 ),
           BSON( "$inc" << BSON( "visits" << 1 ) ) });
```

**Further Reading**

This overview just touches on the basics of using Mongo from C++. There are many more capabilities. For further exploration:

- See the language-independent Developer's Tour;
- Experiment with the mongo shell;
Review the doxygen API docs; See connecting pooling information in the API docs; See GridFS file storage information in the API docs; See the HOWTO pages under the C++ Language Center Consider getting involved to make the product (either C++ driver, tools, or the database itself) better!

Connecting

The C++ driver includes several classes for managing collections under the parent class DBClientInterface.

In general, you will want to instantiate either a DBClientConnection object, or a DBClientPaired object. DBClientConnection is our normal connection class for a connection to a single MongoDB database server (or shard manager). We use DBClientPaired to connect to database replica pairs.

See http://api.mongodb.org/cplusplus/ for details on each of the above classes.

Note: replica pairs will soon be replaced by Replica Sets; a new / adjusted interface will be available then.

Perl Language Center

- Installing
  - CPAN
  - Manual (Non-CPAN) Installation
  - Big-Endian Systems
- Next Steps
  - MongoDB Perl Tools
    - Entities::Backend::MongoDB
    - MojoX::Session::Store::MongoDB
    - MongoDB::Admin
    - MongoX

Installing

Start a MongoDB server instance (mongod) before installing so that the tests will pass. The mongod must be running as master for all tests to pass.

Some tests may be skipped, depending on the version of the database you are running.

CPAN

```
$ sudo cpan MongoDB
```

The Perl driver is available through CPAN as the package MongoDB. It should build cleanly on *NIX and Windows (via Strawberry Perl).

Manual (Non-CPAN) Installation

If you would like to try the latest code or are contributing to the Perl driver, it is available at Github. There is also documentation generated after every commit.

You can see if it's a good time to grab the bleeding edge code by seeing if the build is green.

To build the driver, run:

```
$ perl Makefile.PL
$ make
$ make test # make sure mongod is running, first
$ sudo make install
```

Please note that the tests will not pass without a mongod process running.

Big-Endian Systems
The driver will work on big-endian machines, but the database will not. The tests assume that `mongod` will be running on localhost unless `%ENV{MONGOD}` is set. So, to run the tests, start the database on a little-endian machine (at, say, "example.com") and then run the tests with:

```
MONGOD=example.com make test
```

A few tests that require a database server on "localhost" will be skipped.

**Next Steps**

There is a tutorial and API documentation on [CPAN](http://www.cpan.org).

If you're interested in contributing to the Perl driver, check out [Contributing to the Perl Driver](#).

**MongoDB Perl Tools**

`Entities::Backend::MongoDB`

`Entities::Backend::MongoDB` is a backend for the `Entities` user management and authorization system stores all entities and relations between them in a MongoDB database, using the MongoDB module. This is a powerful, fast backend that gives you all the features of MongoDB.

`MojoX::Session::Store::MongoDB`

`MojoX::Session::Store::MongoDB` is a store for `MojoX::Session` that stores a session in a MongoDB database. Created by Ask Bjørn Hansen.

`MongoDB::Admin`

`MongoDB::Admin` is a collection of MongoDB administrative functions. Created by David Burley.

`MongoX`

`MongoX` - DSL sugar for MongoDB

**Contributing to the Perl Driver**

The easiest way to contribute is to file bugs and feature requests on [Jira](http://jira.mongodb.org).

If you would like to help code the driver, read on...

*Finding Something to Help With*

*Fixing Bugs*

You can choose a bug on [Jira](http://jira.mongodb.org) and fix it. Make a comment that you're working on it, to avoid overlap.

*Writing Tests*

The driver could use a lot more tests. We would be grateful for any and all tests people would like to write.

*Adding Features*

If you think a feature is missing from the driver, you're probably right. Check on IRC or the mailing list, then go ahead and create a Jira case and add the feature. The Perl driver was a bit neglected for a while (although it's now getting a lot of TLC) so it's missing a lot of things that the other drivers have. You can look through their APIs for ideas.

**Contribution Guidelines**

The best way to make changes is to create an account on [Github](http://github.com), for the driver, make your improvements, and submit a merge request.

To make sure your changes are approved and speed things along:

- Write tests. Lots of tests.
- Document your code.
- Write POD, when applicable.
Bonus (for C programmers, particularly):

- Make sure your change works on Perl 5.8, 5.10, Windows, Mac, Linux, etc.

**Code Layout**

The important files:

```plaintext
| perl_mongo.c # serialization/deserialization
| mongo_link.c # connecting to, sending to, and receiving from the database
- lib
  | MongoDB
    | Connection.pm # connection, queries, inserts... everything comes through here
    | Database.pm
    | Collection.pm
    | Cursor.pm
    | OID.pm
    | GridFS.pm
  - GridFS
    | File.pm
- xs
  | Mongo.xs
  | Connection.xs
  | Cursor.xs
  | OID.xs
```

**Perl Tutorial**

⚠️ **Redirection Notice**
This page should redirect to [http://search.cpan.org/dist/MongoDB/lib/MongoDB/Tutorial.pod](http://search.cpan.org/dist/MongoDB/lib/MongoDB/Tutorial.pod).

**Online API Documentation**

MongoDB API and driver documentation is available online. It is updated daily.

- Java Driver API Documentation
- C++ Driver API Documentation
- Python Driver API Documentation
- Ruby Driver API Documentation
- PHP Driver API Documentation

**Writing Drivers and Tools**

**See Also**

- Mongo Query Language
- mongosniff
  - `--objcheck` command line parameter

**Overview - Writing Drivers and Tools**

This section contains information for developers that are working with the low-level protocols of Mongo - people who are writing drivers and higher-level tools.

Documents of particular interest:
BSON [http://bsonspec.org](http://bsonspec.org)
Description of the BSON binary document format. Fundamental to how Mongo and it's client software works.

Mongo Wire Protocol
Specification for the basic socket communications protocol used between Mongo and clients.

Mongo Driver Requirements
Description of what functionality is expected from a Mongo Driver

GridFS Specification
Specification of GridFS - a convention for storing large objects in Mongo

Mongo Extended JSON
Description of the extended JSON protocol for the REST-ful interface (ongoing development)

Additionally we recommend driver authors take a look at existing driver source code as an example.

**bsonspec.org**

**Mongo Driver Requirements**

This is a high-level list of features that a driver for MongoDB might provide. We attempt to group those features by priority. This list should be taken with a grain of salt, and probably used more for inspiration than as law that must be adhered to. A great way to learn about implementing a driver is by reading the source code of any of the existing drivers, especially the ones listed as “mongodb.org supported”.

**High priority**

- BSON serialization/deserialization
- full cursor support (e.g. support OP_GET_MORE operation)
- close exhausted cursors via OP_KILL_CURSORS
- support for running database commands
- handle query errors
- convert all strings to UTF-8 (part of proper support for BSON)
- hint, explain, count, $where
- database profiling: set/get profiling level, get profiling info
- advanced connection management (replica pairs, slave okay)
- automatic reconnection

**Medium priority**

- validate a collection in a database
- buffer pooling
- Tailable cursor support

A driver should be able to connect to a single server. By default this must be localhost:27017, and must also allow the server to be specified by hostname and port.

```java
Mongo m = new Mongo(); // go to localhost, default port
Mongo m = new Mongo(String host, int port);
```

How the driver does this is up to the driver - make it idiomatic. However, a driver should make it explicit and clear what is going on.

**Pair Mode Connection**

A driver must be able to support “Pair Mode” configurations, where two mongod servers are specified, and configured for hot-failover.

The driver should determine which of the pair is the current master, and send all operations to that server. In the event of an error, either socket error or a “not a master” error, the driver must restart the determination process. It must not assume the other server in the pair is now the master.

```java
ServerPair sp = new ServerPair(INETAddr...);
Mongo m = new Mongo(sp)
```

A driver may optionally allow a driver to connect deliberately to the “non-master” in the pair, for debugging, admin or operational purposes.

```java
ServerPair sp = new ServerPair(INETAddr...);
sp.setTarget(ServerPair.SHADOW_MASTER);
Mongo m = new Mongo(sp);
```

1. **Cluster Mode** Connect to master in master-slave cluster
ServerCluster sc = new ServerCluster(INETAddr...); // again, give one and discover?
Mongo m = new Mongo(sc);
// again, give one and discover?

## Connect to slave in read-only mode in master-slave cluster

ServerCluster sc = new ServerCluster(INETAddr...); // again, give one and discover?
sc.setTarget(...)
Mongo m = new Mongo(sc);

or maybe make it like *Default/Simple* w/ a flag?

Other than that, we need a way to get a DB object:

Mongo m = new Mongo();
DB db = m.getDB(name);

And a list of db names (useful for tools...):

List<String> getDBNameList();

Database Object

Simple operations on a database object:
dbName = db.getName();

List<String> cols = db.getCollectionNames();

Collection coll = db.getCollection(string);

Collection coll = db.createCollection( string);
Collection coll = db.createCollection( string, options);

b = db.dropCollection(name);
b = db.dropCollection(Collection);

Document d = db.executeCommand(command);

void db.close();

bool dropDatabase(dbname)

Database Administration
These methods have to do with database metadata: profiling levels and collection validation. Each admin object is associated with a database. These methods could either be built into the Database class or provided in a separate Admin class whose instances are only available from a database instance.
/* get an admin object from a database object. */
Admin admin = db.getAdmin();

/**
* Get profiling level. Returns one of the strings "off", "slowOnly", or
* "all". Note that the database returns an integer. This method could
* return an int or an enum instead --- in Ruby, for example, we return
* symbols.
*/
String profilingLevel = admin.getProfilingLevel();

/**
* Set profiling level. Takes whatever getProfilingLevel() returns.
*/
admin.setProfilingLevel("off");

/**
* Retrieves the database's profiling info.
*/
Document profilingInfo = admin.getProfilingInfo();

/**
* Returns true if collection is valid; raises an exception if not.
*/
boolean admin.validateCollection(collectionName);

Collection Basic Ops

/**
* full query capabilities - limit, skip, returned fields, sort, etc
*/
Cursor find(...);

void insert(...) // insert one or more objects into the collection, local variants on args
void remove(query) // remove objects that match the query
void modify(selector, modifier) // modify all objects that match selector w/ modifier object
void replace(selector, object) // replace first object that match selector w/ specified object
void repsert(selector, object) // replace first object that matches, or insert  **upsert w/
long getCount();
long getCount(query);

Index Operations

void createIndex( index_info)
void dropIndex(name)
void dropIndexes()
List<info> getIndexInformation()

Misc Operations

document explain(query)
options getOptions();
string getName();
void close();

Cursor Object
Spec, Notes and Suggestions for Mongo Drivers

Assume that the BSON objects returned from the database may be up to 4MB. This size may change over time but for now the limit is 4MB per object. We recommend you test your driver with 4MB objects.

See Also

- Driver Requirements
- BSON
- The main Database Internals page

Feature Checklist for Mongo Drivers

Functionality Checklist

This section lists tasks the driver author might handle.

Essential

- BSON serialization/deserialization
- Basic operations: query, save, update, remove, ensureIndex, findOne, limit, sort
- Fetch more data from a cursor when necessary (dbGetMore)
- Sending of KillCursors operation when use of a cursor has completed (ideally for efficiently these are sent in batches)
- Convert all strings to utf8
- Authentication

Recommended

- automatic doc_id generation (important when using replication)
- Database $cmd support and helpers
- Detect { $err: ... } response from a db query and handle appropriately --see Error Handling in Mongo Drivers
- Automatically connect to proper server, and failover, when connecting to a Replica Set
- ensureIndex commands should be cached to prevent excessive communication with the database. (Or, the driver user should be informed that ensureIndex is not a lightweight operation for the particular driver.)
- Support for objects up to 4MB in size

More Recommended

- lasterror helper functions
- count() helper function
- $where clause
- eval()
- File chunking
- hint fields
- explain helper
- Automatic _id index creation (maybe the db should just do this???)

More Optional

- addUser, logout helpers
- Allow client user to specify Option_SlaveOk for a query
- Tailable cursor support
- In/out buffer pooling (if implementing in a garbage collected languages)

More Optional

- [connection pooling]
- Automatic reconnect on connection failure
- DBRef Support:
  - Ability to generate easily
  - Automatic traversal
See Also

- The Driver and Integration Center for information about the latest drivers
- The [top page] for this section
- The main Database Internals page
- The starting point for all Home

Conventions for Mongo Drivers

Interface Conventions

It is desirable to keep driver interfaces consistent when possible. Of course, idioms vary by language, and when they do adaptation is appropriate. However, when the idiom is the same, keeping the interfaces consistent across drivers is desirable.

Terminology

In general, use these terms when naming identifiers. Adapt the names to the normal "punctuation" style of your language -- foo_bar in C might be fooBar in Java.

- database - what does this mean?
- collection
- index

Driver Testing Tools

Object IDs

- driverOIDTest for testing toString

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { "driverOIDTest" : new ObjectId() } )
[
  "oid" : ObjectId("4b8991f221752a6e61a88267"),
  "str" : "4b8991f221752a6e61a88267",
  "ok" : 1
]
```

Mongo Wire Protocol

- Introduction
- Messages Types and Formats
  - Standard Message Header
  - Request Opcodes
- Client Request Messages
  - OP_UPDATE
  - OP_INSERT
  - OP_QUERY
  - OP_GETMORE
  - OP_DELETE
  - OP_KILL_CURSORS
  - OP_MSG
- Database Response Messages
  - OP_REPLY

Introduction

The Mongo Wire Protocol is a simple socket-based, request-response style protocol. Clients communicate with the database server through a regular TCP/IP socket.

Default Socket Port

The default port is 27017, but this is configurable and will vary.
Clients should connect to the database with a regular TCP/IP socket. Currently, there is no connection handshake.

To describe the message structure, a C-like `struct` is used. The types used in this document (cstring, int32, etc.) are the same as those defined in the BSON specification. The standard message header is typed as `MsgHeader`. Integer constants are in capitals (e.g. ZERO). In the case where more than one of something is possible (like in a OP_INSERT or OP_KILL_CURSORS), we again use the notation from the BSON specification (e.g. int64*). This simply indicates that one or more of the specified type can be written to the socket, one after another.

### Byte Ordering

Note that like BSON documents, all data in the mongo wire protocol is little-endian.

## Messages Types and Formats

### Table Of Contents

There are two types of messages, client requests and database responses, each having a slightly different structure.

### Standard Message Header

In general, each message consists of a standard message header followed by request-specific data. The standard message header is structured as follows:

```c
struct MsgHeader {
    int32   messageLength; // total message size, including this
    int32   requestId;     // identifier for this message
    int32   responseTo;    // requestID from the original request
                           //   (used in responses from db)
    int32   opCode;        // request type - see table below
}
```

- **messageLength**: This is the total size of the message in bytes. This total includes the 4 bytes that holds the message length.
- **requestId**: This is a client or database-generated identifier that uniquely identifies this message. For the case of client-generated messages (e.g. CONTRIB:OP_QUERY and CONTRIB:OP_GET_MORE), it will be returned in the responseTo field of the CONTRIB:OP_REPLY message. Along with the responseTo field in responses, clients can use this to associate query responses with the originating query.
- **responseTo**: In the case of a message from the database, this will be the requestId taken from the CONTRIB:OP_QUERY or CONTRIB:OP_GET_MORE messages from the client. Along with the requestId field in queries, clients can use this to associate query responses with the originating query.
- **opCode**: Type of message. See the table below in the next section.

### Request Opcodes

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The following are the currently supported opcodes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opcode Name</th>
<th>OpCode value</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OP_REPLY</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Reply to a client request. responseTo is set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_MSG</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>generic msg command followed by a string</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_UPDATE</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>update document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_INSERT</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>insert new document</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RESERVED</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>formerly used for OP_GET_BY_OID</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_QUERY</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>query a collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_GET_MORE</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Get more data from a query. See Cursors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Client Request Messages

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Clients can send all messages except for CONTRIB:OP_REPLY. This is reserved for use by the database.

Note that only the CONTRIB:OP_QUERY and CONTRIB:OP_GET_MORE messages result in a response from the database. There will be no response sent for any other message.

You can determine if a message was successful with a $$$ TODO get last error command.

OP_UPDATE

The OP_UPDATE message is used to update a document in a collection. The format of a OP_UPDATE message is

```c
struct OP_UPDATE {
    MsgHeader header;    // standard message header
    int32 ZERO;          // 0 - reserved for future use
    cstring fullCollectionName; // "dbname.collectionname"
    int32 flags;         // bit vector. see below
    document selector;   // the query to select the document
    document update;     // specification of the update to perform
}
```

**fullCollectionName**: The full collection name. The full collection name is the concatenation of the database name with the collection name, using a "." for the concatenation. For example, for the database "foo" and the collection "bar", the full collection name is "foo.bar".

**flags**: | bit num | name     | description |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Upsert</td>
<td>If set, the database will insert the supplied object into the collection if no matching document is found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MultiUpdate</td>
<td>If set, the database will update all matching objects in the collection. Otherwise only updates first matching doc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-31</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Must be set to 0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**selector**: BSON document that specifies the query for selection of the document to update.

**update**: BSON document that specifies the update to be performed. For information on specifying updates see the documentation on Updating.

There is no response to an OP_UPDATE message.

OP_INSERT

The OP_INSERT message is used to insert one or more documents into a collection. The format of the OP_INSERT message is

```c
struct {
    MsgHeader header;    // standard message header
    int32 ZERO;          // 0 - reserved for future use
    cstring fullCollectionName; // "dbname.collectionname"
    document* documents; // one or more documents to insert into the collection
}
```

**fullCollectionName**: The full collection name. The full collection name is the concatenation of the database name with the collection name, using a "." for the concatenation. For example, for the database "foo" and the collection "bar", the full collection name is "foo.bar".

**documents**: One or more documents to insert into the collection. If there are more than one, they are written to the socket in sequence, one after another.

There is no response to an OP_INSERT message.

OP_QUERY

The OP_QUERY message is used to query the database for documents in a collection. The format of the OP_QUERY message is:
struct OP_QUERY {
    MsgHeader header;  // standard message header
    int32     flags;   // bit vector of query options. See below for details.
    cstring   fullCollectionName;  // "dbname.collectionname"
    int32     numberToSkip;  // number of documents to skip
    int32     numberToReturn;  // number of documents to return
    // in the first OP_REPLY batch
    document  query;  // query object. See below for details.
    [ document  returnFieldSelector; ]  // Optional. Selector indicating the fields
    // to return. See below for details.
}

flags:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bit num</th>
<th>name</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Must be set to 0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>TailableCursor</td>
<td>Tailable means cursor is not closed when the last data is retrieved. Rather, the cursor marks the final object's position. You can resume using the cursor later, from where it was located, if more data were received. Like any &quot;latent cursor&quot;, the cursor may become invalid at some point (CursorNotFound) – for example if the final object it references were deleted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SlaveOk</td>
<td>Allow query of replica slave. Normally these return an error except for namespace &quot;local&quot;.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>OplogReplay</td>
<td>Internal replication use only - driver should not set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>NoCursorTimeout</td>
<td>The server normally times out idle cursors after an inactivity period (10 minutes) to prevent excess memory use. Set this option to prevent that.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>AwaitData</td>
<td>Use with TailableCursor. If we are at the end of the data, block for a while rather than returning no data. After a timeout period, we do return as normal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Exhaust</td>
<td>Stream the data down full blast in multiple &quot;more&quot; packages, on the assumption that the client will fully read all data queried. Faster when you are pulling a lot of data and know you want to pull it all down. Note: the client is not allowed to not read all the data unless it closes the connection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-31</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Must be set to 0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

fullCollectionName: The full collection name. The full collection name is the concatenation of the database name with the collection name, using a "." for the concatenation. For example, for the database "foo" and the collection "bar", the full collection name is "foo.bar".

numberToSkip: Sets the number of documents to omit - starting from the first document in the resulting dataset - when returning the result of the query.

numberToReturn: Limits the number of documents in the first CONTRIBUTION:OP_REPLY message to the query. However, the database will still establish a cursor and return the cursorID to the client if there are more results than numberToReturn. If the client driver offers 'limit' functionality (like the SOL LIMIT keyword), then it is up to the client driver to ensure that no more than the specified number of document are returned to the calling application. If numberToReturn is 0, the db will used the default return size. If the number is negative, then the database will return that number and close the cursor. No further results for that query can be fetched. If numberToReturn is 1 the server will treat it as -1 (closing the cursor automatically).

query: BSON document that represents the query. The query will contain one or more elements, all of which must match for a document to be included in the result set. Possible elements include $query, $orderby, $hint, $explain, and $snapshot.

returnFieldsSelector: OPTIONAL BSON document that limits the fields in the returned documents. The returnFieldsSelector contains one or more elements, each of which is the name of a field that should be returned, and the integer value 1. In JSON notation, a returnFieldsSelector to limit to the fields "a", "b" and "c" would be:

```json
{ a : 1, b : 1, c : 1 }
```

The database will respond to an OP_QUERY message with an CONTRIBUTION:OP_REPLY message.

OP_GETMORE

The OP_GETMORE message is used to query the database for documents in a collection. The format of the OP_GETMORE message is:
struct {
    MsgHeader header;          // standard message header
    int32   ZERO;              // 0 - reserved for future use
    cstring fullCollectionName; // "dbname.collectionname"
    int32   numberToReturn;    // number of documents to return
    int64   cursorID;          // cursorID from the OP_REPLY
}

fullCollectionName : The full collection name. The full collection name is the concatenation of the database name with the collection name, using a "." for the concatenation. For example, for the database "foo" and the collection "bar", the full collection name is "foo.bar".

numberToReturn : Limits the number of documents in the first CONTRIB:OP_REPLY message to the query. However, the database will still establish a cursor and return the cursorID to the client if there are more results than numberToReturn. If the client driver offers 'limit' functionality (like the SQL LIMIT keyword), then it is up to the client driver to ensure that no more than the specified number of document are returned to the calling application. If numberToReturn is 0, the db will used the default return size.

cursorID : Cursor identifier that came in the CONTRIB:OP_REPLY. This must be the value that came from the database.

The database will respond to an OP_GETMORE message with an CONTRIB:OP_REPLY message.

OP_DELETE

The OP_DELETE message is used to remove one or more messages from a collection. The format of the OP_DELETE message is :

struct {
    MsgHeader header;          // standard message header
    int32   ZERO;              // 0 - reserved for future use
    cstring fullCollectionName; // "dbname.collectionname"
    int32   flags;             // bit vector - see below for details.
    document selector;         // query object. See below for details.
}

fullCollectionName : The full collection name. The full collection name is the concatenation of the database name with the collection name, using a "." for the concatenation. For example, for the database "foo" and the collection "bar", the full collection name is "foo.bar".

flags :

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bit num</th>
<th>name</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>SingleRemove</td>
<td>If set, the database will remove only the first matching document in the collection. Otherwise all matching documents will be removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-31</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Must be set to 0.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

selector : BSON document that represent the query used to select the documents to be removed. The selector will contain one or more elements, all of which must match for a document to be removed from the collection. Please see $$$ TODO QUERY for more information.

There is no response to an OP_DELETE message.

OP_KILL_CURSORS

The OP_KILL_CURSORS message is used to close an active cursor in the database. This is necessary to ensure that database resources are reclaimed at the end of the query. The format of the OP_KILL_CURSORS message is :

struct {
    MsgHeader header;          // standard message header
    int32   ZERO;              // 0 - reserved for future use
    int32   numberOfCursorIDs; // number of cursorIDs in message
    int64*  cursorIDs;         // sequence of cursorIDs to close
}

numberOfCursorIDs : The number of cursors that are in the message.

cursorIDs : "array" of cursor IDs to be closed. If there are more than one, they are written to the socket in sequence, one after another.

Note that if a cursor is read until exhausted (read until OP_QUERY or OP_GETMORE returns zero for the cursor id), there is no need to kill the
OP_MSG

Deprecated. OP_MSG sends a diagnostic message to the database. The database sends back a fixed response. The format is:

```c
struct {
    MsgHeader header; // standard message header
    cstring message; // message for the database
}
```

Drivers do not need to implement OP_MSG.

**Database Response Messages**

**TableOfContents**

**OP_REPLY**

The OP_REPLY message is sent by the database in response to an `CONTRIB:OP_QUERY` or `CONTRIB:OP_GET_MORE` message. The format of an OP_REPLY message is:

```c
struct {
    MsgHeader header; // standard message header
    int32 responseFlags; // bit vector - see details below
    int64 cursorID; // cursor id
    int32 startingFrom; // where in the cursor this reply is starting
    int32 numberReturned; // number of documents in the reply
    document* documents; // documents
}
```

**responseFlags**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bit num</th>
<th>name</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>CursorNotFound</td>
<td>Set when getMore is called but the cursor id is not valid at the server. Returned with zero results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>QueryFailure</td>
<td>Set when query failed. Results consist of one document containing an &quot;$err&quot; field describing the failure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ShardConfigStale</td>
<td>Drivers should ignore this. Only mongos will ever see this set, in which case, it needs to update config from the server.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>AwaitCapable</td>
<td>Set when the server supports the AwaitData Query option. If it doesn't, a client should sleep a little between getMore's of a Tailable cursor. Mongod version 1.6 supports AwaitData and thus always sets AwaitCapable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-31</td>
<td>Reserved</td>
<td>Ignore</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**cursorID**: The cursorID that this OP_REPLY is a part of. In the event that the result set of the query fits into one OP_REPLY message, `cursorID` will be 0. This cursorID must be used in any `CONTRIB:OP_GET_MORE` messages used to get more data, and also must be closed by the client when no longer needed via a `CONTRIB:OP_KILL_CURSORS` message.

**BSON**

- bsonscape.org
- BSON and MongoDB
- Language-Specific Examples
  - C
  - C++
  - Java
  - PHP
  - Python
  - Ruby
- MongoDB Document Types
BSON is a binary-encoded serialization of JSON-like documents. BSON is designed to be lightweight, traversable, and efficient. BSON, like JSON, supports the embedding of objects and arrays within other objects and arrays. See bsonspec.org for the spec and more information in general.

**BSON and MongoDB**

MongoDB uses BSON as the data storage and network transfer format for "documents".

BSON at first seems BLOB-like, but there exists an important difference: the Mongo database understands BSON internals. This means that MongoDB can "reach inside" BSON objects, even nested ones. Among other things, this allows MongoDB to build indexes and match objects against query expressions on both top-level and nested BSON keys.

See also: the [BSON blog post](http://bsonspec.org).

**Language-Specific Examples**

We often map from a language's "dictionary" type – which may be its native objects – to BSON. The mapping is particularly natural in dynamically typed languages:

```javascript
JavaScript: {
  "foo": "bar"
}
Perl: {"foo" => "bar"}
PHP: array("foo" => "bar")
Python: {"foo": "bar"}
Ruby: {"foo" => "bar"}
Java:DBObject obj = new BasicDBObject("foo", "bar");
```

```c
bson b;
bson_buffer buf;
bson_buffer_init(&buf)
bson_append_string(&buf, "name", "Joe");
bson_append_int(&buf, "age", 33);
bson_from_buffer(&b, &buf);
bson_print(&b);
```

```cpp
BSONObj p = BSON("name" << "Joe" << "age" << 33);
cout << p.toString() << endl;
cout << p["age"].number() << endl;
```


```java
BasicDBObject doc = new BasicDBObject();
doc.put("name", "MongoDB");
doc.put("type", "database");
doc.put("count", 1);
BasicDBObject info = new BasicDBObject();
info.put("x", 203);
info.put("y", 102);
doc.put("info", info);
coll.insert(doc);
```

```php
The PHP driver includes `bson_encode` and `bson_decode` functions. `bson_encode` takes any PHP type and serializes it, returning a string of bytes:
```
$bson = bson_encode(null);
$bson = bson_encode(true);
$bson = bson_encode(4);
$bson = bson_encode("hello, world");
$bson = bson_encode(array("foo" => "bar"));
$bson = bson_encode(new MongoDate());

Mongo-specific objects (MongoId, MongoDate, MongoRegex,MongoCode) will be encoded in their respective BSON formats. For other objects, it will create a BSON representation with the key/value pairs you would get by running for ($object as $key => $value).

bson_decode takes a string representing a BSON object and parses it into an associative array.

Python

```python
>>> from pymongo.bson import BSON
>>> bson_string = BSON.from_dict({'hello': 'world'})
>>> bson_string
'\x16\x00\x00\x00\x02hello\x00\x06\x00\x00\x00world\x00\x00'
>>> bson_string.to_dict()
{u'hello': u'world'}
```

PyMongo also supports "ordered dictionaries" through the pymongo.son module. The BSON class can handle SON instances using the same methods you would use for regular dictionaries.

Ruby

There are now two gems that handle BSON-encoding: bson and bson_ext. These gems can be used to work with BSON independently of the MongoDB Ruby driver.

```ruby
irb
>> require 'rubygems'
=> true
>> require 'bson'
=> true
>> doc = {:hello => "world"}
>> bson = BSON.serialize(doc).to_s
=> "\026\000\000\000\000\000hello\000\000\000\000\000world\000\000"
>> BSON.deserialize(bson.unpack("C"))
=> [{"hello" => "world"}]
```

The BSON class also supports ordered hashes. Simply construct your documents using the OrderedHash class, also found in the MongoDB Ruby Driver.

**MongoDB Document Types**

MongoDB uses BSON documents for three things:

1. **Data storage (user documents).** These are the regular JSON-like objects that the database stores for us. These BSON documents are sent to the database via the INSERT operation. User documents have limitations on the "element name" space due to the usage of special characters in the JSON-like query language.
   a. A user document element name cannot begin with "$".
   b. A user document element name cannot have a "." in the name.
   c. The element name ".id" is reserved for use as a primary key id, but you can store anything that is unique in that field.

   The database expects that drivers will prevent users from creating documents that violate these constraints.

2. **Query "Selector" Documents:** Query documents (or selectors) are BSON documents that are used in QUERY, DELETE and UPDATE operations. They are used by these operations to match against documents. Selector objects have no limitations on the "element name" space, as they must be able to supply special "marker" elements, like "$where" and the special "command" operations.

3. **"Modifier" Documents:** Documents that contain 'modifier actions' that modify user documents in the case of an update (see Updating).

**Mongo Extended JSON**

Mongo's REST interface supports storage and retrieval of JSON documents. Special representations are used for BSON types that do not have obvious JSON mappings, and multiple representations are allowed for some such types. The REST interface supports three different modes for document output [Strict, JS, TenGen], which serve to control the representations used. Mongo can of course understand all of these
representations in REST input.

- **Strict** mode produces output conforming to the JSON spec [http://www.json.org](http://www.json.org).
- **JS** mode uses some Javascript types to represent certain BSON types.
- **TenGen** mode uses some Javascript types and some 10gen specific types to represent certain BSON types.

The following BSON types are represented using special conventions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Strict</th>
<th>JS</th>
<th>TenGen</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>data_binary</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;bindata&gt; is the base64 representation of a binary string. &lt;t&gt; is the hexadecimal representation of a single byte indicating the data type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>data_date</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;date&gt; is the JSON representation of a 64 bit unsigned integer for milliseconds since epoch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>data_regex</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;sRegex&gt; is a string of valid JSON characters. &lt;jRegex&gt; is a string that may contain valid JSON characters and unescaped '&quot;' characters, but may not contain unescaped '/' characters. &lt;sOptions&gt; is a string containing letters of the alphabet. &lt;jOptions&gt; is a string that may contain only the characters 'g', 'i', and 'm'. Because the JS and TenGen representation support a limited range of options, any nonconforming options will be dropped when converting to this representation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GridFS Specification

- Introduction
- Specification
  - Storage Collections
    - files
    - chunks
  - Indexes

**Introduction**

GridFS is a storage specification for large objects in MongoDB. It works by splitting large objects into small chunks, usually 256k in size. Each chunk is stored as a separate document in a `chunks` collection. Metadata about the file, including the filename, content type, and any optional information needed by the developer, is stored as a document in a `files` collection.

So for any given file stored using GridFS, there will exist one document in `files` collection and one or more documents in the `chunks` collection.

If you're just interested in using GridFS, see the docs on storing files. If you'd like to understand the GridFS implementation, read on.

**Specification**

**Storage Collections**

GridFS uses two collections to store data:

- `files` contains the object metadata
- `chunks` contains the binary chunks with some additional accounting information

In order to make more than one GridFS namespace possible for a single database, the files and chunks collections are named with a prefix. By default the prefix is `fs.`, so any default GridFS store will consist of collections named `fs.files` and `fs.chunks`. The drivers make it possible to change this prefix, so you might, for instance, have another GridFS namespace specifically for photos where the collections would be `photos.files` and `photos.chunks`.

Here's an example of the standard GridFS interface in Java:
GridFS myFS = new GridFS(myDatabase); // returns a default GridFS (e.g. "fs" root collection)
myFS.storeFile(new File("/tmp/largething.mpg")); // saves the file into the "fs" GridFS store

GridFS myContracts = new GridFS(myDatabase, "contracts"); // returns a GridFS where "contracts" is root
myFS.retrieveFile("smithco", new File("/tmp/smithco_20090105.pdf")); // retrieves object whose filename is "smithco"

Note that the above API is for demonstration purposes only - this spec does not (at this time) recommend any API. See individual driver documentation for API specifics.

**files**

Documents in the files collection require the following fields:

```json
{
    "_id" : <unspecified>,       // unique ID for this file
    "length" : data_number,      // size of the file in bytes
    "chunkSize" : data_number,   // size of each of the chunks. Default is 256k
    "uploadDate" : data_date,    // date when object first stored
    "md5" : data_string          // result of running the "filemd5" command on this file's chunks
}
```

Any other desired fields may be added to the files document; common ones include the following:

```json
{
    "filename" : data_string,   // human name for the file
    "contentType" : data_string, // valid mime type for the object
    "aliases" : data_array of data_string, // optional array of alias strings
    "metadata" : data_object,  // anything the user wants to store
}
```

Note that the _id field can be of any type, per the discretion of the spec implementor.

**chunks**

The structure of documents from the chunks collection is as follows:

```json
{
    "_id" : <unspecified>,       // object id of the chunk in the _chunks collection
    "files_id" : <unspecified>,  // _id of the corresponding files collection entry
    "n" : chunk_number,          // chunks are numbered in order, starting with 0
    "data" : data_binary,        // the chunk's payload as a BSON binary type
}
```

Notes:

- The _id is whatever type you choose. As with any MongoDB document, the default will be a BSON object id.
- The files_id is a foreign key containing the _id field for the relevant files collection entry

**Indexes**

GridFS implementations should create a unique, compound index in the chunks collection for files_id and n. Here's how you'd do that from
the shell:

```javascript
    db.fs.chunks.ensureIndex({files_id:1, n:1}, {unique: true});
```

This way, a chunk can be retrieved efficiently using it's `files_id` and `n` values. Note that GridFS implementations should use `findOne` operations to get chunks individually, and should not leave open a cursor to query for all chunks. So to get the first chunk, we could do:

```javascript
    db.fs.chunks.findOne({files_id: myFileID, n: 0});
```

### Implementing Authentication in a Driver

The current version of Mongo supports only very basic authentication. One authenticates a username and password in the context of a particular database. Once authenticated, the user has full read and write access to the database in question.

The `admin` database is special. In addition to several commands that are administrative being possible only on `admin`, authentication on `admin` gives one read and write access to all databases on the server. Effectively, `admin` access means root access to the `db`.

Note on a single socket we may authenticate for any number of databases, and as different users. This authentication persists for the life of the database connection (barring a `logout` command).

#### The Authentication Process

Authentication is a two step process. First the driver runs a `getnonce` command to get a nonce for use in the subsequent authentication. We can view a sample `getnonce` invocation from `dbshell`:

```javascript
    > db.$cmd.findOne({getnonce:1})
    { "nonce": "7268c504683936e1", "ok":1
```

The nonce returned is a hex String.

The next step is to run an `authenticate` command for the database on which to authenticate. The `authenticate` command has the form:

```javascript
    { authenticate : 1, user : username, nonce : nonce, key : digest }
```

where

- `username` is a username in the database's system.users collection;
- `nonce` is the nonce returned from a previous `getnonce` command;
- `digest` is the hex encoding of a MD5 message digest which is the MD5 hash of the concatenation of `(nonce, username, password_digest )`, where `password_digest` is the user's password value in the `pwd` field of the associated user object in the database's system.users collection. `pwd` is the hex encoding of `MD5( username + ":mongo:" + password_text)`.

`authenticate` will return an object containing

```javascript
    { ok : 1 }
```

when successful.

Details of why an authentication command failed may be found in the Mongo server's log files.

The following code from the Mongo Javascript driver provides an example implementation:
Logout

Drivers may optionally implement the logout command which deauthorizes usage for the specified database for this connection. Note other databases may still be authorized.

Alternatively, close the socket to deauthorize.

Replica Pairs and Authentication

For drivers that support replica pairs, extra care with replication is required.

When switching from one server in a pair to another (on a failover situation), you must reauthenticate. Clients will likely want to cache authentication from the user so that the client can reauthenticate with the new server when appropriate.

Be careful also with operations such as Logout - if you log out from only half a pair, that could be an issue.

Authenticating with a server in slave mode is allowed.

See Also

- Security and Authentication

Notes on Pooling for Mongo Drivers

Note that with the db write operations can be sent asynchronously or synchronously (the latter indicating a getlasterror request after the write).

When asynchronous, one must be careful to continue using the same connection (socket). This ensures that the next operation will not begin until after the write completes.

Pooling and Authentication

An individual socket connection to the database has associated authentication state. Thus, if you pool connections, you probably want a separate pool for each authentication case (db + username).

Pseudo-code
The following pseudo-code illustrates our recommended approach to implementing connection pooling in a driver's connection class. This handles authentication, grouping operations from a single "request" onto the same socket, and a couple of other gotchas:

```python
class Connection:
    def __init__(self, pool_size, addresses, auto_start_requests):
        self.pool_size = pool_size
        self.addresses = addresses
        self.auto_start_requests = auto_start_requests
        self.thread_map = {}
        self.locks = Lock[pool_size]
        selfsockets = Socket[pool_size]
        self.socket_auth = String[pool_size][]
        self.auth = {}
        self.find_master()

    def find_master(self):
        for address in self.addresses:
            if address.is_master:
                self.master = address

    def pick_and_acquire_socket(self):
        choices = random permutation of [0, ..., self.pool_size - 1]
        choices.sort(order: ascending, value: size of preimage of choice under self.thread_map)
        for choice in choices:
            sock = choices[0]
            self.locks[sock].blocking_acquire()
            return sock

    def get_socket(self):
        if self.thread_map[current_thread] >= 0:
            sock_number = self.thread_map[current_thread]
            self.locks[sock_number].blocking_acquire()
        else:
            sock_number = self.pick_and_lock_socket()
            if self.auto_start_requests or current_thread in self.thread_map:
                self.thread_map[current_thread] = sock_number
        if not selfsockets[sock_number]:
            selfsockets[sock_number] = Socket(self.master)
        return sock_number

    def send_message_without_response(self, message):
        sock_number = self.get_socket()
        this.check_auth()
        selfsockets[sock_number].send(message)
        self.locks[sock_number].release()

    def send_message_with_response(self, message):
        sock_number = self.get_socket()
        this.check_auth()
        selfsockets[sock_number].send(message)
        result = selfsockets[sock_number].receive()
        self.locks[sock_number].release()
        return result

    def start_request(self):
        self.thread_map[current_thread] = -1
```

# start_request is only needed if auto_start_requests is False
end_request():
    delete this.thread_map[current_thread]

authenticate(database, username, password):
    # TODO should probably make sure that these credentials are valid,
    # otherwise errors are going to be delayed until first op.
    this.auth[database] = (username, password)

logout(database):
    delete this.auth[database]

check_auth(sock_number):
    for db in this.socket_auth[sock_number]:
        if db not in this.auth.keys():
            this.sockets[sock_number].send(logout_message)
            this.socket_auth[sock_number].remove(db)
    for db in this.auth.keys():
        if db not in this.socket_auth[sock_number]:
            this.sockets[sock_number].send(authenticate_message)
            this.socket_auth[sock_number].append(db)

# somewhere we need to do error checking - if you get not master then everything
# in this.sockets gets closed and set to null and we call find_master() again.
# we also need to reset the socket_auth information – nothing is authorized yet
# on the new master.

See Also

- The Driver and Integration Center for information about the latest drivers
- The [top page] for this section
- The main Database Internals page
- The starting point for all Home

Driver and Integration Center

Connecting Drivers to Replica Sets

Ideally a MongoDB driver can connect to a cluster of servers which represent a replica set, and automatically find the right set member with which to communicate. Failover should be automatic too. The general steps are:

1. The user, when opening the connection, specifies host[:port] for one or more members of the set. Not all members need be specified -- in fact the exact members of the set might change over time. This list for the connect call is the seed list.
2. The driver then connects to all servers on the seed list, perhaps in parallel to minimize connect time. Send an ismaster command to each server.
3. When the server is in replSet mode, it will return a hosts field with all members of the set that are potentially eligible to serve data. The client should cache this information. Ideally this refreshes too, as the set's config could change over time.
4. Choose a server with which to communicate.
   a. If ismaster == true, that server is primary for the set. This server can be used for writes and immediately consistent reads.
   b. If secondary == true, that server is not primary, but is available for eventually consistent reads. In this case, you can use the primary field to see which server the master should be.
5. If an error occurs with the current connection, find the new primary and resume use there.

For example, if we run the ismaster command on a non-primary server, we might get something like:

```javascript
> db.runCommand("ismaster")
{
   "ismaster" : false,
   "secondary" : true,
   "hosts" : [
      "ny1.acme.com",
      "ny2.acme.com",
      "sf1.acme.com"
   ],
   "passives" : [
      "ny3.acme.com",
      "sf3.acme.com"
   ],
   "arbiters" : [
      "sf2.acme.com"
   ],
   "primary" : "ny2.acme.com",
   "ok" : true
}
```

There are three servers with priority > 0 (ny1, ny2, and sf1), two passive servers (ny3 and sf3), and an arbiter (sf2). The primary should be ny2, but the driver should call ismaster on that server before it assumes it is.

Error Handling in Mongo Drivers

If an error occurs on a query (or getMore operation), Mongo returns an error object instead of user data.

The error object has a first field guaranteed to have the reserved key $err. For example:

```javascript
{ $err : "some error message" }
```

The $err value can be of any type but is usually a string.
Drivers typically check for this return code explicitly and take action rather than returning the object to the user. The query results flags include a set bit when $err is returned.

```c
/* db response format

Query or GetMore: // see struct QueryResult
int resultFlags;
int64 cursorID;
int startingFrom;
int nReturned;
list of marshalled JSObjects;
*/

struct QueryResult : public MsgData {
    enum {
        ResultFlag_CursorNotFound = 1, /* returned, with zero results, when getMore is called but the
cursor id is not valid at the server. */
        ResultFlag_ErrSet = 2          /* { $err : ... } is being returned */
    }
};
```

See Also

- The Driver and Integration Center for information about the latest drivers
- The [top page] for this section
- The main Database Internals page
- The starting point for all Home

Developer Zone

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If you have a comment or question about anything, please contact us through IRC (freenode.net#mongodb) or the mailing list, rather than leaving a comment at the bottom of a page. It is easier for us to respond to you through those channels.

Introduction

MongoDB is a collection-oriented, schema-free document database.

By collection-oriented, we mean that data is grouped into sets that are called 'collections'. Each collection has a unique name in the database, and can contain an unlimited number of documents. Collections are analogous to tables in a RDBMS, except that they don't have any defined schema.

By schema-free, we mean that the database doesn't need to know anything about the structure of the documents that you store in a collection. In fact, you can store documents with different structure in the same collection if you so choose.

By document, we mean that we store data that is a structured collection of key-value pairs, where keys are strings, and values are any of a rich set of data types, including arrays and documents. We call this data format "BSON" for "Binary Serialized dOcument Notation."

MongoDB Operational Overview

MongoDB is a server process that runs on Linux, Windows and OS X. It can be run both as a 32 or 64-bit application. We recommend running in
64-bit mode, since Mongo is limited to a total data size of about 2GB for all databases in 32-bit mode.

The MongoDB process listens on port 27017 by default (note that this can be set at start time - please see Command Line Parameters for more information).

Clients connect to the MongoDB process, optionally authenticate themselves if security is turned on, and perform a sequence of actions, such as inserts, queries and updates.

MongoDB stores its data in files (default location is /data/db/), and uses memory mapped files for data management for efficiency.

MongoDB can also be configured for automatic data replication, as well as automatic fail-over.

For more information on MongoDB administration, please see Mongo Administration Guide.

**MongoDB Functionality**

As a developer, MongoDB drivers offer a rich range of operations:

- Queries: Search for documents based on either query objects or SQL-like "where predicates". Queries can be sorted, have limited return sizes, can skip parts of the return document set, and can also return partial documents.
- Inserts and Updates: Insert new documents, update existing documents.
- Index Management: Create indexes on one or more keys in a document, including substructure, deleted indexes, etc
- General commands: Any MongoDB operation can be managed via DB Commands over the regular socket.

**Tutorial**

- Getting the Database
- Getting A Database Connection
- Inserting Data into A Collection
- Accessing Data From a Query
- Specifying What the Query Returns
- findOne() - Syntactic Sugar
- Limiting the Result Set via limit()
- More Help
- What Next

**Getting the Database**

First, run through the Quickstart guide for your platform to get up and running.

**Getting A Database Connection**

Let's now try manipulating the database with the database shell. (We could perform similar operations from any programming language using an appropriate driver. The shell is convenient for interactive and administrative use.)

Start the MongoDB JavaScript shell with:

```bash
$ bin/mongo
```

By default the shell connects to database "test" on localhost. You then see:

```
MongoDB shell version: <whatever>
url: test
connecting to: test
type "help" for help
```

"connecting to:" tells you the name of the database the shell is using. To switch databases, type:

```bash
> use mydb
switched to db mydb
```

To see a list of handy commands, type help.
Tip for Developers with Experience in Other Databases

You may notice, in the examples below, that we never create a database or collection. MongoDB does not require that you do so. As soon as you insert something, MongoDB creates the underlying collection and database. If you query a collection that does not exist, MongoDB treats it as an empty collection.

Switching to a database with the `use` command won’t immediately create the database - the database is created lazily the first time data is inserted. This means that if you `use` a database for the first time it won’t show up in the list provided by `show dbs` until data is inserted.

Inserting Data into A Collection

Let’s create a test collection and insert some data into it. We will create two objects, `j` and `t`, and then save them in the collection `things`.

In the following examples, `>` indicates commands typed at the shell prompt.

```
> j = { name : "mongo" };
"name" : "mongo"
> t = { x : 3 }
"x" : 3
> db.things.save(j);
> db.things.save(t);
> db.things.find();
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd84a"), "name" : "mongo"
}
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd84b"), "x" : 3
}
```

A few things to note:

- We did not predefine the collection. The database creates it automatically on the first insert.
- The documents we store can have any "structure" - in fact in this example, the documents have no common data elements at all. In practice, one usually stores documents of the same structure within collections. However, this flexibility means that schema migration and augmentation are very easy in practice - rarely will you need to write scripts which perform "alter table" type operations.
- Upon being inserted into the database, objects are assigned an object ID in the field `_id`.
- When you run the above example, your ObjectID values will be different.

Let’s add some more records to this collection:

```
> for (var i = 1; i <= 20; i++) db.things.save({x : i, j : i});
> db.things.find();
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd85a"), "name" : "mongo"
}
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd85b"), "x" : 2 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd85c"), "x" : 3 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd85d"), "x" : 4 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd85e"), "x" : 5 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd85f"), "x" : 6 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd860"), "x" : 7 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd861"), "x" : 8 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd862"), "x" : 9 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd863"), "x" : 10 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd864"), "x" : 11 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd865"), "x" : 12 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd866"), "x" : 13 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd867"), "x" : 14 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd868"), "x" : 15 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd869"), "x" : 16 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd86a"), "x" : 17 }
{
  "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd86b"), "x" : 18 }
has more
```

Note that not all documents were shown - the shell limits the number to 20 when automatically iterating a cursor. Since we already had 2 documents in the collection, we only see the first 18 of the newly-inserted documents.
If we want to return the next set of results, there's the \texttt{it} shortcut. Continuing from the code above:

\begin{verbatim}
> it
    { 
      "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd866"), 
      "x" : 4, "y" : 17 }
    { 
      "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd867"), 
      "x" : 4, "y" : 18 }

has more

> it
    { 
      "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd868"), 
      "x" : 4, "y" : 19 }
    { 
      "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd869"), 
      "x" : 4, "y" : 20 }
\end{verbatim}

Technically, \texttt{find()} returns a cursor object. But in the cases above, we haven't assigned that cursor to a variable. So, the shell automatically iterates over the cursor, giving us an initial result set, and allowing us to continue iterating with the \texttt{it} command.

But we can also work with the cursor directly; just how that's done is discussed in the next section.

\section*{Accessing Data From a Query}

Before we discuss queries in any depth, lets talk about how to work with the results of a query - a cursor object. We'll use the simple \texttt{find()} query method, which returns everything in a collection, and talk about how to create specific queries later on.

In order to see all the elements in the collection when using the \texttt{mongo shell}, we need to explicitly use the cursor returned from the \texttt{find()} operation.

Lets repeat the same query, but this time use the cursor that \texttt{find()} returns, and iterate over it in a while loop :

\begin{verbatim}
> var cursor = db.things.find();
> while (cursor.hasNext()) printjson(cursor.next());
\end{verbatim}

\begin{verbatim}
( "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd866"), "x" : 4, "y" : 17 )
( "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd867"), "x" : 4, "y" : 18 )
( "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd868"), "x" : 4, "y" : 19 )
( "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd869"), "x" : 4, "y" : 20 )
\end{verbatim}

The above example shows cursor-style iteration. The \texttt{hasNext()} function tells if there are any more documents to return, and the \texttt{next()} function returns the next document. We also used the built-in \texttt{tojson()} method to render the document in a pretty JSON-style format.

When working in the JavaScript \texttt{shell}, we can also use the functional features of the language, and just call \texttt{forEach()} on the cursor. Repeating the example above, but using \texttt{forEach()} directly on the cursor rather than the while loop:
In the case of a `forEach()` we must define a function that is called for each document in the cursor.

In the `mongo shell`, you can also treat cursors like an array:

```plaintext
> var cursor = db.things.find();
> printjson(cursor[4]);
( "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd858"), "x" : 4, "j" : 3 )
```

When using a cursor this way, note that all values up to the highest accessed (cursor[4] above) are loaded into RAM at the same time. This is inappropriate for large result sets, as you will run out of memory. Cursors should be used as an iterator with any query which returns a large number of elements.

In addition to array-style access to a cursor, you may also convert the cursor to a true array:

```plaintext
> var arr = db.things.find().toArray();
> arr[5];
( "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd859"), "x" : 4, "j" : 4 )
```

Please note that these array features are specific to `mongo - The Interactive Shell`, and not offered by all drivers.

MongoDB cursors are not snapshots - operations performed by you or other users on the collection being queried between the first and last call to `next()` of your cursor may or may not be returned by the cursor. Use explicit locking to perform a snapshotted query.

**Specifying What the Query Returns**

Now that we know how to work with the cursor objects that are returned from queries, let's now focus on how to tailor queries to return specific things.

In general, the way to do this is to create "query documents", which are documents that indicate the pattern of keys and values that are to be matched.

These are easier to demonstrate than explain. In the following examples, we'll give example SQL queries, and demonstrate how to represent the same query using MongoDB via the `mongo shell`. This way of specifying queries is fundamental to MongoDB, so you'll find the same general facility in any driver or language.

```plaintext
SELECT * FROM things WHERE name="mongo"
```
As an example, let's retrieve the one document with
findOne()

To do this, you add a second argument to the find() query, supplying a document that lists the elements to be returned.

To illustrate, let's repeat the last example find({x:4}) with an additional argument that limits the returned document to just the "j" elements:

```
> db.things.find({x:4}, {j:true}).forEach(printjson);

The query expression is an document itself. A query document of the form { a:A, b:B, ... } means "where a==A and b==B and ...". More information on query capabilities may be found in the Queries and Cursors section of the Mongo Developers' Guide.

MongoDB also lets you return "partial documents" - documents that have only a subset of the elements of the document stored in the database. To do this, you add a second argument to the find() query, supplying a document that lists the elements to be returned.

To illustrate, let's repeat the last example find({x:4}) with an additional argument that limits the returned document to just the "j" elements:

```
> db.things.find({x:4}, {j:true}).forEach(printjson);

Note that the "_id" field is always returned.

findOne() - Syntactic Sugar

For convenience, the mongo shell (and other drivers) lets you avoid the programming overhead of dealing with the cursor, and just lets you retrieve one document via the findOne() function. findOne() takes all the same parameters of the find() function, but instead of returning a cursor, it will return either the first document returned from the database, or null if no document is found that matches the specified query.

As an example, let's retrieve the one document with name='mongo'. There are many ways to do it, including just calling next() on the cursor (after checking for null, of course), or treating the cursor as an array and accessing the 0th element.
However, the `findOne()` method is both convenient and efficient:

```javascript
> printjson(db.things.findOne({name: "mongo"}));

{ "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd84a"), "name" : "mongo" }
```

This is more efficient because the client requests a single object from the database, so less work is done by the database and the network. This is the equivalent of `find({name: "mongo"}).limit(1)`.

**Limiting the Result Set via `limit()`**

You may limit the size of a query’s result set by specifying a maximum number of results to be returned via the `limit()` method.

This is highly recommended for performance reasons, as it limits the work the database does, and limits the amount of data returned over the network. For example:

```javascript
> db.things.find().limit(3);

{ "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd84a"), "name" : "mongo" }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4c2209f9f3924d31102bd84b"), "x" : 3 }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4c220a42f3924d31102bd856"), "x" : 4, "y" : 1 }
```

**More Help**

In addition to the general "help" command, you can call help on `db` and `db.whatever` to see a summary of methods available.

If you are curious about what a function is doing, you can type it without the `{{}}`s and the shell will print the source, for example:

```javascript
> printjson
    function (x) {
        print(tojson(x));
    }
```

**mongo** is a full JavaScript shell, so any JavaScript function, syntax, or class can be used in the shell. In addition, MongoDB defines some of its own classes and globals (e.g., `db`). You can see the full API at [http://api.mongodb.org/js/](http://api.mongodb.org/js/).

**What Next**

After completing this tutorial the next step to learning MongoDB is to dive into the manual for more details.

**Manual**

This is the MongoDB manual. Except where otherwise noted, all examples are in JavaScript for use with the `mongo` shell. There is a table available giving the equivalent syntax for each of the drivers.

- Connections
- Databases
  - Commands
    - Clone Database
    - fsync Command
    - Index-Related Commands
    - Last Error Commands
    - Windows Service
    - Viewing and Terminating Current Operation
    - Validate Command
    - `getLastError`
    - List of Database Commands
  - Mongo Metadata
- Collections
  - Capped Collections
  - Using a Large Number of Collections
- Data Types and Conventions
  - Internationalized Strings
  - Object IDs
  - Database References
- GridFS
- Indexes
Connections

MongoDB is a database server: it runs in the foreground or background and waits for connections from the user. Thus, when you start MongoDB, you will see something like:

```
~/$ ./mongod
#
# some logging output
#
Tue Mar  9 11:15:43 waiting for connections on port 27017
Tue Mar  9 11:15:43 web admin interface listening on port 28017
```

It will stop printing output at this point but it hasn't frozen, it is merely waiting for connections on port 27017. Once you connect and start sending commands, it will continue to log what it’s doing. You can use any of the MongoDB drivers or Mongo shell to connect to the database.

You *cannot* connect to MongoDB by going to `http://localhost:27017` in your web browser. The database *cannot* be accessed via HTTP on port 27017.

**Standard Connection Format**

The uri scheme described on this page is not yet supported by all of the drivers. Refer to a specific driver's documentation to see how much (if any) of the standard connection uri is supported. All drivers support an alternative method of specifying connections if this format is not supported.

```
mongodb://[username:password@]host1[:port1][,host2[:port2],...[,hostN[:portN]]][/database]
```

- *mongodb://* is a required prefix to identify that this is a string in the standard connection format.
- *username:password@* are optional. If given, the driver will attempt to login to a database after connecting to a database server.
- *host1* is the only required part of the URI. It identifies a server address to connect to.
- *:portX* is optional and defaults to :27017 if not provided.
- `/database` is the name of the database to login to and thus is only relevant if the `username:password@` syntax is used. If not specified the "admin" database will be used by default.

As many hosts as necessary may be specified (for connecting to replica pairs/sets).

**Examples**

Connect to a database server running locally on the default port:

```
mongodb://localhost
```

Connect and login to the admin database as user "fred" with password "foobar":

```
mongodb://fred:foobar@localhost
```

Connect and login to the "baz" database as user "fred" with password "foobar":

```
mongodb://fred:foobar@localhost/baz
```

Connect to a replica pair, with one server on example1.com and another server on example2.com:

```
mongodb://example1.com:27017,example2.com:27017
```

Connect to a replica set with three servers running on localhost (on ports 27017, 27018, and 27019):

```
mongodb://localhost,localhost:27018,localhost:27019
```

**Connection Pooling**

The server will use one thread per TCP connection, therefore it is highly recomended that your application use some sort of connection pooling. Luckily, most drivers handle this for you behind the scenes. One notable exception is setups where your app spawns a new process for each request, such as CGI and some configurations of PHP.

**Databases**

Each MongoDB server can support multiple *databases*. Each database is independent, and the data for each database is stored separately, for security and ease of management.

A database consists of one or more *collections*, the *documents* (objects) in those collections, and an optional set of security credentials for controlling access.

- **Commands**
  - Clone Database
  - fsync Command
  - Index-Related Commands
  - Last Error Commands
  - Windows Service
  - Viewing and Terminating Current Operation
  - Validate Command
  - getLastError
  - List of Database Commands
  - Mongo Metadata

**Commands**
Introduction

The Mongo database has a concept of a *database command*. Database commands are ways to ask the database to perform special operations, or to request information about its current operational status.

- Introduction
- Privileged Commands
- Getting Help Info for a Command
- More Command Documentation
- List of Database Commands

A command is sent to the database as a query to a special collection namespace called $cmd. The database will return a single document with the command results - use `findOne()` for that if your driver has it.

The general command syntax is:

```
db.$cmd.findOne( { <commandname>: <value> [, options] } );
```

The shell provides a helper function for this:

```
db.runCommand( { <commandname>: <value> [, options] } );
```

For example, to check our database's current profile level setting, we can invoke:

```> db.runCommand({profile:-1});
{
  "ok" : 1.0
}
```

For many db commands, some drivers implement wrapper methods are implemented to make usage easier. For example, the *mongo shell* offers

```> db.getProfilingLevel()
0.0
```

Let's look at what this method is doing:

```> print(db.getProfilingLevel)
function () {
  var res = this._dbCommand({profile:-1});
  return res ? res.was : null;
}
```

Many commands have helper functions - see your driver's documentation for more information.

**Privileged Commands**

Certain operations are for the database administrator only. These privileged operations may only be performed on the special database named *admin*.

```> use admin;
> db.runCommand("shutdown"); // shut down the database
```

If the db variable is not set to 'admin', you can use _adminCommand to switch to the right database automatically (and just for that operation):
<code>&gt; db._adminCommand("shutdown");</code>

(For this particular command there is also a shell helper function, db.shutdownServer.)

**Getting Help Info for a Command**

Use commandHelp in shell to get help info for a command:

<code>&gt; db.commandHelp("datasize")
help for: datasize example: { datasize:"blog.posts", keyPattern:{x:1}, min:{x:10}, max:{x:55} }
NOTE: This command may take awhile to run</code>

(Help is not yet available for some commands.)

**More Command Documentation**

- Clone Database
- fsync Command
- Index-Related Commands
- Last Error Commands
- Windows Service
- Viewing and Terminating Current Operation
- Validate Command
- getLastError
- List of Database Commands

**Clone Database**

MongoDB includes commands for copying a database from one server to another.

```javascript
// copy an entire database from one name on one server to another
// name on another server. omit &lt;from_hostname&gt; to copy from one
// name to another on the same server.
db.copyDatabase(&lt;from_dbname&gt;, &lt;to_dbname&gt;, &lt;from_hostname&gt;);

// if you must authenticate with the source database
db.copyDatabase(&lt;from_dbname&gt;, &lt;to_dbname&gt;, &lt;from_hostname&gt;, &lt;username&gt;, &lt;password&gt;);

// in command syntax (runnable from any driver):
db.runCommand( { copydb : 1, fromdb : ..., todb : ..., fromhost : ... } );
// command syntax for authenticating with the source:
authenticating with the source:

n = db.runCommand( { copydbgetnonce : 1, fromhost: ... } );
db.runCommand( { copydb : 1, fromhost: ..., fromdb: ..., todb: ..., username: ..., nonce: n.nonce,
key: &lt;hash of username, nonce, password &gt; } );

// clone the current database (implied by 'db') from another host
var fromhost = ...;
print("about to get a copy of database " + db + " from " + fromhost);
db.cloneDatabase(fromhost);
// in command syntax (runnable from any driver):
db.runCommand( { clone : fromhost } );
```

**fsync Command**

- fsync Command
- Lock, Snapshot and Unlock
- Caveats
- Snapshooting Slaves
- See Also

⚠️ Version 1.3.1 and higher

The fsync command allows us to flush all pending writes to datafiles. More importantly, it also provides a lock option that makes backups easier.
The fsync command forces the database to flush all datafiles:

```bash
> use admin
> db.runCommand({fsync:1});
```

By default the command returns after synchronizing. To return immediately use:

```bash
> db.runCommand({fsync:1,async:true});
```

To fsync on a regular basis, use the --syncdelay command line option (see mongod --help output). By default a full flush is forced every 60 seconds.

**Lock, Snapshot and Unlock**

The fsync command supports a lock option that allows one to safely snapshot the database's datafiles. While locked, all write operations are blocked, although read operations are still allowed. After snapshotting, use the unlock command to unlock the database and allow locks again.

Example:

```bash
> use admin
switched to db admin
> db.runCommand({fsync:1,lock:1})
{
  "info" : "now locked against writes",
  "ok" : 1
}
> db.currentOp()
{
  "inprog" : [ 
  ],
  "fsyncLock" : 1
}

> // do some work here: for example, snapshot datafiles...
> // runProgram("/path/to/my-filesystem-snapshotting-script.sh")

> db.$cmd.sys.unlock.findOne();
{ "ok" : 1, "info" : "unlock requested" }
> // unlock is now requested. it may take a moment to take effect.
> db.currentOp()
{ "inprog" : [ ] }
```

**Caveats**

While the database can be read while locked for snapshotting, if a write is attempted, this will block readers due to the database's use of a read/write lock. This should be addressed in the future: [http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1423](http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1423)

**Snapshotting Slaves**

The above procedure works on replica slaves. The slave will not apply operations while locked. However, see the above caveats section.

**See Also**

- Backups

**Index-Related Commands**

**Create Index**

`ensureIndex()` is the helper function for this. Its implementation creates an index by adding its info to the `system.indexes` table.
Note: Once you've inserted the index, all subsequent document inserts for the given collection will be indexed, as will all pre-existing documents in the collection. If you have a large collection, this can take a significant amount of time and will block other operations. However, beginning with version 1.3.2, you can specify that indexing happen in the background. See the background indexing docs for details.

You can query system.indexes to see all indexes for a table `foo`:

```javascript
> db.system.indexes.find({ ns: "foo" });
```

In some drivers, `ensureIndex()` remembers if it has recently been called, and foregoes the insert operation in that case. Even if this is not the case, `ensureIndex()` is a cheap operation, so it may be invoked often to ensure that an index exists.

**Dropping an Index**

From the shell:

```javascript
db.mycollection.dropIndex(<name_or_pattern>)
db.mycollection.dropIndexes()
// example:
t.dropIndex({ name : 1 });
```

From a driver (raw command object form; many drivers have helpers):

```javascript
{ deleteIndexes: <collection_name>, index: <index_name> }
// "*** for <index_name> will drop all indexes except _id
```

**Index Namespace**

Each index has a namespace of its own for the btree buckets. The namespace is:

```javascript
<collectionnamespace>.$<indexname>
```

This is an internal namespace that cannot be queried directly.

**Last Error Commands**

Since MongoDB doesn't wait for a response by default when writing to the database, a couple commands exist for ensuring that these operations have succeeded. These commands can be invoked automatically with many of the drivers when saving and updating in "safe" mode. But what's really happening is that a special command called `getlasterror` is being invoked. Here, we explain how this works.

- `getlasterror`
  - Drivers
  - Use Cases
  - Mongo Shell Behavior
  - fsync option
  - With Replication
- `getPrevError`

`getlasterror` command checks for an error on the last database operation for this connection. Since it's a command, there are a few ways to invoke it:

```javascript
> db.$cmd.findOne({getlasterror:1})
```
Or

```
> db.runCommand("getlasterror")
```

Or you can use the helper:

```
> db.getLastError()
```

For more about commands, see the command documentation.

**Drivers**

The drivers support `getlasterror` in the command form and many also offer a "safe" mode for operations. If you're using Python, for example, you automatically call `getlasterror` on insert as follows:

```
collection.save({"name": "MongoDB"}, safe=True)
```

If the save doesn't succeed, an exception will be raised. For more on "safe" mode, see your driver's documentation.

**Use Cases**

`getlasterror` is primarily useful for write operations (although it is set after a command or query too). Write operations by default do not have a return code: this saves the client from waiting for client/server turnarounds during write operations. One can always call `getLastError` if one wants a return code.

If you're writing data to MongoDB on multiple connections, then it can sometimes be important to call `getlasterror` on one connection to be certain that the data has been committed to the database. For instance, if you're writing to connection #1 and want those writes to be reflected in reads from connection #2, you can assure this by calling `getlasterror` after writing to connection #1.

Note: The special `killCursors` operation does not support `getlasterror`. (This is really only of significant to driver developers.)

**Mongo Shell Behavior**

The database shell performs a `resetError()` before each read/eval/print loop command evaluation - and automatically prints the error, if one occurred, after each evaluation. Thus, after an error, at the shell prompt `db.getLastError()` will return null. However, if called before returning to the prompt, the result is as one would expect:

```
> try { db.foo.findOne() } catch(e) { print("preverr:" + tojson(db.getPrevError())); print("lasterr:" + tojson(db.getLastError()));}
preverr:"err": "unauthorized", "nPrev": 1, "ok": 1
lasterr:"unauthorized"
```

**fsync option**

Include the `fsync` option to force the database to fsync all files before returning (v1.3+):

```
> db.runCommand({getlasterror:1,fsync:true})
{ "err" : null, "n" : 0, "fsyncFiles" : 2, "ok" : 1 } 
```

**With Replication**

See blocking for replication.

**getPrevError**

*Note: getPrevError may be deprecated in the future.*

When performing bulk write operations, `resetError()` and `getPrevError()` can be an efficient way to check for success of the operation. For example if we are inserting 1,000 objects in a collection, checking the return code 1,000 times over the network is slow. Instead one might do something like this:
```javascript
db.resetError();
for( loop 1000 times... )
  db.foo.save(something...);
if( db.getPrevError().err )
  print("didn't work!");
```

### Windows Service

On windows mongod.exe has native support for installing and running as a windows service.

#### Service Related Commands

The three service related commands are:

```
mongod --install
mongod --service
mongod --remove
```

The --install and --remove options install and remove the mongo daemon as a windows service respectively. The --service option starts the service.

Whatever other services you pass to mongod.exe on the command line alongside --install are the arguments that the service is configured to execute mongod.exe with. Take for example the following command line:

```
mongod --bind_ip 127.0.0.1 --logpath d:\mongo\logs --logappend --dbpath d:\mongo\data --directoryperdb --install
```

Will cause a service to be created called Mongo that will execute the following command:

```
mongod --bind_ip 127.0.0.1 --logpath d:\mongo\logs --logappend --dbpath d:\mongo\data --directoryperdb
```

### Viewing and Terminating Current Operation

#### Viewing Current Operation(s) in Progress

- View Current Operation(s) in Progress
- Terminate (Kill) an Operation in Progress

#### View Current Operation(s) in Progress

```javascript
> db.currentOp();
> // same as: db.$cmd.sys.inprog.findOne()
{ inprog: [ { "opid": 18, "op": "query", "ns": "mydb.votes", "query": { score: 1.0 }, "inLock": 1 } ] }
```

**Fields:**

- opid - an incrementing operation number. Use with killOp().
- op - the operation type (query, update, etc.)
- ns - namespace for the operation (database + collection name)
- query - the query spec, if operation is a query

**NOTE:** currentOp's output format varies from version 1.0 and version 1.1 of MongoDB. The format above is for 1.1 and higher.

You can also do

```
db.$cmd.sys.inprog.find()
```

or this version which prints all connections
**Terminate (Kill) an Operation in Progress**

```javascript
// <= v1.2
> db.killOp()
> // same as: db.$cmd.sys.killop.findOne()
> ("info": "no op in progress/not locked")

// v>= 1.3
> db.killOp({opid: /*opid*/})
> // same as: db.$cmd.sys.killop.findOne({op: /*opid*/})
```

**Validate Command**

Use this command to check that a collection is valid (not corrupt) and to get various statistics.

This command scans the entire collection and its indexes and will be very slow on large datasets.

From the **mongo** shell:

```javascript
> db.foo.validate()
("ns": "test.foo", "result":
  validate
  details: 08D03C9C of:963c9c
  firstExtent:0:156800 ns:test.foo
  lastExtent:0:156800 ns:test.foo
  # extents:1
dataset?:144 nrecords?:3 lastExtentSize:2816
  padding:1
  first extent:
    loc:0:156800 xnext: null xprev: null
    ns: test.foo
    size:2816 firstRecord:0:1568b0 lastRecord:0:156930
  3 objects found, nobj:3
  192 bytes data w/headers
  144 bytes data w/out/headers
  deletedList: 0000000100000000000
  deleted: n: 1 size: 2448
  nindexes:1
  test.foo.$x_1 keys:3
  "ok": 1, "valid": true, "lastExtentSize": 2816}
```

From a driver one might invoke the driver's equivalent of:

```javascript
> db.$cmd.findOne({validate: true});
```

validate takes an optional scandata parameter which skips the scan of the base collection (but still scans indexes).

```javascript
> db.$cmd.findOne({validate: true, scandata: true});
```

**getLastError**

**Redirection Notice**

This page should redirect to Last Error Commands in about 3 seconds.

Most drivers, and the db shell, support a getlasterror capability. This lets one check the error code on the last operation.

Database commands, as well as queries, have a direct return code.
getLastError is primarily useful for write operations (although it is set after a command or query too). Write operations by default do not have a return code: this saves the client from waiting for client/server turnarounds during write operations. One can always call getLastError if one wants a return code.

```javascript
> db.runCommand("getlasterror")
> db.getLastError()
```

Note: The special `mongo wire protocol` killCursors operation does not support getLastError. (This is really only of significant to `driver developers`.)

getPrevError

Note: `getPrevError` may be deprecated in the future.

When performing bulk write operations, `resetError()` and `getPrevError()` can be an efficient way to check for success of the operation. For example if we are inserting 1,000 objects in a collection, checking the return code 1,000 times over the network is slow. Instead one might do something like this:

```javascript
db.resetError();
for( loop 1000 times... )
  db.foo.save(something...);
if( db.getPrevError().err )
  print(“didn’t work!”);
```

Last Error in the Shell

The database shell performs a `resetError()` before each read/eval/print loop command evaluation - and automatically prints the error, if one occurred, after each evaluation. Thus, after an error, at the shell prompt `db.getLastError()` will return null. However, if called before returning to the prompt, the result is as one would expect:

```javascript
> try { db.foo.findOne() } catch(e) { print("preverr:" + toJSON(db.getPrevError())); print("lasterr:" + toJSON(db.getLastError())); } 
preverr:{ "err" : "unauthorized", "nPrev" : 1, "ok" : 1 }
lasterr:"unauthorized"
```

FSync with GetLastError

Include the `fsync` option to force the database to `fsync` all files before returning (v1.3+):

```javascript
> db.runCommand({getlasterror:1,fsync: true})
{ "err" : null, "n" : 0, "fsyncFiles" : 2, "ok" : 1 }
```

List of Database Commands

List of MongoDB Commands

See the Commands page for details on how to invoke a command.

Also: with v1.5+, run `mongod` with `--rest` enabled, and then go to `http://localhost:28017/_commands`

Mongo Metadata

The `<dbname>.system.*` namespaces in MongoDB are special and contain database system information. System collections include:

- `system.namespaces` lists all namespaces.
- `system.indexes` lists all indexes.
- Additional namespace / index metadata exists in the database.ns files, and is opaque.
- `system.profile` stores database profiling information.
- `system.users` lists users who may access the database.
- `local.sources` stores replica slave configuration data and state.
- Information on the structure of a stored object is stored within the object itself. See `BSON`.

There are several restrictions on manipulation of objects in the system collections. Inserting in `system.indexes` adds an index, but otherwise that table is immutable (the special `drop index` command updates it for you). `system.users` is modifiable. `system.profile` is droppable.

Note: `§` is a reserved character. Do not use it in namespace names or within field names. Internal collections for indexes use the `§` character in
their names. These collection store b-tree bucket data and are not in BSON format (thus direct querying is not possible).

Collections

MongoDB collections are essentially named groupings of documents. You can think of them as roughly equivalent to relational database tables.

Details

A MongoDB collection is a collection of BSON documents. These documents are usually have the same structure, but this is not a requirement since MongoDB is a schema-free database. You may store a heterogeneous set of documents within a collection, as you do not need to define the collection’s “columns” or fields.

A collection is created when the first document is inserted.

Collection names should begin with letters or an underscore and may include numbers; _ is reserved. Collections can be organized in namespaces; these are named groups of collections defined using a dot notation. For example, you could define collections blog.posts and blog.authors, both reside under "blog". Note that this is simply an organizational mechanism for the user -- the collection namespace is flat from the database’s perspective.

Programmatically, we access these collections using the dot notation. For example, using the mongo shell:

```javascript
if( db.blog.posts.findOne() )
    print("blog.posts exists and is not empty.");
```

The maximum size of a collection name is 128 characters (including the name of the db and indexes). It is probably best to keep it under 80/90 chars.

See also:

- Capped Collections
- Using a Large Number of Collections

Capped Collections

Capped collections are fixed sized collections that have a very high performance auto-LRU age-out feature (age out is based on insertion order).

In addition, capped collections automatically, with high performance, maintain insertion order for the objects in the collection; this is very powerful for certain use cases such as logging.

Creating a Fixed Size (capped) Collection

Unlike a standard collection, you must explicitly create a capped collection, specifying a collection size in bytes. The collection's data space is then preallocated. Note that the size specified includes database headers.

```javascript
db.createCollection("mycoll", {capped:true, size:100000})
```

Usage and Restrictions

- You may insert new objects in the capped collection.
- You may update the existing objects in the collection. However, the objects must not grow in size. If they do, the update will fail. (There are some possible workarounds which involve pre-padding objects; contact us in the support forums for more information, if help is needed.)
- The database does not allow deleting objects from a capped collection. Use the drop() method to remove all rows from the collection.
- Maximum size for a capped collection is currently 1e9 bytes on a thirty-two bit machine. The maximum size of a capped collection on a sixty-four bit machine is constrained only by system resources.

Behavior

- Once the space is fully utilized, newly added objects will replace the oldest objects in the collection.
- If you perform a find() on the collection with no ordering specified, the objects will always be returned in insertion order. Reverse order is always retrievable with find().sort({$natural:-1}).

Applications
• **Logging.** Capped collections are the preferred logging mechanism for Mongo. Mongo does not use log "files." Rather, log events are stored in the database. Capped collections provide a high-performance means for storing these objects in the database. Inserting objects in an unindexed capped collection will be close to the speed of logging to a filesystem. Additionally, with the built-in LRU mechanism, you are not at risk of using excessive disk space for the logging.

• **Caching.** If you wish to cache a small number of objects in the database, perhaps cached computations of information, the capped tables provide a convenient mechanism for this. Note that for this application you will likely use an index on the capped table as there will be more reads than writes.

• **Auto Archiving.** If you know you want data to automatically "roll out" over time as it ages, a capped collection can be an easier way to support than writing manual archival cron scripts.

**Recommendations**

• For maximum performance, do not create indexes on a capped collection. If the collection will be written to much more than it is read from, it is better to have no indexes. Note that you may create indexes on a capped collection; however, you are then moving from "log speed" inserts to "database speed" inserts -- that is, it will still be quite fast by database standards.

• Use natural ordering to retrieve the most recently inserted elements from the collection efficiently. This is (somewhat) analogous to tail on a log file.

**Capping the Number of Objects**

You may also cap the number of objects in the collection. Once the limit is reached, items roll out on a least recently inserted basis.

To cap on number of objects, specify a max: parameter on the createCollection() call.

**Note:** When specifying a cap on the number of objects, you must also cap on size. Be sure to leave enough room for your chosen number of objects or items will roll out faster than expected. You can use the validate() utility method to see how much space an existing collection uses, and from that estimate your size needs.

```javascript
db.createCollection("mycoll", {capped: true, size:100000, max:100});
db.mycoll.validate();
```

**Tip:** When programming, a handy way to store the most recently generated version of an object can be a collection capped with max=1.

**Preallocating space for a normal collection**

The createCollection command may be used for non capped collections as well. For example:

```javascript
db.createCollection("mycoll", {size:1000000});
db.createCollection("mycoll", {size:1000000, autoIndexId: false});
```

Explicitly creating a non capped collection via createCollection allows parameters of the new collection to be specified. For example, specification of a collection size causes the corresponding amount of disk space to be preallocated for use by the collection. The autoIndexId field may be set to true or false to explicitly enable or disable automatic creation of a unique key index on the _id object field. By default, such an index is created for non capped collections but is not created for capped collections.

⚠️ An index is not automatically created on _id for capped collections by default

**See Also**

• The Sorting and Natural Order section of this Guide

**Using a Large Number of Collections**

A technique one can use with MongoDB in certain situations is to have several collections to store information instead of a single collection. By doing this, certain repeating data no longer needs to be stored in every object, and an index on that key may be eliminated. More importantly for performance (depending on the problem), the data is then clustered by the grouping specified.

For example, suppose we are logging objects/documents to the database, and want to have M logs: perhaps a dev log, a debug log, an ops log, etc. We could store them all in one collection 'logs' containing objects like:

```javascript
{ log : 'dev', ts : ..., info : ... }
```

However, if the number of logs is not too high, it might be better to have a collection per log. We could have a 'logs.dev' collection, a 'logs.debug'
collection, 'logs.ops', etc.:

```json
// logs.dev:
{ ts : ..., info : ... }
```

Of course, this only makes sense if we do not need to query for items from multiple logs at the same time.

Generally, having a large number of collections has no significant performance penalty, and results in very good performance.

**Limits**

By default MongoDB has a limit of approximately 24,000 namespaces per database. Each collection counts as a namespace, as does each index. Thus if every collection had one index, we can create up to 12,000 collections. Use the --nssize parameter to set a higher limit.

Be aware that there is a certain minimum overhead per collection -- a few KB. Further, any index will require at least 8KB of data space as the b-tree page size is 8KB.

---

**--nssize**

If more collections are required, run mongod with the --nssize parameter specified. This will make the <database>.ns file larger and support more collections. Note that --nssize sets the size used for newly created .ns files -- if you have an existing database and wish to resize, after running the db with --nssize, run the db.repairDatabase() command from the shell to adjust the size.

Maximum .ns file size is 2GB.

---

**Data Types and Conventions**

**MongoDB (BSON) Data Types**

Mongo uses special data types in addition to the basic JSON types of string, integer, boolean, double, null, array, and object. These types include date, object id, binary data, regular expression, and code. Each driver implements these types in language-specific ways, see your driver's documentation for details.

See BSON for a full list of database types.

---

**Internationalization**

- See Internationalized strings

---

**Database References**

- See Database References and Schema Design

---

**Internationalized Strings**

MongoDB supports UTF-8 for strings in stored objects and queries. (Specifically, BSON strings are UTF-8.)

Generally, drivers for each programming language convert from the language's string format of choice to UTF-8 when serializing and deserializing BSON. For example, the Java driver converts Java Unicode strings to UTF-8 on serialization.

In most cases this means you can effectively store most international characters in MongoDB strings. A few notes:

- MongoDB regex queries support UTF-8 in the regex string.
- Currently, sort() on a string uses strcmp: sort order will be reasonable but not fully international correct. Future versions of MongoDB may support full UTF-8 sort ordering.

---

**Object IDs**

Documents in MongoDB are required to have a key, _id, which uniquely identifies them.

- Document IDs: _id
- The BSON ObjectID Datatype
   - BSON ObjectID Specification
   - Document Timestamps
- Sequence Numbers
**Document IDs: _id**

Every MongoDB document has an _id field as its first attribute. This value usually a BSON ObjectId. Such an id must be unique for each member of a collection; this is enforced if the collection has an index on _id, which is the case by default.

If a user tries to insert a document without providing an id, the database will automatically generate an ObjectId and store it the _id field.

Users are welcome to use their own conventions for creating ids; the _id value may be of any type so long as it is a unique.

**The BSON Objectld Datatype**

Although _id values can be of any type, a special BSON datatype is provided for object ids. This type is a 12-byte binary value designed to have a reasonably high probability of being unique when allocated. All of the officially-supported MongoDB drivers use this type by default for _id values. Also, the Mongo database itself uses this type when assigning _id values on inserts where no _id value is present.

In the MongoDB shell, `ObjectId()` may be used to create ObjectIds. `ObjectId(string)` creates an object ID from the specified hex string.

```
> x={ name: "joe" }  
( name : "joe" )  
> db.people.save(x)  
{ name : "joe", _id : ObjectId("47cc67093475061e3d95369d") }  
> x  
( name : "joe", _id : ObjectId("47cc67093475061e3d95369d") )  
> db.people.findOne( { _id: ObjectId("47cc67093475061e3d95369d") } )  
( _id : ObjectId("47cc67093475061e3d95369d") , name : "joe" )  
> db.people.findOne( { _id: ObjectId("47cc67093475061e3d95369d") } )  
( _id : ObjectId("47cc67093475061e3d95369d") , name : "joe" )
```

**BSON ObjectID Specification**

A BSON ObjectID is a 12-byte value consisting of a 4-byte timestamp (seconds since epoch), a 3-byte machine id, a 2-byte process id, and a 3-byte counter. Note that the timestamp and counter fields must be stored big endian unlike the rest of BSON. This is because they are compared byte-by-byte and we want to ensure a mostly increasing order. Here's the schema:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>time</td>
<td>machine</td>
<td>pid</td>
<td>inc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Document Timestamps**

One useful consequence of this specification is that it provides documents with a creation timestamp for free. All of the drivers implement methods for extracting these timestamps; see the relevant api docs for details.

**Sequence Numbers**

Traditional databases often use monotonically increasing sequence numbers for primary keys. In MongoDB, the preferred approach is to use Object IDs instead. Object IDs are more synergistic with sharding and distribution.

However, sometimes you may want a sequence number. The Insert if Not Present section of the Atomic Operations page shows an example of how to do this.

**Database References**

- Simple Manual References
- DBRef
- DBRef in Different Languages / Drivers
  - C#
  - C++
  - Java
  - Javascript (mongo shell)
  - PHP
  - Python
  - Ruby
- See Also

As MongoDB is non-relational (no joins), references ("foreign keys") between documents are generally resolved client-side by additional queries to the server. Two conventions are common for references in MongoDB: first simple manual references, and second, the DBRef standard, which many drivers support explicitly.

Note: Often embedding of objects eliminates the need for references, but sometimes references are still appropriate.
**Simple Manual References**

Generally, manually coded references work just fine. We simply store the value that is present in `_id` in some other document in the database. For example:

```javascript
  > p = db.postings.findOne();
  { 
    "_id" : ObjectId("4b866f08234ae01d21d89604"),
    "author" : "jim",
    "title" : "Brewing Methods"
  }
  > // get more info on author
  > db.users.findOne( { _id : p.author } )
  { "_id" : "jim", "email" : "jim@gmail.com" }
```

**DBRef**

DBRef is a more formal specification for creating references between documents. DBRefs (generally) include a collection name as well as an object id. Most developers only use DBRefs if the collection can change from one document to the next. If your referenced collection will always be the same, the manual references outlined above are more efficient.

A DBRef is a reference from one document (object) to another within a database. A database reference is a standard embedded (JSON/BSON) object: we are defining a convention, not a special type. By having a standard way to represent, drivers and data frameworks can add helper methods which manipulate the references in standard ways.

DBRefs have the advantage of allowing optional automatic **client-side** dereferencing with some drivers, although more features may be added later. In many cases, you can just get away with storing the `_id` as a reference then dereferencing manually as detailed in the "Simple Manual References" section above.

Syntax for a DBRef reference value is

```javascript
  { $ref : <collname>, $id : <idvalue>[, $db : <dbname>] }
```

where `<collname>` is the collection name referenced (without the database name), and `<idvalue>` is the value of the `_id` field for the object referenced. `$db` is optional (currently unsupported by many of the drivers) and allows for references to documents in other databases (specified by `<dbname>`).

The ordering for DBRefs does matter, fields must be in the order specified above.

The old **BSON** DBRef datatype is deprecated.

**DBRef in Different Languages / Drivers**

**C#**

Use the DBRef class. It takes the collection name and `_id` as parameters to the constructor. Then you can use the FollowReference method on the Database class to get the referenced document.

**C++**

The C++ driver does not yet provide a facility for automatically traversing DBRefs. However one can do it manually of course.

**Java**

Java supports DB references using the **DBRef class**.

**Javascript (mongo shell)**

Example:
x = { name: 'Biology' }
> db.courses.save(x)
> x
{ "name": "Biology", "_id": ObjectId("4b0552b0f0da7d1eb6f126a1") }
> stu = { name: 'Joe', classes: [ new DBRef('courses', x._id) ] }
// or we could write:
// stu = { name: 'Joe', classes: [ {ref:'courses',$id:x._id} ] }
> db.students.save(stu)
> stu
{ "name": "Joe", "classes": [ { "$ref": "courses", "$id": ObjectId("4b0552b0f0da7d1eb6f126a1") } ], "_id": ObjectId("4b0552e4f0da7d1eb6f126a2") }
> stu.classes[0]
{ "$ref": "courses", "$id": ObjectId("4b0552b0f0da7d1eb6f126a1") }
> stu.classes[0].fetch()
{ "_id": ObjectId("4b0552b0f0da7d1eb6f126a1"), "name": "Biology" }

PHP

PHP supports DB references with the MongoDBRef class, as well as creation and deferencing methods at the database (MongoDB::createDBRef and MongoDB::getDBRef) and collection (MongoCollection::createDBRef and MongoCollection::getDBRef) levels.

Python

To create a DB reference in python use the pymongo.dbref.DBRef class. You can also use the dereference method on Database instances to make dereferencing easier.

Python also supports auto-ref and auto-deref - check out the auto_reference example.

Ruby

Ruby also supports DB references using the DBRef class and a dereference method on DB instances. For example:

```ruby
@db   = Connection.new.db("blog")
@user = @db["users"].save({:name => "Smith"})
@post = @db["posts"].save({:title => "Hello World", :user_id => @user.id})
@ref  = DBRef.new("users", @post.user_id)
assert_equal @user, @db.dereference(@ref)
```

See Also

- Schema Design

GridFS

GridFS is a specification for storing large files in MongoDB. All of the officially supported driver implement the GridFS spec.

- Rationale
- Implementation
- Language Support
- Command Line Tools
- See also

Rationale

The database supports native storage of binary data within BSON objects. However, BSON objects in MongoDB are limited to 4MB in size. The
GridFS spec provides a mechanism for transparently dividing a large file among multiple documents. This allows us to efficiently store large objects, and in the case of especially large files, such as videos, permits range operations (e.g., fetching only the first N bytes of a file).

**Implementation**

To facilitate this, a standard is specified for the chunking of files. Each file has a metadata object in a files collection, and one or more chunk objects in a chunks collection. Details of how this is stored can be found in the GridFS Specification; however, you do not really need to read that, instead, just look at the GridFS API in each language's client driver or mongofiles tool.

**Language Support**

Most drivers include GridFS implementations; for languages not listed below, check the driver's API documentation. (If a language does not include support, see the GridFS specification -- implementing a handler is usually quite easy.)

**Command Line Tools**

Command line tools are available to write and read GridFS files from and to the local filesystem.

**See also**

- C++
- A PHP GridFS Blog Article

**Indexes**

Indexes enhance query performance, often dramatically. It's important to think about the kinds of queries your application will need so that you can define relevant indexes. Once that's done, actually creating the indexes in MongoDB is relatively easy.

Indexes in MongoDB are conceptually similar to those in RDBMSes like MySQL. You will want an index in MongoDB in the same sort of situations where you would have wanted an index in MySQL.

- Basics
- Default Indexes
- Embedded Keys
- Documents as Keys
- Arrays
- Compound Keys Indexes
- Unique Indexes
- Missing Keys
- Duplicates
- Background Index Building
- Dropping Indexes
- ReIndex
- Additional Notes on Indexes
  - Index Performance
  - Using `sort()` without an Index
- Geospatial
- Webinar

**Basics**

An index is a data structure that collects information about the values of the specified fields in the documents of a collection. This data structure is used by Mongo’s query optimizer to quickly sort through and order the documents in a collection. Formally speaking, these indexes are implemented as "B-Tree" indexes.

In the shell, you can create an index by calling the `ensureIndex()` function, and providing a document that specifies one or more keys to index. Referring back to our examples database from Mongo Usage Basics, we can index on the `j` field as follows:

```javascript
db.things.ensureIndex({j:1});
```

The `ensureIndex()` function only creates the index if it does not exist.

Once a collection is indexed on a key, random access on query expressions which match the specified key are fast. Without the index, MongoDB has to go through each document checking the value of specified key in the query:
You can run `db.things.getIndexes()` to see the existing indexes on the collection.

**Default Indexes**

An index is always created on `_id`. This index is special and cannot be deleted. The `_id` index enforces uniqueness for its keys. For Capped Collections no index is created.

**Embedded Keys**

With MongoDB you can even index on a key inside of an embedded document. For example:

```javascript
db.things.ensureIndex({"address.city": 1})
```

**Documents as Keys**

Indexed fields may be of any type, including documents:

```javascript
db.factories.ensureIndex({ metro: 1 });
// this query can use the above index:
db.factories.find({ metro: { city: "New York", state: "NY" } });
```

An alternative to documents as keys it to create a compound index such as:

```javascript
db.factories.ensureIndex({ "metro.city": 1, "metro.state": 1 });
// these queries can use the above index:
db.factories.find({ "metro.city": "New York", "metro.state": "NY" });
db.factories.find({ "metro.city": "New York" });
db.factories.find().sort({ "metro.city": 1, "metro.state": 1 });
db.factories.find().sort({ "metro.city": 1 })
```

There are pros and cons to the two approaches. When using the entire (sub-)document as a key, compare order is predefined and is ascending key order in the order the keys occur in the BSON document. With compound indexes reaching in, you can mix ascending and descending keys, and the query optimizer will then be able to use the index for queries on solely the first key(s) in the index too.

**Arrays**

When a document's stored value for a index key field is an array, MongoDB indexes each element of the array. See the Multikeys page for more information.

**Compound Keys Indexes**

In addition to single-key basic indexes, MongoDB also supports multi-key "compound" indexes. Just like basic indexes, you use the `ensureIndex()` function in the shell to create the index, but instead of specifying only a single key, you can specify several:

```javascript
db.things.ensureIndex({j:1, name:-1});
```

When creating an index, the number associated with a key specifies the direction of the index, so it should always be 1 (ascending) or -1 (descending). Direction doesn't matter for single key indexes or for random access retrieval but is important if you are doing sorts or range queries on compound indexes.

If you have a compound index on multiple fields, you can use it to query on the beginning subset of fields. So if you have an index on

```javascript
a, b, c
```

you can use it query on
New in 1.6+
Now you can also use the compound index to service any combination of equality (and some inequality) queries from the constitute fields.

Unique Indexes
MongoDB supports unique indexes, which guarantee that no documents are inserted whose values for the indexed keys match those of an existing document. To create an index that guarantees that no two documents have the same values for both `firstname` and `lastname` you would do:

```javascript
db.things.ensureIndex({firstname: 1, lastname: 1}, {unique: true});
```

Missing Keys
When a document is saved to a collection with unique indexes, any missing indexed keys will be inserted with null values. Thus, it won't be possible to insert multiple documents missing the same indexed key.

```javascript
db.things.ensureIndex({firstname: 1}, {unique: true});
db.things.save({lastname: "Smith"});

// Next operation will fail because of the unique index on firstname.
db.things.save({lastname: "Jones"});
```

Duplicate Values
A unique index cannot be created on a key that has duplicate values. If you would like to create the index anyway, keeping the first document the database indexes and deleting all subsequent documents that have duplicate values, add the `dropDups` option.

```javascript
db.things.ensureIndex({firstname : 1}, {unique : true, dropDups : true})
```

Background Index Building
By default, building an index blocks other database operations. v1.3.2 and higher has a background index build option.

Dropping Indexes
To delete all indexes on the specified collection:

```javascript
db.collection.dropIndexes();
```

To delete a single index:

```javascript
db.collection.dropIndex({x: 1, y: -1})
```

Running directly as a command without helper:
ReIndex

The reIndex command will rebuild all indexes for a collection.

```javascript
db.myCollection.reIndex()
// same as:
db.runCommand( { reIndex : 'myCollection' } )
```

Usually this is unnecessary. You may wish to do this if the size of your collection has changed dramatically or the disk space used by indexes seems oddly large.

Repair database recreates all indexes in the database.

Additional Notes on Indexes

- MongoDB indexes (and string equality tests in general) are case sensitive.
- When you update an object, if the object fits in its previous allocation area, only those indexes whose keys have changed are updated. This improves performance. Note that if the object has grown and must move, all index keys must then update, which is slower.
- Index information is kept in the system.indexes collection, run `db.system.indexes.find()` to see example data.

Index Performance

Indexes make retrieval by a key, including ordered sequential retrieval, very fast. Updates by key are faster too as MongoDB can find the document to update very quickly.

However, keep in mind that each index created adds a certain amount of overhead for inserts and deletes. In addition to writing data to the base collection, keys must then be added to the B-Tree indexes. Thus, indexes are best for collections where the number of reads is much greater than the number of writes. For collections which are write-intensive, indexes, in some cases, may be counterproductive. Most collections are read-intensive, so indexes are a good thing in most situations.

Using sort() without an Index

You may use `sort()` to return data in order without an index if the data set to be returned is small (less than four megabytes). For these cases it is best to use `limit()` and `sort()` together.

Geospatial

- See Geospatial Indexing page.

Webinar


Using Multikeys to Simulate a Large Number of Indexes

One way to work with data that has a high degree of options for queryability is to use the multikey indexing feature where the keys are objects. For example:
> x = {
> ... _id : "abc",
> ... cost : 33,
> ... attribs : [
> ...     { color : 'red' },
> ...     { shape : 'rect' },
> ...     { color : 'blue' },
> ...     { avail : true }
> ... ];
> db.foo.insert(x);
> db.foo.ensureIndex({attribs:1});
> db.foo.find( { attribs : {color:'blue'} } ); // uses index
> db.foo.find( { attribs : {avail:false} } ); // uses index

In addition to being able to have an unlimited number of attributes types, we can also add new types dynamically.

This is mainly useful for simply attribute lookups; the above pattern is not necessary helpful for sorting or certain other query types.

See Also

Discussion thread MongoDB for a chemical property search engine for a more complex real world example.

**Geospatial Indexing**

- Creating the Index
- Querying
- Compound Indexes
- geoNear Command
- Bounds Queries
- The Earth is Round but Maps are Flat
- Sharded Environments
- Implementation

MongoDB supports two-dimensional geospatial indexes. It is designed with location-based queries in mind, such as "find me the closest N items to my location." It can also efficiently filter on additional criteria, such as "find me the closest N museums to my location."

In order to use the index, you need to have a field in your object that is either a sub-object or array where the first 2 elements are x,y coordinates (or y,x - just be consistent; it might be advisable to use order-preserving dictionaries/hashes in your client code, to ensure consistency). Some examples:

```json
{ loc : [ 50 , 30 ]
{ loc : [ x : 50 , y : 30 ] }
{ loc : [ foo : 50 , y : 30 ] }
{ loc : [ lat : 40.739037, long: 73.992964 ] }
```

Creating the Index

```javascript
db.places.ensureIndex( { loc : "2d" } )
```

By default, the index assumes you are indexing latitude/longitude and is thus configured for a [-180..180] value range.

If you are indexing something else, you can specify some options:

```javascript
db.places.ensureIndex( { loc : "2d" }, { min : -500 , max : 500 } )
```

that will scale the index to store values between -500 and 500. Currently geo indexing is limited to indexing squares with no "wrapping" at the outer boundaries. You cannot insert values on the boundaries, for example, using the code above, the point (-500, -500) could not to be inserted.
you can only have 1 geo2d index per collection right now

Querying

The index can be used for exact matches:

```
db.places.find( { loc : [50,50] } )
```

Of course, that is not very interesting. More important is a query to find points near another point, but not necessarily matching exactly:

```
db.places.find( { loc : { $near : [50,50] } } )
```

The above query finds the closest points to (50,50) and returns them sorted by distance (there is no need for an additional sort parameter). Use `limit()` to specify a maximum number of points to return (a default limit of 100 applies if unspecified):

```
db.places.find( { loc : { $near : [50,50] } } ).limit(20)
```

Compound Indexes

MongoDB geospatial indexes optionally support specification of secondary key values. If you are commonly going to be querying on both a location and other attributes at the same time, add the other attributes to the index. The other attributes are annotated within the index to make filtering faster. For example:

```
db.places.ensureIndex( { location : "2d" , category : 1 } );
db.places.find( { location : {$near : [50,50] } , category : 'coffee' } );
```

geoNear Command

While the find() syntax above is typically preferred, MongoDB also has a geoNear command which performs a similar function. The geoNear command has the added benefit of returning the distance of each item from the specified point in the results, as well as some diagnostics for troubleshooting.
The above command will return the 10 closest items to (50,50). (The loc field is automatically determined by checking for a 2d index on the collection.)

If you want to add an additional filter, you can do so:

```javascript
> db.runCommand({ geoNear: "places", near: [50,50], num: 10, ...
... query: { type: "museum" }});
```

query can be any regular mongo query.

**Bounds Queries**

$within can be used instead of $near to find items within a shape. At the moment, $box (rectangles) and $center (circles) are supported.

To query for all points within a rectangle, you must specify the lower-left and upper-right corners:

```javascript
> box = [[40, 40], [60, 60]]
> db.places.find({"loc": {$within: {$box: box}}})
```
A circle is specified by a center point and radius:

```javascript
> center = [50, 50]
> radius = 10
> db.places.find({
  loc: {$within: {$center: [center, radius]}}})
```

The current implementation assumes an idealized model of a flat earth, meaning that an arcdegree of latitude (y) and longitude (x) represent the same distance everywhere. This is only true at the equator where they are both about equal to 69 miles or 111km. However, at the 10gen offices at (x: -74, y: 40.74) one arcdegree of longitude is about 52 miles or 83 km (latitude is unchanged). This means that something 1 mile to the north would seem closer than something 1 mile to the east.

Sharded Environments

Support for geospatial in sharded collections is coming; please watch this ticket: [http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SHARDING-83](http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SHARDING-83).

In the meantime sharded clusters can use geospatial indexes for unsharded collections within the cluster.

Implementation

The current implementation encodes geographic hash codes atop standard MongoDB b-trees. Results of $near queries are exact. The problem with geohashing is that prefix lookups don’t give you exact results, especially around bit flip areas. MongoDB solves this by doing a grid by grid search after the initial prefix scan. This guarantees performance remains very high while providing correct results.

Indexing as a Background Operation

By default the `ensureIndex()` operation is blocking, and will stop other operations on the database from proceeding until completed. However, in v1.3.2+, a background indexing option is available.

To build an index in the background, add `background:true` to your index options. Examples:

```javascript
> db.things.ensureIndex({x:1}, {background:true});
> db.things.ensureIndex({name:1}, {background:true, unique:true, dropDups:true});
```

With background mode enabled, other operations, including writes, will not be obstructed during index creation. The index is not used for queries until the build is complete.

Although the operation is 'background' in the sense that other operations may run concurrently, the command will not return to the shell prompt until completely finished. To do other operations at the same time, open a separate mongo shell instance.

Please note that background mode building uses an incremental approach to building the index which is slower than the default foreground mode: time to build the index will be greater.

While the build progresses, it is possible to see that the operation is still in progress with the `db.currentOp()` command (will be shown as an insert to system.indexes). You may also use `db.killOp()` to terminate the build process.

While the build progresses, the index is visible in system.indexes, but it is not used for queries until building completes.

**Notes**

- Only one index build at a time is permitted per collection.
- Some administrative operations, such as `repairDatabase`, are disallowed while a background indexing job is in progress.
- v1.3.2 : alpha (of this feature)
- v1.3.3 : beta
- v1.4 : production

**Multikeys**

MongoDB provides an interesting “multikey” feature that can automatically index arrays of an object's values. A good example is tagging. Suppose you have an article tagged with some category names:
We can easily perform a query looking for a particular value in the tags array:

```javascript
> db.articles.find({ tags: 'april' })
```

Further, we can index on the tags array. Creating an index on an array element indexes results in the database indexing each element of the array:

```javascript
> db.articles.ensureIndex( { tags : 1 } )
true
> db.articles.find({ tags: 'april' }).explain()
```

**Embedded object fields in an array**

Additionally the same technique can be used for fields in embedded objects:

```javascript
> db.posts.find( { "comments.author" : "julie" } )
```

**Querying on all values in a given set**

By using the `$all` query option, a set of values may be supplied each of which must be present in a matching object field. For example:

```javascript
> db.articles.find( { tags: { $all: [ 'april', 'record' ] } } )
```

**See Also**

- The [Multikeys](/docs/multilevel-indexing) section of the Full Text Search in Mongo document for information about this feature.

**Indexing Advice and FAQ**

We get a lot of questions about indexing. Here we provide answers to a number of these. There are a couple of points to keep in mind, though. First, indexes in MongoDB work quite similarly to indexes in MySQL, and thus many of the techniques for building efficient indexes in MySQL apply to MongoDB.

Second, and even more importantly, know that advice on indexing can only take you so far. The best indexes for your application should always be based on a number of important factors, including the kinds of queries you expect, the ratio of reads to writes, and even the amount of free
memory on your system. This means that the best strategy for designing indexes will always be to profile a variety of index configurations with data sets similar to the ones you'll be running in production, and see which perform best. There's no substitute for good empirical analyses.

- **Indexing Strategies**
  - Create indexes to match your queries.
  - One index per query.
  - Make sure your indexes can fit in RAM.
  - Be careful about single-key indexes with low selectivity.
  - Use explain.
  - Understanding explain's output.
  - Pay attention to the read/write ratio of your application.

- **Indexing Properties**
  1. The sort column must be the last column used in the index.
  2. The range query must also be the last column in an index. This is an axiom of 1 above.
  3. Only use a range query or sort on one column.
  4. Conserving indexes by re-ordering columns used on equality (non-range) queries.
  5. MongoDB's $ne or $nin operator's aren't efficient with indexes.

- **FAQ**
  - I've started building an index, and the database has stopped responding. What's going on? What do I do?
  - I'm using $ne or $nin in a query, and while it uses the index, it's still slow. What's happening?

- **Using Multikeys to Simulate a Large Number of Indexes**

Indexing Strategies

Here are some general principles for building smart indexes.

Create indexes to match your queries.

If you only query on a single key, then a single-key index will do. For instance, maybe you're searching for a blog post's slug:

```javascript
db.posts.find({ slug : 'state-of-mongodb-2010' })
```

In this case, a unique index on a single key is best:

```javascript
db.ensureIndex({ slug: 1 }, {unique: true});
```

However, it's common to query on multiple keys and to sort the results. For these situations, compound indexes are best. Here's an example for querying the latest comments with a 'mongodb' tag:

```javascript
db.comments.find({ tags : 'mongodb'}).sort({ created_at : -1 });
```

And here's the proper index:

```javascript
db.comments.ensureIndex({tags : 1, created_at : -1});
```

Note that if we wanted to sort by `created_at` ascending, this index would be less effective.

One index per query.

It's sometimes thought that queries on multiple keys can use multiple indexes; this is not the case with MongoDB. If you have a query that selects on multiple keys, and you want that query to use an index efficiently, then a compound-key index is necessary.

Make sure your indexes can fit in RAM.

The shell provides a command for returning the total index size on a given collection:

```javascript
db.comments.totalIndexSize();
```

If your queries seem sluggish, you should verify that your indexes are small enough to fit in RAM. For instance, if you're running on 4GB RAM and you have 3GB of indexes, then your indexes probably aren't fitting in RAM. You may need to add RAM and/or verify that all the indexes you've created are actually being used.
Be careful about single-key indexes with low selectivity.

Suppose you have a field called 'status' where the possible values are 'new' and 'processed'. If you add an index on 'status' then you've created a low-selectivity index, meaning that the index isn't going to be very helpful in locating records and might just be taking up space.

A better strategy, depending on your queries, of course, would be to create a compound index that includes the low-selectivity field. For instance, you could have a compound-key index on 'status' and 'created_at'.

Another option, again depending on your use case, might be to use separate collections, one for each status. As with all the advice here, experimentation and benchmarks will help you choose the best approach.

Use `explain`.

MongoDB includes an `explain` command for determining how your queries are being processed and, in particular, whether they're using an index. `explain` can be used from the drivers and also from the shell:

```javascript
db.comments.find({ tags: 'mongodb'}).sort({ created_at: -1 }).explain();
```

This will return lots of useful information, including the number of items scanned, the time the query takes to process in milliseconds, which indexes the query optimizer tried, and the index ultimately used.

If you've never used `explain`, now's the time to start.

Understanding `explain`'s output.

There are three main fields to look for when examining the `explain` command's output:

- **cursor**: the value for cursor can be either `BasicCursor` or `BtreeCursor`. The second of these indicates that the given query is using an index.
- **nscanned**: the number of documents scanned.
- **n**: the number of documents returned by the query. You want the value of `n` to be close to the value of `nscanned`. What you want to avoid is doing a collection scan, that is, where every document in the collection is accessed. This is the case when `nscanned` is equal to the number of documents in the collection.
- **millis**: the number of milliseconds required to complete the query. This value is useful for comparing indexing strategies, indexed vs. non-indexed queries, etc.

Pay attention to the read/write ratio of your application.

This is important because, whenever you add an index, you add overhead to all insert, update, and delete operations on the given collection. If your application is read-heavy, as are most web applications, the additional indexes are usually a good thing. But if your application is write-heavy, then be careful when creating new indexes, since each additional index will impose a small write-performance penalty.

In general, don't be cavalier about adding indexes. Indexes should be added to complement your queries. Always have a good reason for adding a new index, and make sure you've benchmarked alternative strategies.

Indexing Properties

Here are a few properties of compound indexes worth keeping in mind (Thanks to Doug Green and Karoly Negyesi for their help on this).

These examples assume a compound index of three fields: a, b, c. So our index creation would look like this:

```javascript
db.foo.ensureIndex({a: 1, b: 1, c: 1})
```

Here's some advice on using an index like this:

⚠️ This information is no longer strictly correct in 1.6.0+; compound indexes can now be used to service queries where range or filter fields are used within the compound index, not just fields used from left to right. Please run `explain` to see how the compound index is used.

1. The sort column must be the last column used in the index.

Good:

- `find(a=1).sort(a)`
- `find(a=1).sort(b)`
- `find(a=1, b=2).sort(c)`
Bad:
- `find(a=1).sort(c)`
  - even though c is the last column used in the index, a is that last column used, so you can only sort on a or b.

2. The range query must also be the last column in an index. This is an axiom of 1 above.

Good:
- `find(a=1,b>2)`
- `find(a>1 and a<10)`
- `find(a>1 and a<10).sort(a)`

Bad:
- `find(a>1, b=2)`

3. Only use a range query or sort on one column.

Good:
- `find(a=1,b=2).sort(c)`
- `find(a=1,b>2)`
- `find(a=1,b>2 and b<4)`
- `find(a=1,b>2).sort(b)`

Bad:
- `find(a>1,b>2)`
- `find(a=1,b>2).sort(c)`

4. Conserve indexes by re-ordering columns used on equality (non-range) queries.

Imagine you have the following two queries:
- `find(a=1,b=1,d=1)`
- `find(a=1,b=1,c=1,d=1)`

A single index defined on a, b, c, and d can be used for both queries.
If, however, you need to sort on the final value, you might need two indexes

5. MongoDB's `$ne` or `$nin` operator's aren't efficient with indexes.
- When excluding just a few documents, it's better to retrieve extra rows from MongoDB and do the exclusion on the client side.

FAQ
I've started building an index, and the database has stopped responding. What's going on? What do I do?

Building an index can be an IO-intensive operation, especially you have a large collection. This is true on any database system that supports secondary indexes, including MySQL. If you'll need to build an index on a large collection in the future, you'll probably want to consider building the index in the background, a feature available beginning with 1.3.2. See the docs on background indexing for more info.

As for the long-building index, you only have a few options. You can either wait for the index to finish building or kill the current operation (see `killOp()`). If you choose the latter, the partial index will be deleted.

I'm using `$ne` or `$nin` in a query, and while it uses the index, it's still slow. What's happening?

The problem with `$ne` and `$nin` is that much of an index will match queries like these. If you need to use `$nin`, it's often best to make sure that an additional, more selective criterion is part of the query.

Inserting

When we insert data into MongoDB, that data will always be in document-form. Documents are data structure analogous to JSON, Python dictionaries, and Ruby hashes, to take just a few examples. Here, we discuss more about document-orientation and describe how to insert data into MongoDB.

- Document-Orientation
- JSON
- Mongo-Friendly Schema
- Store Example

**Document-Orientation**
When we describe MongoDB as "document-oriented", we mean it's in the class of databases for which the primary storage unit is a collection - possibly structured - of data, most likely as key/value pairs.

Some examples of document formats are JSON, XML, and simple sets of key/value pairs.

The documents stored in MongoDB are JSON-like. To be efficient, the database uses a format called BSON which is a binary representation of this data. The goal is a format that is both compact and reasonably fast to scan.

Client drivers serialize data to BSON, then transmit the data over the wire to the db. Data is stored on disk in BSON format. Thus, on a retrieval, the database does very little translation to send an object out, allowing high efficiency. The client driver unserialized a received BSON object to its native language format.

**JSON**

For example the following "document" can be stored in MongoDB:

```json
{ author: 'joe',
  created: new Date('03-28-2009'),
  title: 'Yet another blog post',
  text: 'Here is the text...',
  tags: [ 'example', 'joe' ],
  comments: [ { author: 'jim', comment: 'I disagree' },
              { author: 'nancy', comment: 'Good post' } ]
}
```

This document is a blog post, so we can store in a "posts" collection using the shell:

```shell
> doc = { author: 'joe', created: new Date('03-28-2009'), ... }
> db.posts.insert(doc);
```

MongoDB understands the internals of BSON objects -- not only can it store them, it can query on internal fields and index keys based upon them. For example the query

```shell
> db.posts.find( { "comments.author": "jim" } )
```

is possible and means "find any blog post where at least one comment subobject has author == 'jim'.

**Mongo-Friendly Schema**

Mongo can be used in many ways, and one's first instincts when using it are probably going to be similar to how one would write an application with a relational database. While this work pretty well, it doesn't harness the real power of Mongo. Mongo is designed for and works best with a rich object model.

**Store Example**

If you're building a simple online store that sells products with a relation database, you might have a schema like:

```json
item
  title
  price
  sku
item_features
  sku
  feature_name
  feature_value
```

You would probably normalize it like this because different items would have different features, and you wouldn't want a table with all possible features. You could model this the same way in mongo, but it would be much more efficient to do
This does a few nice things

- you can load an entire item with 1 dbquery
- all the data for an item is on the same place on disk, so its only 1 seek to load it all

Now, at first glance there might seem to be some issues, but we've got them covered.

- you might want to insert or update a single feature. mongo lets you operate on embedded files like:

```javascript
db.items.update( { sku : 123 } , { "$set" : { "features.zoom" : "5" } } )
```

- Does adding a feature requires moving the entire object on disk? No. mongo has a padding heuristic that adapts to your data so it will leave some empty space for the object to grow. This will prevent indexes from being changed, etc.

**Legal Key Names**

Key names in inserted documents are limited as follows:

- The '$' character must not be the first character in the key name.
- The '.' character must not appear anywhere in the key name.

**Schema Design**

- **Introduction**
- **Embed vs. Reference**
- **Use Cases**
- **Index Selection**
- **How Many Collections?**
- **See Also**

**Introduction**

With Mongo, you do less "normalization" than you would perform designing a relational schema because there are no server-side "joins". Generally, you will want one database collection for each of your top level objects.

You do not want a collection for every "class" - instead, embed objects. For example, in the diagram below, we have two collections, students and courses. The student documents embed address documents and the "score" documents, which have references to the courses.
Compare this with a relational schema, where you would almost certainly put the scores in a separate table, and have a foreign-key relationship back to the students.

**Embed vs. Reference**

The key question in Mongo schema design is "does this object merit its own collection, or rather should it embed in objects in other collections?" In relational databases, each sub-item of interest typically becomes a separate table (unless denormalizing for performance). In Mongo, this is not recommended - embedding objects is much more efficient. Data is then colocated on disk; client-server turnarounds to the database are eliminated. So in general the question to ask is, "why would I not want to embed this object?"

So why are references slow? Let's consider our students example. If we have a student object and perform:

```javascript
print( student.address.city );
```

This operation will always be fast as address is an embedded object, and is always in RAM if student is in RAM. However for

```javascript
print( student.scores[0].for_course.name );
```

if this is the first access to `scores[0]`, the shell or your driver must execute the query

```javascript
// pseudocode for driver or framework, not user code
student.scores[0].for_course = db.courses.findOne({ _id: _course_id_to_find_ });
```

Thus, each reference traversal is a query to the database. Typically, the collection in question is indexed on `_id`. The query will then be reasonably fast. However, even if all data is in RAM, there is a certain latency given the client/server communication from appserver to database. In general, expect 1ms of time for such a query on a ram cache hit. Thus if we were iterating 1,000 students, looking up one reference per student would be quite slow - over 1 second to perform even if cached. However, if we only need to look up a single item, the time is on the order of 1ms, and completely acceptable for a web page load. (Note that if already in db cache, pulling the 1,000 students might actually take much less than 1 second, as the results return from the database in large batches.)

Some general rules on when to embed, and when to reference:

- "First class" objects, that are at top level, typically have their own collection.
- Line item detail objects typically are embedded.
- Objects which follow an object modelling "contains" relationship should generally be embedded.
- Many to many relationships are generally by reference.
- Collections with only a few objects may safely exist as separate collections, as the whole collection is quickly cached in application server memory.
- Embedded objects are harder to reference than "top level" objects in collections, as you cannot have a DBRef to an embedded object (at least not yet).
- It is more difficult to get a system-level view for embedded objects. For example, it would be easier to query the top 100 scores across all
Use Cases

Let's consider a few use cases now.

1. Customer / Order / Order Line-Item
   - orders should be a collection, customers a collection, line-items should be an array of line-items embedded in the order object.

1. Blogging system.
   - posts should be a collection, post author might be a separate collection, or simply a field within posts if only an email address. comments should be embedded objects within a post for performance.

Index Selection

A second aspect of schema design is index selection. As a general rule, _where you want an index in a relational database, you want an index in Mongo._

- The _id field is automatically indexed.
- Fields upon which keys are looked up should be indexed.
- Sort fields generally should be indexed.

The MongoDB profiling facility provides useful information for where an index should be added that is missing.

Note that adding an index slows writes to a collection, but not reads. Use lots of indexes for collections with a high read : write ratio (assuming one does not mind the storage overage). For collections with more writes than reads, indexes are very expensive.

How Many Collections?

As Mongo collections are polymorphic, one could have a collection objects and put everything in it! This approach is taken by some object databases. For performance reasons, we do not recommend this approach. Data within a Mongo collection tends to be contiguous on disk. Thus, table scans of the collection are possible, and efficient. Collections are very important for high throughput batch processing.

See Also

- Schema Design talk from MongoNY
- DBRef
- Trees in MongoDB
- MongoDB Data Modeling and Rails

Next: Advanced Queries

Trees in MongoDB

- Patterns
  - Full Tree in Single Document
  - Parent Links
  - Child Links
  - Array of Ancestors
  - Materialized Paths (Full Path in Each Node)
  - acts_as_nested_set

- See Also

The best way to store a tree usually depends on the operations you want to perform; see below for some different options. In practice, most developers find that one of the "Full Tree in Single Document", "Parent Links", and "Array of Ancestors" patterns works best.

Patterns

Full Tree in Single Document
Pros:

- Single document to fetch per page
- One location on disk for whole tree
- You can see full structure easily

Cons:

- Hard to search
- Hard to get back partial results
- Can get unwieldy if you need a huge tree (there is a 4MB per doc limit)

Parent Links

Storing all nodes in a single collection, with each node having the id of its parent, is a simple solution. The biggest problem with this approach is getting an entire subtree requires several query turnarounds to the database (or use of `db.eval`).

```javascript
> t = db.tree1;
> t.find()
{  
   "_id" : 1
}
{  
   "_id" : 2,  
   "parent" : 1
}
{  
   "_id" : 3,  
   "parent" : 1
}
{  
   "_id" : 4,  
   "parent" : 2
}
{  
   "_id" : 5,  
   "parent" : 4
}
{  
   "_id" : 6,  
   "parent" : 4
}
> // find children of node 4
> t.ensureIndex({parent:1})
> t.find({parent : 4})
{  
   "_id" : 5,  
   "parent" : 4
}
{  
   "_id" : 6,  
   "parent" : 4
}
```

Child Links

Another option is storing the ids of all of a node's children within each node's document. This approach is fairly limiting, although ok if no operations on entire subtrees are necessary. It may also be good for storing graphs where a node has multiple parents.

```javascript
> t = db.tree2
> t.find()
{  
   "_id" : 1,  
   "children" : [ 2, 3 ]
}
{  
   "_id" : 2
}
{  
   "_id" : 3,  
   "children" : [ 4 ]
}
{  
   "_id" : 4
}
> // find immediate children of node 3
> t.findOne({_id:3}).children
[ 4 ]
> // find immediate parent of node 3
> t.ensureIndex({children:1})
> t.find({children:3})
{  
   "_id" : 1,  
   "children" : [ 2, 3 ]
}
```

Array of Ancestors
Here we store all the ancestors of a node in an array. This makes a query like "get all descendents of x" fast and easy.

```javascript
> t = db.mytree;
> t.find()
{ "_id" : "a" }
{ "_id" : "b", "ancestors" : [ "a" ], "parent" : "a" }
{ "_id" : "c", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b" ], "parent" : "b" }
{ "_id" : "d", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b" ], "parent" : "b" }
{ "_id" : "e", "ancestors" : [ "a" ], "parent" : "a" }
{ "_id" : "f", "ancestors" : [ "a", "e" ], "parent" : "e" }
{ "_id" : "g", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b", "d" ], "parent" : "d" }

> t.ensureIndex( { ancestors : 1 } )
> // find all descendents of b:
> t.find( { ancestors : 'b' } )
{ "_id" : "c", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b" ], "parent" : "b" }
{ "_id" : "d", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b" ], "parent" : "b" }
{ "_id" : "g", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b", "d" ], "parent" : "d" }

> // get all ancestors of f:
> anc = db.mytree.findOne({_id:'f'}).ancestors
[ "a", "e" ]
> db.mytree.find( { _id : { $in : anc } } )
{ "_id" : "a" }
{ "_id" : "e", "ancestors" : [ "a" ], "parent" : "a" }
```

ensureIndex and MongoDB's multikey feature makes the above queries efficient.

In addition to the ancestors array, we also stored the direct parent in the node to make it easy to find the node's immediate parent when that is necessary.

**Materialized Paths (Full Path in Each Node)**

Materialized paths make certain query options on trees easy. We store the full path to the location of a document in the tree within each node. Usually the "array of ancestors" approach above works just as well, and is easier as one doesn't have to deal with string building, regular expressions, and escaping of characters. (Theoretically, materialized paths will be slightly faster.)

The best way to do this with MongoDB is to store the path as a string and then use regex queries. Simple regex expressions beginning with "^" can be efficiently executed. As the path is a string, you will need to pick a delimiter character -- we use "," below. For example:

```javascript
// find all descendents of b:
> t.find( { ancestors : 'b' } )
{ "_id" : "c", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b" ], "parent" : "b" }
{ "_id" : "d", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b" ], "parent" : "b" }
{ "_id" : "g", "ancestors" : [ "a", "b", "d" ], "parent" : "d" }
```

```javascript
// get all ancestors of f:
> anc = db.mytree.findOne({_id:'f'}).ancestors
[ "a", "e" ]
> db.mytree.find( { _id : { $in : anc } } )
{ "_id" : "a" }
{ "_id" : "e", "ancestors" : [ "a" ], "parent" : "a" }
```
> t = db.tree
test.tree
>
> // get entire tree -- we use sort() to make the order nice
> t.find().sort({path:1})
{ "_id" : "a", "path" : "a," }
{ "_id" : "b", "path" : "a,b," }
{ "_id" : "c", "path" : "a,b,c," }
{ "_id" : "d", "path" : "a,b,d," }
{ "_id" : "g", "path" : "a,b,g," }
{ "_id" : "e", "path" : "a,e," }
{ "_id" : "f", "path" : "a,e,f," }
{ "_id" : "g", "path" : "a,b,g," }

> t.ensureIndex( {path:1} )

> // find the node 'b' and all its descendents:
> t.find( { path : /^a,b,/ } )
{ "_id" : "b", "path" : "a,b," }
{ "_id" : "c", "path" : "a,b,c," }
{ "_id" : "d", "path" : "a,b,d," }
{ "_id" : "g", "path" : "a,b,g," }

// or if its path not already known:
> b = t.findOne( { _id : :b" } )
{ "_id" : "b", "path" : "a,b," }
> t.find( { path : new RegExp("^" + b.path) } )
{ "_id" : "b", "path" : "a,b," }
{ "_id" : "c", "path" : "a,b,c," }
{ "_id" : "d", "path" : "a,b,d," }
{ "_id" : "g", "path" : "a,b,g," }

Ruby example: [http://github.com/banker/newsmonger/blob/master/app/models/comment.rb](http://github.com/banker/newsmonger/blob/master/app/models/comment.rb)

acts_as_nested_set

See [http://api.rubyonrails.org/classes/ActiveRecord/Acts/NestedSet/ClassMethods.html](http://api.rubyonrails.org/classes/ActiveRecord/Acts/NestedSet/ClassMethods.html)

This pattern is best for datasets that rarely change as modifications can require changes to many documents.

*See Also*

- Sean Cribbs blog post (source of several ideas on this page).

**Optimization**

- Optimizing A Simple Example
  - Optimization #1: Create an index
  - Optimization #2: Limit results
  - Optimization #3: Select only relevant fields
  - Using the Profiler
  - Optimizing Statements that Use `count()`
  - Increment Operations
  - Circular Fixed Size Collections
  - Server Side Code Execution
  - Explain
  - Hint
  - See Also

**Optimizing A Simple Example**

This section describes proper techniques for optimizing database performance.

Let's consider an example. Suppose our task is to display the front page of a blog - we wish to display headlines of the 10 most recent posts. Let's assume the posts have a timestamp field `ts`.

The simplest thing we could write might be:
articles = db.posts.find().sort({ts:-1}); // get blog posts in reverse time order

for (var i=0; i<10; i++) {
    print(articles[i].getSummary());
}

**Optimization #1: Create an index**

Our first optimization should be to create an index on the key that is being used for the sorting:

```javascript
db.posts.ensureIndex({ts:1});
```

With an index, the database is able to sort based on index information, rather than having to check each document in the collection directly. This is much faster.

**Optimization #2: Limit results**

MongoDB cursors return results in groups of documents that we’ll call “chunks”. The chunk returned might contain more than 10 objects - in some cases, much more. These extra objects are a waste of network transmission and resources both on the app server and the database.

As we know how many results we want, and that we do not want all the results, we can use the `limit()` method for our second optimization.

```javascript
articles = db.posts.find().sort({ts:-1}).limit(10); // 10 results maximum
```

Now, we’ll only get 10 results returned to client.

**Optimization #3: Select only relevant fields**

The blog post object may be very large, with the post text and comments embedded. Much better performance will be achieved by selecting only the fields we need:

```javascript
articles = db.posts.find({}, {ts:1,title:1,author:1,abstract:1}).sort({ts:-1}).limit(10);
articles.forEach( function(post) { print(post.getSummary()); } );
```

The above code assumes that the `getSummary()` method only references the fields listed in the `find()` method.

Note if you fetch only select fields, you have a partial object. An object in that form cannot be updated back to the database:

```javascript
a_post = db.posts.findOne({}, Post.summaryFields);
a_post.x = 3;
db.posts.save(a_post); // error, exception thrown
```

**Using the Profiler**

MongoDB includes a database profiler which shows performance characteristics of each operation against the database. Using the profiler you can find queries (and write operations) which are slower than they should be; use this information, for example, to determine when an index is needed. See the [Performance Tuning] section of the [Mongo Developers' Guide] for more information.

**Optimizing Statements that Use count()**

To speed operations that rely on `count()`, create an index on the field involved in the count query expression.

```javascript
db.posts.ensureIndex({author:1});
db.posts.find({author:"george"}).count();
```

**Increment Operations**

MongoDB supports simple object field increment operations; basically, this is an operation indicating “increment this field in this document at the server”. This can be much faster than fetching the document, updating the field, and then saving it back to the server and are particularly useful for implementing real time counters. See the [Updates] section of the [Mongo Developers' Guide] for more information.
**Circular Fixed Size Collections**

MongoDB provides a special circular collection type that is pre-allocated at a specific size. These collections keep the items within well-ordered even without an index, and provide very high-speed writes and reads to the collection. Originally designed for keeping log files - log events are stored in the database in a circular fixed size collection - there are many uses for this feature. See the Capped Collections section of the Mongo Developers’ Guide for more information.

**Server Side Code Execution**

Occasionally, for maximal performance, you may wish to perform an operation in process on the database server to eliminate client/server network turnarounds. These operations are covered in the Server-Side Processing section of the Mongo Developers’ Guide.

**Explain**

A great way to get more information on the performance of your database queries is to use the $explain feature. This will display "explain plan" type info about a query from the database.

When using the mongo - The Interactive Shell, you can find out this "explain plan" via the explain() function called on a cursor. The result will be a document that contains the "explain plan".

```javascript
db.collection.find(query).explain();
```

provides information such as the following:

```json
{
    "cursor" : "BasicCursor",
    "indexBounds" : [ ],
    "nscanned" : 57594,
    "nscannedObjects" : 57594,
    "n" : 3,
    "millis" : 108
}
```

This will tell you the type of cursor used (BtreeCursor is another type – which will include a lower & upper bound), the number of records the DB had to examine as part of this query, the number of records returned by the query, and the time in milliseconds the query took to execute.

**Hint**

While the mongo query optimizer often performs very well, explicit "hints" can be used to force mongo to use a specified index, potentially improving performance in some situations. When you have a collection indexed and are querying on multiple fields (and some of those fields are indexed), pass the indexe as a hint to the query. You can do this in two different ways. You may either set it per query, or set it for the entire collection.

To set the hint for a particular query, call the hint() function on the cursor before accessing any data, and specify a document with the key to be used in the query:

```javascript
db.collection.find({user:u, foo:d}).hint({user:1});
```

**Be sure to Index**

For the above hints to work, you need to have run ensureIndex() to index the collection on the user field.

To force the query optimizer to not use indexes (do a table scan), use:

```javascript
> db.collection.find().hint({$natural:1})
```

**See Also**

- Optimizing Storage of Small Objects
- Query Optimizer
- currentOp()
Optimizing Storage of Small Objects

MongoDB records have a certain amount of overhead per object (BSON document) in a collection. This overhead is normally insignificant, but if your objects are tiny (just a few bytes, maybe one or two fields) it would not be. Below are some suggestions on how to optimize storage efficiently in such situations.

Using the _id Field Explicitly

Mongo automatically adds an object ID to each document and sets it to a unique value. Additionally this field is indexed. For tiny objects this takes up significant space.

The best way to optimize for this is to use _id explicitly. Take one of your fields which is unique for the collection and store its values in _id. By doing so, you have explicitly provided IDs. This will effectively eliminate the creation of a separate _id field. If your previously separate field was indexed, this eliminates an extra index too.

Using Small Field Names

Consider a record

```
{ last_name : "Smith", best_score: 3.9 }
```

The strings "last_name" and "best_score" will be stored in each object's BSON. Using shorter strings would save space:

```
{ lname : "Smith", score : 3.9 }
```

Would save 9 bytes per document. This of course reduces expressiveness to the programmer and is not recommended unless you have a collection where this is of significant concern.

Field names are not stored in indexes as indexes have a predefined structure. Thus, shortening field names will not help the size of indexes. In general it is not necessary to use short field names.

Combining Objects

Fundamentally, there is a certain amount of overhead per document in MongoDB. One technique is combining objects. In some cases you may be able to embed objects in other objects, perhaps as arrays of objects. If your objects are tiny this may work well, but will only make sense for certain use cases.

Query Optimizer

The MongoDB query optimizer generates query plans for each query submitted by a client. These plans are executed to return results. Thus, MongoDB supports ad hoc queries much like say, MySQL.

The database uses an interesting approach to query optimization though. Traditional approaches (which tend to be cost-based and statistical) are not used, as these approaches have a couple of problems.

First, the optimizer might consistently pick a bad query plan. For example, there might be correlations in the data of which the optimizer is unaware. In a situation like this, the developer might use a query hint.

Also with the traditional approach, query plans can change in production with negative results. No one thinks rolling out new code without testing is a good idea. Yet often in a production system a query plan can change as the statistics in the database change on the underlying data. The query plan in effect may be a plan that never was invoked in QA. If it is slower than it should be, the application could experience an outage.

The Mongo query optimizer is different. It is not cost based -- it does not model the cost of various queries. Instead, the optimizer simply tries different query plans and learn which ones work well. Of course, when the system tries a really bad plan, it may take an extremely long time to run. To solve this, when testing new plans, MongoDB executes multiple query plans in parallel. As soon as one finishes, it terminates the other executions, and the system has learned which plan is good. This works particularly well given the system is non-relational, which makes the space of possible query plans much smaller (as there are no joins).

Sometimes a plan which was working well can work poorly -- for example if the data in the database has changed, or if the parameter values to the query are different. In this case, if the query seems to be taking longer than usual, the database will once again run the query in parallel to try different plans.

This approach adds a little overhead, but has the advantage of being much better at worst-case performance.

See Also
MongoDB hint() and explain() operators

Querying

One of MongoDB's best capabilities is its support for dynamic (ad hoc) queries. Systems that support dynamic queries don't require any special indexing to find data; users can find data using any criteria. For relational databases, dynamic queries are the norm. If you're moving to MongoDB from a relational databases, you'll find that many SQL queries translate easily to MongoDB's document-based query language.

- Query Expression Objects
- Query Options
  - Field Selection
  - Sorting
  - Skip and Limit
  - slaveOk
- Cursors
- More info
- Quick Reference Card
- See Also

Query Expression Objects

MongoDB supports a number of query objects for fetching data. Queries are expressed as BSON documents which indicate a query pattern. For example, suppose we're using the MongoDB shell and want to return every document in the `users` collection. Our query would look like this:

```
db.users.find({})
```

In this case, our selector is an empty document, which matches every document in the collection. Here's a more selective example:

```
db.users.find({"last_name": 'Smith'})
```

Here our selector will match every document where the `last_name` attribute is 'Smith.'

MongoDB support a wide array of possible document selectors. For more examples, see the MongoDB Tutorial or the section on Advanced Queries. If you're working with MongoDB from a language driver, see the driver docs:

Query Options

Field Selection

In addition to the query expression, MongoDB queries can take some additional arguments. For example, it's possible to request only certain fields be returned. If we just wanted the social security numbers of users with the last name of 'Smith,' then from the shell we could issue this query:

```
// retrieve ssn field for documents where last_name == 'Smith':
db.users.find({last_name: 'Smith'}, {"ssn": 1});
```

// retrieve all fields *except* the thumbnail field, for all documents:
```
db.users.find({}, {thumbnail:0});
```

Note the `_id` field is always returned even when not explicitly requested.

Sorting

MongoDB queries can return sorted results. To return all documents and sort by last name in ascending order, we'd query like so:

```
db.users.find({}).sort({last_name: 1});
```

Skip and Limit

MongoDB also supports `skip` and `limit` for easy paging. Here we skip the first 20 last names, and limit our result set to 10:
slaveOk

When querying a replica pair or replica set, drivers route their requests to the master mongod by default; to perform a query against an (arbitrarily-selected) slave, the query can be run with the slaveOk option. Here's how to do so in the shell:

```
  db.getMongo().setSlaveOk(); // enable querying a slave
  db.users.find(...)
```

Note: some language drivers permit specifying the slaveOk option on each find(), others make this a connection-wide setting. See your language's driver for details.

Cursors

Database queries, performed with the find() method, technically work by returning a cursor. Cursors are then used to iteratively retrieve all the documents returned by the query. For example, we can iterate over a cursor in the mongo shell like this:

```
> var cur = db.example.find();
> cur.forEach( function(x) { print(tojson(x))});

{{
  "n" : 1,
  "_id" : "497ce96f395f2f052a494fd4"
}
{{
  "n" : 2,
  "_id" : "497ce971395f2f052a494fd5"
}
{{
  "n" : 3,
  "_id" : "497ce973395f2f052a494fd6"
>
```

More info

This was just an introduction to querying in Mongo. For the full details please look in at the pages in the "Querying" sub-section to the right of your screen.

Quick Reference Card

Download the Query and Update Modifier Quick Reference Card

See Also

- Queries and Cursors
- Advanced Queries
- Query Optimizer

Mongo Query Language

Queries in MongoDB are expressed as JSON (BSON). Usually we think of query object as the equivalent of a SQL "WHERE" clause:

```
> db.users.find( { x : 3, y : "abc" } ).sort({x:1}); // select * from users where x=3 and y='abc'
```

However, the MongoDB server actually looks at all the query parameters (ordering, limit, etc.) as a single object. In the above example from the mongo shell, the shell is adding some syntactic sugar for us. Many of the drivers do this too. For example the above query could also be written:

```
> db.users.find( { $query : { x : 3, y : "abc" }, $orderby : { x : 1 } } );
```

The possible specifies in the query object are:

- $query - the evaluation or "where" expression
Retrieving a Subset of Fields

By default on a find operation, the entire object is returned. However, we may also request that only certain fields be returned. This is somewhat analogous to the list of column specifiers in a SQL SELECT statement (projection). Regardless of what field specifiers are included, the \_id field is always returned.

```
// select z from things where x="john"
db.things.find( { x : "john" }, { z : 1 } );
```

Field Negation

We can say “all fields except x” – for example to remove specific fields that you know will be large:

```
// get all posts about 'tennis' but without the comments field
db.posts.find( { tags : 'tennis' }, { comments : 0 } );
```

Dot Notation

You can retrieve partial sub-objects via Dot Notation.

```
> t.find({})
{ "\_id" : ObjectId("4c23f0486dad1c3a68457d20"), "x" : { "y" : 1, "z" : [ 1, 2, 3 ] } }
> t.find([ {"x.y":1}])
{ "\_id" : ObjectId("4c23f0486dad1c3a68457d20"), "x" : { "y" : 1 } }
```

Retrieving a Subrange of Array Elements

You can use the $slice operator to retrieve a subrange of elements in an array.

```
// first 5 comments
db.posts.find({}, {comments:{$slice: 5}})
// last 5 comments
db.posts.find({}, {comments:{$slice: -5}})
// skip 20, limit 10
db.posts.find({}, {comments:{$slice: [20, 10]}})
// 20 from end, limit 10
db.posts.find({}, {comments:{$slice: [-20, 10]}})
```

See Also

- example slice1

Advanced Queries
Introduction

MongoDB offers a rich query environment with lots of features. This page lists some of those features.

Queries in MongoDB are represented as JSON-style objects, very much like the documents we actually store in the database. For example:

```javascript
// i.e., select * from things where x=3 and y="foo"
db.things.find( { x : 3, y : "foo" } );
```

Note that any of the operators on this page can be combined in the same query document. For example, to find all document where j is not equal to 3 and k is greater than 10, you'd query like so:

```javascript
db.things.find({j: {$ne: 3}, k: {$gt: 10} });
```

Retrieving a Subset of Fields

By default on a find operation, the entire document/object is returned. However we may also request that only certain fields are returned. Note that the _id field is always returned automatically.

```javascript
// select z from things where x=3
db.things.find( { x : 3 }, { z : 1 } );
```

You can also remove specific fields that you know will be large:

```javascript
// get all posts about mongodb without comments
db.posts.find( { tags : 'mongodb' }, { comments : 0 } );
```

$slice operator

- **New in MongoDB 1.5.1**

You can use the $slice operator to retrieve a subset of elements in an array.

```javascript
db.posts.find({}), {comments:{$slice: 5}} // first 5 comments
db.posts.find({}), {comments:{$slice: -5}} // last 5 comments
db.posts.find({}), {comments:{$slice: [20, 10]}} // skip 20, limit 10
db.posts.find({}), {comments:{$slice: [-20, 10]}} // 20 from end, limit 10
```

More examples at example slice1

- **Conditional Operators : <, <=, >, >=**

Use these special forms for greater than and less than comparisons in queries, since they have to be represented in the query document:
For example:

```javascript
db.things.find({ j: { $lt: 3 } });
db.things.find({ j: { $gt: 4 } });
```

You can also combine these operators to specify ranges:

```javascript
db.collection.find({ "field": { $gt: value1, $lt: value2 } }); // value1 < field < value
```

**Conditional Operator : $ne**

Use $ne for "not equals".

```javascript
db.things.find({ x: { $ne: 3 } });
```

**Conditional Operator : $in**

The $in operator is analogous to the SQL IN modifier, allowing you to specify an array of possible matches.

```javascript
db.collection.find( { "field": { $in: array } } );
```

Let's consider a couple of examples. From our things collection, we could choose to get a subset of documents based upon the value of the 'j' key:

```javascript
db.things.find({j:{$in: [2,4,6]} });
```

Suppose the collection updates is a list of social network style news items; we want to see the 10 most recent updates from our friends. We might invoke:

```javascript
db.updates.ensureIndex( { ts : 1 } ); // ts == timestamp
var myFriends = myUserObject.friends; // let's assume this gives us an array of DBRef's of my friends
var latestUpdatesForMe = db.updates.find( { user: { $in: myFriends } } ).sort( { ts : -1 } ).limit(10);
```

**Conditional Operator : $nin**

The $nin operator is similar to $in except that it selects objects for which the specified field does not have any value in the specified array. For example

```javascript
db.things.find({j:{$nin: [2,4,6]} });
```

would match `{j:1,b:2}` but not `{j:2,c:9}`.

**Conditional Operator : $mod**

The $mod operator allows you to do fast modulo queries to replace a common case for where clauses. For example, the following $where query:

```javascript
db.things.find( "this.a % 10 == 1"
```

can be replaced by:
db.things.find( { a : { $mod : [ 10 , 1 ] } } )

Conditional Operator: $all

The $all operator is similar to $in, but instead of matching any value in the specified array all values in the array must be matched. For example, the object

( a: [ 1, 2, 3 ] )

would be matched by

db.things.find( { a: { $all: [ 2, 3 ] } } );

but not

db.things.find( { a: { $all: [ 2, 3, 4 ] } } );

An array can have more elements than those specified by the $all criteria. $all specifies a minimum set of elements that must be matched.

Conditional Operator: $size

The $size operator matches any array with the specified number of elements. The following example would match the object {a: "foo"}, since that array has just one element:

db.things.find( { a : { $size: 1 } } );

You cannot use $size to find a range of sizes (for example: arrays with more than 1 element). If you need to query for a range, create an extra $size field that you increment when you add elements.

Conditional Operator: $exists

Check for existence (or lack thereof) of a field.

db.things.find( { a : { $exists : true } } ); // return object if a is present
db.things.find( { a : { $exists : false } } ); // return if a is missing

Currently $exists is not able to use an index. Indexes on other fields are still used.

Conditional Operator: $type

The $type operator matches values based on their BSON type.

db.things.find( { a : { $type : 2 } } ); // matches if a is a string
db.things.find( { a : { $type : 16 } } ); // matches if a is an int

Possible types are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type Name</th>
<th>Type Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Array</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information on types and BSON in general, see http://www.bsonspec.org.

$or

The $or operator lets you use a boolean or expression to do queries. You give $or a list of expressions, any of which can satisfy the query.

New in MongoDB 1.5.3

Simple:

```javascript
db.foo.find( { $or : [ { a : 1 }, { b : 2 } ] } )
```

With another field

```javascript
db.foo.find( { name : "bob", $or : [ { a : 1 }, { b : 2 } ] } )
```

The $or operator retrieves matches for each or clause individually and eliminates duplicates when returning results. A number of $or optimizations are planned for 1.8. See this thread for details.

Regular Expressions

You may use regexes in database query expressions:

```javascript
db.customers.find({ name : /acme.*corp/i });
```

For simple prefix queries (also called rooted regexps) like /^prefix/, the database will use an index when available and appropriate (much like most SQL databases that use indexes for a LIKE 'prefix%' expression). This only works if you don't have i (case-insensitivity) in the flags.

While /^a/., /^a./, and /^a.$/ are equivalent and will all use an index in the same way, the later two require scanning the whole string so they will be slower. The first format can stop scanning after the prefix is matched.

MongoDB uses PCRE for regular expressions. Valid flags are:

- i - Case insensitive. Letters in the pattern match both upper and lower case letters.
- m - Multiline. By default, Mongo treats the subject string as consisting of a single line of characters (even if it actually contains newlines).
The "start of line" metacharacter (^) matches only at the start of the string, while the "end of line" metacharacter ($) matches only at the end of the string, or before a terminating newline. When \( m \) is set, the "start of line" and "end of line" constructs match immediately following or immediately before internal newlines in the subject string, respectively, as well as at the very start and end. If there are no newlines in a subject string, or no occurrences of ^ or $ in a pattern, setting \( m \) has no effect.

- \( x \) - Extended. If set, whitespace data characters in the pattern are totally ignored except when escaped or inside a character class. Whitespace does not include the VT character (code 11). In addition, characters between an unescaped # outside a character class and the next newline, inclusive, are also ignored. This option makes it possible to include comments inside complicated patterns. Note, however, that this applies only to data characters. Whitespace characters may never appear within special character sequences in a pattern, for example within the sequence \(?\) which introduces a conditional subpattern.

**Value in an Array**

To look for the value "red" in an array field `colors`:

```javascript
db.things.find( { colors : "red" } );
```

That is, when "colors" is inspected, if it is an array, each value in the array is checked. This technique may be mixed with the embedded object technique below.

**Conditional Operator: \$elemMatch**

Version 1.3.1 and higher.

Use \$elemMatch to check if an element in an array matches the specified match expression.

```javascript
> t.find( { x : { \$elemMatch : { a : 1, b : { \$gt : 1 } } } } )
( ".id" : ObjectId("4b5783300334000000000aa9"),
 "x" : [ { "a" : 1, "b" : 3 }, { "b" : 99 }, { "a" : 11 } ]
)
```

Note that a single array element must match all the criteria specified; thus, the following query is semantically different in that each criteria can match a different element in the \( x \) array:

```javascript
> t.find( { "x.a" : 1, "x.b" : { \$gt : 1 } } )
```

See the dot notation page for more.

**Value in an Embedded Object**

For example, to look `author.name=="joe"` in a postings collection with embedded author objects:

```javascript
db.postings.find( { "author.name" : "joe" } );
```

See the dot notation page for more.

**Meta operator: \$not**

Version 1.3.3 and higher.

The \$not meta operator can be used to negate the check performed by a standard operator. For example:

```javascript
db.customers.find( { name : { \$not : /acme.*corp/i } } );
```

```javascript
db.things.find( { a : { \$not : { \$mod : [ 10 , 1 ] } } } );
```

**Javascript Expressions and \$where**

In addition to the structured query syntax shown so far, you may specify query expressions as Javascript. To do so, pass a string containing a Javascript expression to `find()`, or assign such a string to the query object member `\$where`. The database will evaluate this expression for each object scanned. When the result is true, the object is returned in the query results.
For example, the following statements all do the same thing:

```javascript
db.myCollection.find( { a : { $gt: 3 } });
db.myCollection.find( { $where: "this.a > 3" } );
db.myCollection.find("this.a > 3");
f = function() { return this.a > 3; } db.myCollection.find(f);
```

Javascript executes more slowly than the native operators listed on this page, but is very flexible. See the server-side processing page for more information.

**sort()**

`sort()` is analogous to the ORDER BY statement in SQL - it requests that items be returned in a particular order. We pass `sort()` a key pattern which indicates the desired order for the result.

```javascript
db.myCollection.find().sort( { ts : -1 } ); // sort by ts, descending order
```

`sort()` may be combined with the `limit()` function. In fact, if you do not have a relevant index for the specified key pattern, `limit()` is recommended as there is a limit on the size of sorted results when an index is not used. Without a `limit()`, or index, a full in-memory sort must be done but by using a `limit()` it reduces the memory and increases the speed of the operation by using an optimized sorting algorithm.

**limit()**

`limit()` is analogous to the LIMIT statement in MySQL: it specifies a maximum number of results to return. For best performance, use `limit()` whenever possible. Otherwise, the database may return more objects than are required for processing.

```javascript
db.students.find().limit(10).forEach( function(student) { print(student.name + "<p>"); } );
```

⚠️ In the shell (and most drivers), a limit of 0 is equivalent to setting no limit at all.

**skip()**

The `skip()` expression allows one to specify at which object the database should begin returning results. This is often useful for implementing "paging". Here's an example of how it might be used in a JavaScript application:

```javascript
function printStudents(pageNumber, nPerPage) {
  print("Page: " + pageNumber);
  db.students.find().skip((pageNumber-1)*nPerPage).limit(nPerPage).forEach( function(student) {
    print(student.name + "<p>"); } );
}
```

**snapshot()**

Indicates use of snapshot mode for the query. Snapshot mode assures no duplicates are returned, or objects missed, which were present at both the start and end of the query’s execution (even if the object were updated). If an object is new during the query, or deleted during the query, it may or may not be returned, even with snapshot mode.

Note that short query responses (less than 1MB) are always effectively snappedotted.

Currently, snapshot mode may not be used with sorting or explicit hints.

**count()**

The `count()` method returns the number of objects matching the query specified. It is specially optimized to perform the count in the MongoDB server, rather than on the client side for speed and efficiency:

```javascript
nstudents = db.students.find({"address.state" : 'CA'}).count();
```

Note that you can achieve the same result with the following, but the following is slow and inefficient as it requires all documents to be put into memory on the client, and then counted. Don’t do this:
On a query using skip() and limit(), count ignores these parameters by default. Use count(true) to have it consider the skip and limit values in the calculation.

```javascript
n = db.students.find().skip(20).limit(10).count(true);
```

The `group()` method is analogous to GROUP BY in SQL. `group()` is more flexible, actually, allowing the specification of arbitrary reduction operations. See the Aggregation section of the Mongo Developers' Guide for more information.

**Special operators**

- only return the index key

  ```javascript
db.foo.find()._addSpecial("$returnKey", true)
```

- limit the number of items to scan

  ```javascript
t.find()._addSpecial("$maxScan", 50)
```

**See Also**

- Optimizing Queries (including explain() and hint())

**Dot Notation (Reaching into Objects)**

- Dot Notation vs. Subobjects
- Array Element by Position
- Matching with $elemMatch

MongoDB is designed for store JSON-style objects. The database understands the structure of these objects and can reach into them to evaluate query expressions.

Let's suppose we have some objects of the form:

```javascript
> db.persons.findOne()
{ name: "Joe", address: { city: "San Francisco", state: "CA" },
  likes: [ 'scuba', 'math', 'literature' ] }
```

Querying on a top-level field is straightforward enough using Mongo's JSON-style query objects:

```javascript
> db.persons.find( { name: "Joe" } )
```

But what about when we need to reach into embedded objects and arrays? This involves a bit different way of thinking about queries than one would do in a traditional relational DBMS. To reach into embedded objects, we use a "dot notation":

```javascript
> db.persons.find( { "address.state": "CA" } )
```

Reaching into arrays is implicit: if the field being queried is an array, the database automatically assumes the caller intends to look for a value within the array:

```javascript
> db.persons.find( { likes: "math" } )
```

We can mix these styles too, as in this more complex example:
We can also create indexes of keys on these fields:

```
> db.persons.ensureIndex( { "address.state" : 1 } );
> db.blogposts.ensureIndex( { "comments.by" : 1 } );
```

**Dot Notation vs. Subobjects**

Suppose there is an author id, as well as name. To store the author field, we can use an object:

```
> db.blog.save({ title : "My First Post", author: {name : "Jane", id : 1}})
```

If we want to find any authors named Jane, we use the notation above:

```
> db.blog.findOne({"author.name" : "Jane"})
```

To match only objects with these exact keys and values, we use an object:

```
db.blog.findOne({"author" : {"name" : "Jane", "id" : 1}})
```

Note that

```
db.blog.findOne({"author" : {"name" : "Jane"}})
```

will not match, as subobjects have to match exactly (it would match an object with one field: {"name" : "Jane"}). Note that the embedded document must also have the same key order, so:

```
db.blog.findOne({"author" : {"id" : 1, "name" : "Jane"}})
```

will not match, either. This can make subobject matching unwieldy in languages whose default document representation is unordered.

**Array Element by Position**

Array elements also may be accessed by specific array position:

```
// i.e. comments[0].by == "Abe"
> db.blogposts.find( { "comments.0.by" : "Abe" } )
```

(The above examples use the mongo shell's Javascript syntax. The same operations can be done in any language for which Mongo has a driver available.)

**Matching with $elemMatch**

Using the $elemMatch query operator (mongod >= 1.3.1), you can match an entire document within an array. This is best illustrated with an example. Suppose you have the following two documents in your collection:
You want to query for a purple square, and so you write the following:

```javascript
db.foo.find({"foo": {"shape": "square", "color": "purple"}})
```

The problem with this query is that it will match the second in addition to matching the first document. In other words, the standard query syntax won’t restrict itself to a single document within the `foo` array. As mentioned above, subobjects have to match exactly, so

```javascript
db.foo.find({foo: {"shape": "square", "color": "purple"} })
```

won’t help either, since there’s a third attribute specifying thickness.

To match an entire document within the `foo` array, you need to use `$elemMatch`. To properly query for a purple square, you’d use `$elemMatch` like so:

```javascript
db.foo.find({foo: {"$elemMatch": {"shape": "square", color: "purple"}}})
```

The query will return the first document, which contains the purple square you’re looking for.

## Full Text Search in Mongo

- **Introduction**
- **Multikeys (Indexing Values in an Array)**
- **Text Search**
- **Comparison to Full Text Search Engines**
- **Real World Examples**

### Introduction

Mongo provides some functionality that is useful for text search and tagging.
Multikeys (Indexing Values in an Array)

The Mongo multikey feature can automatically index arrays of values. Tagging is a good example of where this feature is useful. Suppose you have an article object/document which is tagged with some category names:

```javascript
obj = {
    name: "Apollo",
    text: "Some text about Apollo moon landings",
    tags: [ "moon", "apollo", "spaceflight" ]
}
```

and that this object is stored in `db.articles`. The command

```javascript
db.articles.ensureIndex( { tags: 1 } );
```

will index all the tags on the document, and create index entries for "moon", "apollo" and "spaceflight" for that document.

You may then query on these items in the usual way:

```javascript
> print(db.articles.findOne( { tags: "apollo" } ).name);
Apollo
```

The database creates an index entry for each item in the array. Note an array with many elements (hundreds or thousands) can make inserts very expensive. (Although for the example above, alternate implementations are equally expensive.)

**Text Search**

It is fairly easy to implement basic full text search using multikeys. What we recommend is having a field that has all of the keywords in it, something like:

```javascript
{ title : "this is fun",
  _keywords : [ "this", "is", "fun" ]
}
```

Your code must split the title above into the keywords before saving. Note that this code (which is not part of Mongo DB) could do stemming, etc. too. (Perhaps someone in the community would like to write a standard module that does this...)

**Comparison to Full Text Search Engines**

MongoDB has interesting functionality that makes certain search functions easy. That said, it is not a dedicated full text search engine. For example, dedicated engines provide the following capabilities:

- built-in text stemming
- ranking of queries matching various numbers of terms (can be done with MongoDB, but requires user supplied code to do so)
- bulk index building

Bulk index building makes building indexes fast, but has the downside of not being realtime. MongoDB is particularly well suited for problems where the search should be done in realtime. Traditional tools are often not good for this use case.

**Real World Examples**

The Business Insider web site uses MongoDB for its blog search function in production.

Mark Watson's opinions on Java, Ruby, Lisp, AI, and the Semantic Web - A recipe example in Ruby.

**min and max Query Specifiers**

The `min()` and `max()` functions may be used in conjunction with an index to constrain query matches to those having index keys between the `min()` and `max()` keys specified. The `min()` and `max()` functions may be used individually or in conjunction. The index to be used may be specified with a `hint()` or one may be inferred from pattern of the keys passed to `min()` and/or `max()`.
If you're using the standard query syntax, you must distinguish between the \$min and \$max keys and the query selector itself. See here:

```javascript
db.f.find().min({name:"barry"}).max({name:"larry"}).hint({name:1});
```

```javascript
db.f.find().min({name:"barry"}).max({name:"larry"});
```

```javascript
db.f.find().min({last_name:"smith", first_name:"john"});
```

The min() value is included in the range and the max() value is excluded.

Normally, it is much preferred to use \$gte and \$lt rather than to use min and max, as min and max require a corresponding index. Min and max are primarily useful for compound keys: it is difficult to express the last_name/first_name example above without this feature (it can be done using \$where).

min and max exist primarily to support the mongos (sharding) process.

**OR operations in query expressions**

Query objects in Mongo by default AND expressions together. Before 1.5.3 MongoDB did not include an "\$or" operator for such queries, however there are ways to express such queries.

**\$in**

The \$in operator indicates a "where value in ..." expression. For expressions of the form x == a OR x == b, this can be represented as

```javascript
{ x : { \$in : [ a, b ] } }
```

**\$where**

We can provide arbitrary Javascript expressions to the server via the \$where operator. This provides a means to perform OR operations. For example in the mongo shell one might invoke:

```javascript
db.mycollection.find( { $where : function() { return this.a == 3 || this.b == 4; } } );
```

The following syntax is briefer and also works; however, if additional structured query components are present, you will need the \$where form:

```javascript
db.mycollection.find( function() { return this.a == 3 || this.b == 4; } );
```

**\$or**

The \$or operator lets you use a boolean or expression to do queries. You give \$or a list of expressions, any of which can satisfy the query.

> **New in MongoDB 1.5.3**

Simple:

```javascript
db.foo.find( { \$or : [ { a : 1 }, { b : 2 } ] } )
```

With another field

```javascript
db.foo.find( { name : "bob", \$or : [ { a : 1 }, { b : 2 } ] } )
```

The \$or operator retrieves matches for each or clause individually and eliminates duplicates when returning results.

**See Also**
Advanced Queries

Queries and Cursors

Queries to MongoDB return a cursor, which can be iterated to retrieve results. The exact way to query will vary with language driver. Details below focus on queries from the MongoDB shell (i.e. the mongo process).

The shell `find()` method returns a cursor object which we can then iterate to retrieve specific documents from the result. We use `hasNext()` and `next()` methods for this purpose.

```javascript
for ( var c = db.parts.find(); c.hasNext(); ) {
    print ( c.next());
}
```

Additionally in the shell, `forEach()` may be used with a cursor:

```javascript
db.users.find().forEach( function(u) {
    print("user: " + u.name);
});
```

Array Mode in the Shell

Note that in some languages, like JavaScript, the driver supports an "array mode". Please check your driver documentation for specifics.

In the db shell, to use the cursor in array mode, use array index [] operations and the `length` property.

Array mode will load all data into RAM up to the highest index requested. Thus it should **not** be used for any query which can return very large amounts of data: you will run out of memory on the client.

You may also call `toArray()` on a cursor. `toArray()` will load all objects queries into RAM.

Getting a Single Item

The shell `findOne()` method fetches a single item. Null is returned if no item is found.

`findOne()` is equivalent in functionality to:

```javascript
function findOne(coll, query) {
    var cursor = coll.find(query).limit(1);
    return cursor.hasNext() ? cursor.next() : null;
}
```

**Tip:** If you only need one row back and multiple match, `findOne()` is efficient, as it performs the `limit()` operation, which limits the objects returned from the database to one.

Querying Embedded Objects

To find an exact match of an entire embedded object, simply query for that object:

```javascript
db.order.find( { shipping: { carrier: "usps" } } );
```

The above query will work if `{ carrier: "usps" }` is an exact match for the entire contained shipping object. If you wish to match any sub-object with `shipping.carrier == "usps"`, use this syntax:

```javascript
db.order.find( { "shipping.carrier" : "usps" } );
```

See the [dot notation](http://docs.mongodb.org/manual/reference/operator/query/dot/) docs for more information.

Greater Than / Less Than
Latent Cursors and Snapshotting

A latent cursor has (in addition to an initial access) a latent access that occurs after an intervening write operation on the database collection (i.e., an insert, update, or delete). Under most circumstances, the database supports these operations.

Conceptually, a cursor has a current position. If you delete the item at the current position, the cursor automatically skips its current position forward to the next item.

Mongo DB cursors do not provide a snapshot: if other write operations occur during the life of your cursor, it is unspecified if your application will see the results of those operations or not. See the snapshot docs for more information.

Auditing allocated cursors

Information on allocated cursors may be obtained using the \{cursorInfo:1\} command.

```
   db.runCommand({cursorInfo:1})
```

See Also

- Advanced Queries
- Multikeys in the HowTo

Tailable Cursors

MongoDB has a feature known as tailable cursors which are similar to the Unix "tail -f" command.

Tailable means the cursor is not closed once all data is retrieved. Rather, the cursor marks the last known object's position and you can resume using the cursor later, from where that object was located, provided more data is available.

Like all "latent cursors", the cursor may become invalid at any point -- for example if the last object returned is deleted. Thus, you should be prepared to requery if the cursor is dead. You can determine if a cursor is dead by checking its id. An id of zero indicates a dead cursor.

In addition, the cursor may be dead upon creation if the initial query returns no matches. In this case a requery is required to create a persistent tailable cursor.

Tailable cursors are only allowed on capped collections and can only return objects in natural order.

```
   // If the field you wish to "tail" is indexed, simply requerying for "field > value" is already quite efficient. Tailable will be slightly faster in situations such as that. However, if the field is not indexed, tailable provides a huge improvement in performance.
```

Mongo replication uses this feature to follow the end of the master server's replication op log collection -- the tailable feature eliminates the need to create an index for the oplog at the master, which would slow log writes.

C++ example:
Server-side Code Execution

- $where Clauses and Functions in Queries
- Restrictions
- Map/Reduce
- Using `db.eval()`
- Examples
- Storing functions server-side
- Notes on Concurrency
- Running `.js` files via a mongod shell instance on the server

Mongo supports the execution of code inside the database process.

### $where Clauses and Functions in Queries

In addition to the regular document-style query specification for `find()` operations, you can also express the query either as a string containing a SQL-style WHERE predicate clause, or a full JavaScript function.

When using this mode of query, the database will call your function, or evaluate your predicate clause, for each object in the collection.

In the case of the string, you must represent the object as "this" (see example below). In the case of a full JavaScript function, you use the normal JavaScript function syntax.

The following four statements in `mongo - The Interactive Shell` are equivalent:

```javascript
db.myCollection.find( { a : { $gt: 3 } } );
db.myCollection.find( { $where: "this.a > 3" } );
db.myCollection.find("this.a > 3");
db.myCollection.find( { $where: function() { return this.a > 3;} });
```

The first statement is the preferred form. It will be at least slightly faster to execute because the query optimizer can easily interpret that query and choose an index to use.

You may mix data-style `find` conditions and a function. This can be advantageous for performance because the data-style expression will be evaluated first, and if not matched, no further evaluation is required. Additionally, the database can then consider using an index for that condition's field. To mix forms, pass your evaluation function as the `$where` field of the query object. For example:
You may mix data-style find conditions and a function. This can be advantageous for performance because the data-style expression will be evaluated first, and if not matched, no further evaluation is required. Additionally, the database can then consider using an index for that condition's field. For example:

\[
\text{db.myCollection.find( \{ active: true, $where: function() { return this.credits - this.debits < 0; } \} });
\]

Restrictions

Do not write to the collection being inspected from the \$where expression.

Map/Reduce

MongoDB supports Javascript-based map/reduce operations on the server. See the map/reduce documentation for more information.

Using \text{db.eval()}

\text{db.eval()} \text{is used to evaluate a function (written in JavaScript) at the database server.}
This is useful if you need to touch a lot of data lightly. In that scenario, network transfer of the data could be a bottleneck.
\text{db.eval()} \text{returns the return value of the function that was invoked at the server. If invocation fails an exception is thrown.}

For a trivial example, we can get the server to add 3 to 3:

\[
\text{> db.eval( function() { return 3+3; } });}
6
\]

Let's consider an example where we wish to erase a given field, \text{foo}, in every single document in a collection. A naive client-side approach would be something like

\[
\text{function my_erase() {}
  \text{db.\text{things}.find().forEach( function(obj) {}
    \text{delete obj.\text{foo};}
    \text{db.\text{things}.save(obj);}
  \text{);}}
}\text{my_erase();}
\]

Calling \text{my_erase()} \text{on the client will require the entire contents of the collection to be transmitted from server to client and back again.}

Instead, we can pass the function to \text{eval()}, and it will be called in the runtime environment of the server. On the server, the \text{db} variable is set to the current database:

\[
\text{db.eval(my_erase());}
\]

Examples
If an error occurs on the evaluation (say, a null pointer exception at the server), an exception will be thrown of the form:

```javascript
{ dbEvalException: { errno: -3.0, errmsg: "invoke failed", ok: 0.0 } }
```

Example of using `eval()` to do equivalent of the Mongo `count()` function:

```javascript
function mycount(collection) {
    db.eval( function(){
        db[collection].find({}, { _id: ObjId() }).length();
    } );
    return;
}
```

Example of using `db.eval()` for doing an atomic increment, plus some calculations:

```javascript
function inc( name, howMuch ){
    return db.eval( function(){
        var t = db.things.findOne( { name: name } );
        t = t || { name: name, num: 0, total: 0, avg: 0 };
        t.num++;
        t.total += howMuch;
        t.avg = t.total / t.num;
        db.things.save( t );
    } );
}
```

```javascript
db.things.remove( {} );
print( tojson( inc( "eliot", 2 ) ) );
print( tojson( inc( "eliot", 3 ) ) );
```

### Storing functions server-side

In version 1.1.1 and above

There is a special system collection called `system.js` that can store JavaScript function to be re-used. To store a function, you would do:

```javascript
db.system.js.save( { _id: "foo", value: function( x, y ){ return x + y; } } );
```

_id is the name of the function, and is unique per database.

Once you do that, you can use `foo` from any JavaScript context (db.eval, $where, map/reduce)

See [http://github.com/mongodb/mongo/tree/master/jstests/storefunc.js](http://github.com/mongodb/mongo/tree/master/jstests/storefunc.js) for a full example

### Notes on Concurrency

`eval()` blocks the entire mongod process while running. Thus, its operations are atomic but prevent other operations from processing.

When more concurrency is needed consider using map/reduce instead of `eval()`.
Running .js files via a mongo shell instance on the server

This is a good technique for performing batch administrative work. Run mongo on the server, connecting via the localhost interface. The connection is then very fast and low latency. This is friendlier than db.eval() as db.eval() blocks other operations.

Sorting and Natural Order

"Natural order" is defined as the database’s native ordering of objects in a collection.

When executing a find() with no parameters, the database returns objects in forward natural order. For standard tables, natural order is not particularly useful because, although the order is often close to insertion order, it is not guaranteed to be. However, for Capped Collections, natural order is guaranteed to be the insertion order. This can be very useful.

In general, the natural order feature is a very efficient way to store and retrieve data in insertion order (much faster than say, indexing on a timestamp field). But remember, the collection must be capped for this to work.

In addition to forward natural order, items may be retrieved in reverse natural order. For example, to return the 50 most recently inserted items (ordered most recent to less recent) from a capped collection, you would invoke:

```javascript
> c=db.cappedCollection.find().sort({$natural:-1}).limit(50)
```

Sorting can also be done on arbitrary keys in any collection. For example, this sorts by ‘name’ ascending, then ‘age’ descending:

```javascript
> c=db.collection.find().sort({name : 1, age : -1})
```

See Also

- The Capped Collections section of this Guide
- Advanced Queries
- The starting point for all Home

Aggregation

Mongo includes utility functions which provide server-side count, distinct, and group by operations. More advanced aggregate functions can be crafted using MapReduce.

- Count
- Distinct
- Group
  - Examples
  - Using Group from Various Languages
- Map/Reduce
- See Also

Count

count() returns the number of objects in a collection or matching a query. If a document selector is provided, only the number of matching documents will be returned.

size() is like count() but takes into consideration any limit() or skip() specified for the query.

```javascript
db.collection.count(selector);
```

For example:

```javascript
print( "# of objects: " + db.mycollection.count() );
print( db.mycollection.count( {active: true} ) );
```

count is faster if an index exists for the condition in the selector. For example, to make the count on active fast, invoke

```javascript
db.mycollection.ensureIndex( {active: 1} );
```
**Distinct**

The distinct command returns a list of distinct values for the given key across a collection.

Command is of the form:

```json
{ distinct : <collection_name>, key : <key>,[, query : <query>] }
```

although many drivers have a helper function for distinct.

```text
> db.addresses.insert({"zip-code": 10010})
> db.addresses.insert({"zip-code": 10010})
> db.addresses.insert({"zip-code": 99701})

> // shell helper:
> db.addresses.distinct("zip-code");
[ 10010, 99701 ]

> // running as a command manually:
> db.runCommand( { distinct: 'addresses', key: 'zip-code' } )
{ "values" : [ 10010, 99701 ], "ok" : 1 }
```

distinct may also reference a nested key:

```text
> db.comments.save({"user": {"points": 25}})
> db.comments.save({"user": {"points": 31}})
> db.comments.save({"user": {"points": 25}})
> db.comments.distinct("user.points");
[ 25, 31 ]
```

You can add an optional query parameter to distinct as well

```text
> db.address.distinct( "zip-code", { age : 30 } )
```

Note: the distinct command results are returned as a single BSON object. If the results could be large (> 4 megabytes), use map/reduce instead.

**Group**

Note: currently one must use map/reduce instead of group() in sharded MongoDB configurations.

group returns an array of grouped items. The command is similar to SQL's group by. The SQL statement

```
select a,b,sum(c) csum from coll where active=1 group by a,b
```

corresponds to the following in MongoDB:

```javascript
db.coll.group{
    [key: { a: true, b: true }],
    cond: { active:1 },
    reduce: function(obj,prev) { prev.csum += obj.c; },
    initial: { csum: 0 }
}
```

Note: the result is returned as a single BSON object and for this reason must be fairly small – less than 10,000 keys, else you will get an exception. For larger grouping operations without limits, please use map/reduce.

**Group** takes a single object parameter containing the following fields:

- **key**: Fields to group by.
- **reduce**: The reduce function aggregates (reduces) the objects iterated. Typical operations of a reduce function include summing and
counting. reduce takes two arguments: the current document being iterated over and the aggregation counter object. In the example above, these arguments are named obj and prev.

- **initial:** Initial value of the aggregation counter object.
- **key:** An optional function returning a "key object" to be used as the grouping key. Use this instead of key to specify a key that is not an existing member of the object (or, to access embedded members). Set in lieu of key.
- **cond:** An optional condition that must be true for a row to be considered. This is essentially a find() query expression object. If null, the reduce function will run against all rows in the collection.
- **finalize:** An optional function to be run on each item in the result set just before the item is returned. Can either modify the item (e.g., add an average field given a count and a total) or return a replacement object (returning a new object with just _id and average fields). See jstests/group3.js for examples.

To order the grouped data, simply sort it client-side upon return. The following example is an implementation of count() using group().

```javascript
function gcount(collection, condition) {
  var res =
    db[collection].group(
      { key: {},
        initial: {count: 0},
        reduce: function(obj, prev){ prev.count++},
        cond: condition } );
  return res[0] ? res[0].count : 0;
}
```

Examples

The examples assume data like this:

```json
{ domain: "www.mongodb.org",
  invoked_at: {d:"2009-11-03", t:"17:14:05"},
  response_time: 0.05,
  http_action: "GET /display/DOCS/Aggregation"
}
```

Show me stats for each http_action in November 2009:

```javascript
db.test.group(
    key: {http_action: true},
    initial: {count: 0, total_time:0},
    reduce: function(doc, out){ out.count++; out.total_time+=doc.response_time },
    finalize: function(out){ out.avg_time = out.total_time / out.count } }
)
```

Show me stats for each domain for each day in November 2009:

```javascript
db.test.group(
    key: "domain",
    initial: {count: 0, total_time:0},
    reduce: function(doc, out){ out.count++; out.total_time+=doc.response_time },
    finalize: function(out){ out.avg_time = out.total_time / out.count } }
)
```
Using Group from Various Languages

Some language drivers provide a group helper function. For those that don't, one can manually issue the db command for group. Here's an example using the Mongo shell syntax:

```javascript
> db.foo.find()
{ "_id": ObjectId("4a92af2fb3d09cb83d985f70"), "x": 3 }
{ "_id": ObjectId("4a92af2fb3d09cb83d985f71"), "x": 3 }
> db.$cmd.findOne({group : {
... ns : "foo",
... cond : {},
... key : {x : 1},
... initial : {count : 0},
... $reduce : function(obj,prev){prev.count++;}}})
{ "retval" : [{"x" : 1, "count" : 1}, {"x" : 3, "count" : 2}], "count" : 3, "keys" : 2, "ok" : 1 }
```

If you use the database command with keyf (instead of key) it must be prefixed with a $. For example:

```javascript
db.$cmd.findOne({group : {
... ns : "foo",
... $keyf : function(doc) { return {"x" : doc.x}; },
... initial : {count : 0},
... $reduce : function(obj,prev) { prev.count++; }}})
```

Map/Reduce

MongoDB provides a MapReduce facility for more advanced aggregation needs. CouchDB users: please note that basic queries in MongoDB do not use map/reduce.

See Also

- jstests/eval2.js for an example of group() usage
- Advanced Queries

Removing

Removing Objects from a Collection

To remove objects from a collection, use the remove() function in the mongo shell. (Other drivers offer a similar function, but may call the function "delete". Please check your driver's documentation).

remove() is like find() in that it takes a JSON-style query document as an argument to select which documents are removed. If you call remove() without a document argument, or with an empty document {}, it will remove all documents in the collection. Some examples:

```javascript
db.test.group(
  { cond: { $in: ["2009-11", "2009-12"]},
  key: {domain: true, invoked_at.d: true},
  initial: {count: 0, total_time:0},
  reduce: function(doc, out){ out.count++; out.total_time+=doc.response_time },
  finalize: function(out){ out.avg_time = out.total_time / out.count }
});
```
If you have a document in memory and wish to delete it, the most efficient method is to specify the item's document `_id` value as a criteria:

```javascript
db.things.remove({_id: myobject._id});
```

You may be tempted to simply pass the document you wish to delete as the selector, and this will work, but it's inefficient.

**References**

If a document is deleted, any existing references to the document will still exist in the database. These references will return null when evaluated.

### Concurrency and Remove

v1.3+ supports concurrent operations while a remove runs. If a simultaneous update (on the same collection) grows an object which matched the remove criteria, the updated object may not be removed (as the operations are happening at approximately the same time, this may not even be surprising). In situations where this is undesirable, pass `{atomic: true}` in your filter expression:

```javascript
db.videos.remove( { rating: { $lt : 3.0 }, $atomic : true } )
```

The remove operation is then completely atomic – however, it will also block other operations while executing.

### Updating

MongoDB supports atomic, in-place updates as well as more traditional updates for replacing an entire document.

- `update()`
- `save()` in the mongo shell

**Modifier Operations**

- `$inc`
- `$set`
- `$unset`
- `$push`
- `$pushAll`
- `$addToSet`
- `$pop`
- `$pull`
- `$pullAll`
  - The `$` positional operator
  - Upserts with Modifiers
  - Pushing a Unique Value

**Checking the Outcome of an Update Request**

**Notes**

- Object Padding
- Blocking

**See Also**

**update()**

`update()` replaces the document matching criteria entirely with `objNew`. If you only want to modify some fields, you should use the atomic modifiers below.

Here's the MongoDB shell syntax for `update()`:

```javascript
db.collection.update( criteria, objNew, upsert, multi )
```

**Arguments:**

- `criteria` - query which selects the record to update;
- `objNew` - updated object or `$` operators (e.g., `$inc`) which manipulate the object
- `upsert` - if this should be an "upsert"; that is, if the record does not exist, insert it
- `multi` - if all documents matching `criteria` should be updated
If you are coming from SQL, be aware that by default, update() only modifies the first matched object. If you want to modify all matched objects you need to use the multi flag.

**save() in the mongo shell**

The save() command in the mongo shell provides a shorthand syntax to perform a single object update with upsert:

```javascript
// x is some JSON style object
db.mycollection.save(x); // updates if exists; inserts if new
```

save() does an upsert if x has an _id field and an insert if it does not. Thus, normally, you will not need to explicitly request upserts, just use save().

Upset means "update if present; insert if missing".

```javascript
myColl.update( { name: "Joe" }, { name: "Joe", age: 20 }, true );
```

**Modifier Operations**

Modifier operations are highly-efficient and useful when updating existing values; for instance, they’re great for incrementing a number.

So, while a conventional implementation does work:

```javascript
var j=myColl.findOne( { name: "Joe" } );
j.n++;
myColl.save(j);
```

a modifier update has the advantages of avoiding the latency involved in querying and returning the object. The modifier update also features operation atomicity and very little network data transfer.

To perform an atomic update, simply specify any of the special update operators (which always start with a '$' character) with a relevant update document:

```javascript
db.people.update( { name: "Joe" }, { $inc: { n: 1 } } );
```

The preceding example says, "Find the first document where 'name' is 'Joe' and then increment 'n' by one."

While not shown in the examples, most modifier operators will accept multiple field/value pairs when one wishes to modify multiple fields. For example, the following operation would set x to 1 and y to 2:

```javascript
{ $set: { x: 1, y: 2 } }
```

Also, multiple operators are valid too:

```javascript
{ $set: { x: 1 }, $inc: { y: 1 } }
```

$inc increments field by the number value if field is present in the object, otherwise sets field to the number value.

$set
$set: { field : value }  

Sets field to value. All datatypes are supported with $set.

$unset:

{ $unset : { field : 1 } }  

Deletes a given field. v1.3+

$push:

{ $push : { field : value } }  

Appends value to field. If field is an existing array, otherwise sets field to the array [value] if field is not present. If field is present but is not an array, an error condition is raised.

$pushAll:

{ $pushAll : { field : value_array } }  

Appends each value in value_array to field. If field is an existing array, otherwise sets field to the array value_array if field is not present. If field is present but is not an array, an error condition is raised.

$addToSet:

{ $addToSet : { field : value } }  

Adds value to the array only if its not in the array already.

To add many values:

{ $addToSet : { a : { $each : [ 3, 5, 6] } } }  

$pop:

{ $pop : { field : 1 } }  

Removes the last element in an array (ADDED in 1.1)

{ $pop : { field : -1 } }  

Removes the first element in an array (ADDED in 1.1)

$pull:

{ $pull : { field : _value } }  

Removes all occurrences of value from field. If field is an array. If field is present but is not an array, an error condition is raised.

$pullAll:

{ $pullAll : { field : value_array } }
removes all occurrences of each value in value_array from field, if field is an array. If field is present but is not an array, an error condition is raised.

**The $ positional operator**

Version 1.3.4+ only.

The $ operator (by itself) means “position of the matched array item in the query”. Use this to find an array member and then manipulate it. For example:

```javascript
> t.find()
( "_id" : ObjectId("4b97e62bf1d8c7152c9cccb74"), "title" : "ABC",
 comments" : [ { "by" : "joe", "votes" : 3 }, { "by" : "jane", "votes" : 7 }] )
> t.update( { 'comments.by': 'joe' }, { $inc: { 'comments.$.votes': 1 }, false, true }
> t.find()
( "_id" : ObjectId("4b97e62bf1d8c7152c9cccb74"), "title" : "ABC",
 comments" : [ { "by" : "joe", "votes" : 4 }, { "by" : "jane", "votes" : 7 }] )
```

Currently the $ operator only applies to the first matched item in the query. For example:

```javascript
> t.find();
( "_id" : ObjectId("4b9e4a1fc583fa1c76198319"), "x" : [ 1, 2, 3, 2 ] )
> t.update({x: 2}, { $inc: { "x.$": 1 }}, false, true);
> t.find();
( "_id" : ObjectId("4b9e4a1fc583fa1c76198319"), "x" : [ 1, 3, 2 ] )
```

The positional operator cannot be combined with an upsert since it requires a matching array element. If your update results in an insert then the "$" will literally be used as the field name.

Using "$unset" with an expression like this "array.$" will result in the array item becoming null, not being removed. You can issue an update with "{$pull:{x:null}}" to remove all nulls.

```javascript
> t.insert({x: [1,2,3,4,3,2,3,4]})
> t.find();
( "_id" : ObjectId("4bde2ad3755d000000000710e"), "x" : [ 1, 2, 3, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4 ] )
> t.update({x:3}, { $unset: { "x.$": 1 } });
> t.find();
( "_id" : ObjectId("4bde2ad3755d000000000710e"), "x" : [ 1, 2, null, 4, 3, 2, 3, 4 ] )
```

**Upserts with Modifiers**

You may use upsert with a modifier operation. In such a case, the modifiers will be applied to the update criteria member and the resulting object will be inserted. The following upsert example may insert the object {name:"Joe",x:1,y:1}.

```javascript
db.people.update( { name:"Joe" }, { $inc: { x:1, y:1 } }, true );
```

There are some restrictions. A modifier may not reference the _id field, and two modifiers within an update may not reference the same field, for example the following is not allowed:

```javascript
db.people.update( { name:"Joe" }, { $inc: { x: 1 }, $set: { x: 5 } } );
```

**Pushing a Unique Value**

To add a value to an array only if not already present:

Starting in 1.3.3, you can do
update( {_id:'joe'},{"$addToSet": { tags : "baseball" } } );

For older versions, add $ne : <value> to your query expression:

update( {_id:'joe', tags: {}}),
{"$ne": "baseball"},
{"$push": { tags : "baseball" } } );

Checking the Outcome of an Update Request

As described above, a non-upsert update may or may not modify an existing object. An upsert will either modify an existing object or insert a new object. The client may determine if its most recent message on a connection updated an existing object by subsequently issuing a getlasterror command ( db.runCommand( "getlasterror" ) ). If the result of the getlasterror command contains an updatedExisting field, the last message on the connection was an update request. If the updatedExisting field's value is true, that update request caused an existing object to be updated; if updatedExisting is false, no existing object was updated. An upserted field will contain the new _id value if an insert is performed (new as of 1.5.4).

Notes

Object Padding

When you update an object in MongoDB, the update occurs in-place if the object has not grown in size. This is good for insert performance if the collection has many indexes.

Mongo adaptively learns if objects in a collection tend to grow, and if they do, it adds some padding to prevent excessive movements. This statistic is tracked separately for each collection.

Blocking

Staring in 1.5.2, multi updates yield occasionally so you can safely update large amounts of data. If you want a multi update to be truly atomic, you can use the $atomic flag.

See Also

- findandmodify Command
- Atomic Operations

Atomic Operations

- Modifier operations
- "Update if Current"
  - The ABA Nuance
- "Insert if Not Present"
- Find and Modify (or Remove)
- Applying to Multiple Objects Atomically

MongoDB supports atomic operations on single documents. MongoDB does not support traditional locking and complex transactions for a number of reasons:

- First, in sharded environments, distributed locks could be expensive and slow. MongoDB's goal is to be lightweight and fast.
- We dislike the concept of deadlocks. We want the system to be simple and predictable without these sort of surprises.
- We want MongoDB to work well for realtime problems. If an operation may execute which locks large amounts of data, it might stop some small light queries for an extended period of time. (We don't claim MongoDB is perfect yet in regards to being "real-time", but we certainly think locking would make it even harder.)

MongoDB does support several methods of manipulating single documents atomically, which are detailed below.

Modifier operations

The MongoDB update command supports several modifiers, all of which atomically update an element in a document. They include:

- $set - set a particular value
- $unset - set a particular value (since 1.3.0)
- $inc - increment a particular value by a certain amount
- $push - append a value to an array
- $pushAll - append several values to an array
- $pull - remove a value(s) from an existing array
$pullAll - remove several value(s) from an existing array

These modifiers are convenient ways to perform certain operations atomically.

"Update if Current"

Another strategy for atomic updates is "Update if Current". This is what an OS person would call Compare and Swap. For this we

1. Fetch the object.
2. Modify the object locally.
3. Send an update request that says "update the object to this new value if it still matches its old value".

Should the operation fail, we might then want to try again from step 1.

For example, suppose we wish to fetch one object from inventory. We want to see that an object is available, and if it is, deduct it from the inventory. The following code demonstrates this using mongo shell syntax (similar functions may be done in any language):

```javascript
> t=db.inventory
> s = t.findOne({sku:'abc'})
{ 
  "_id" : "49df4d3c9664d32c73ea865a" , 
  "sku" : "abc" , 
  "qty" : 30 } 
> qty_old = s.qty;
> --s.qty;
> t.update({_id:s._id, qty:qty_old}, s); db.$cmd.findOne({getlasterror:1});
{ 
  "err" : , 
  "updatedExisting" : true , 
  "n" : 1 , 
  "ok" : 1 } // it worked
```

For the above example, we likely don’t care the exact sku quantity as long as it is at least as great as the number to deduct. Thus the following code is better, although less general -- we can get away with this as we are using a predefined modifier operation ($inc). For more general updates, the "update if current" approach shown above is recommended.

```javascript
> t.update({sku:abc,qty:{$gt:0}}, { $inc : { qty : -1 } } ); db.$cmd.findOne({getlasterror:1})
"err" : , "updatedExisting" : false , "n" : 0 , "ok" : 1 } // did not work
```

The ABA Nuance

In the first of the examples above, we basically did "update object if qty is unchanged". However, what if since our read, sku had been modified? We would then overwrite that change and lose it!

There are several ways to avoid this problem; it’s mainly just a matter of being aware of the nuance.

1. Use the entire object in the update’s query expression, instead of just the _id and qty field.
2. Use $set to set the field we care about. If other fields have changed, they won’t be effected then.
3. Put a version variable in the object, and increment it on each update.
4. When possible, use a $ operator instead of an update-if-current sequence of operations.

"Insert if Not Present"

Another optimistic concurrency scenario involves inserting a value when not already there. When we have a unique index constraint for the criteria, we can do this. The following example shows how to insert monotonically increasing _id values into a collection using optimistic concurrency:
function insertObject(o) {
    x = db.myCollection;
    while( 1 ) {
        // determine next _id value to try
        var c = x.find({},{_id:1}).sort({_id:-1}).limit(1);
        var i = c.hasNext() ? c.next()._id + 1 : 1;
        o._id = i;
        x.insert(o);
        var err = db.getLastErrorObj();
        if( err && err.code ) {
            if( err.code == 11000 /* dup key */ )
                continue;
            else
                print("unexpected error inserting data: " + tojson(err));
        } else 
                break;
    }
}

Find and Modify (or Remove)

See the findandmodify Command documentation for more information.

Applying to Multiple Objects Atomically

You can use multi-update to apply the same modifier to each object. This will be pseudo-atomic by default. Its one operation, but occasionaly someone else can get it. To make it full atomic you can use $atomic

non atomic

```
  db.foo.update( { x : 1 } , { $inc : { y : 1 } } , false , true );
```

atomic

```
  db.foo.update( { x : 1 , $atomic : 1 } , { $inc : { y : 1 } } , false , true );
```

findandmodify Command

Find and Modify (or Remove)

v1.3.0 and higher

MongoDB 1.3+ supports a "find, modify, and return" command. This command can be used to atomically modify a document (at most one) and return it. Note that, by default, the document returned will not include the modifications made on the update.

If you don't need to return the document, you can use Update (which can affect multiple documents, as well).

The general form is

```
  db.runCommand( { findandmodify : <collection>,
                  <options> } )
```

The MongoDB shell includes a helper method, findAndModify(), for executing the command. Some drivers provide helpers also.

At least one of the update or remove parameters is required; the other arguments are optional.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>query</td>
<td>a filter for the query</td>
<td>{}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sort</td>
<td>if multiple docs match, choose the first one in the specified sort order as the object to manipulate</td>
<td>{}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>remove</td>
<td>set to a true to remove the object before returning</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>update</td>
<td>a modifier object</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>new</td>
<td>set to true if you want to return the modified object rather than the original. Ignored for remove.</td>
<td>false</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fields</td>
<td>see Retrieving a Subset of Fields (1.5.0+)</td>
<td>All fields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>upsert</td>
<td>create object if it doesn’t exist. examples (1.5.4+)</td>
<td>false</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The `sort` option is useful when storing queue-like data. Let’s take the example of fetching the highest priority job that hasn’t been grabbed yet and atomically marking it as grabbed:

```javascript
job = db.jobs.findAndModify({
  query: {inprogress: false},
  sort: {priority: -1},
  update: {$set: {inprogress: true, started: new Date()}}
});
```

You could also simply remove the object to be returned, but be careful. If the client crashes before processing the job, the document will be lost forever.

```javascript
job = db.jobs.findAndModify({sort: {priority: -1}, remove: true});
```

See the tests for more examples.

If your driver doesn’t provide a helper function for this command, run the command directly with something like this:

```javascript
job = db.runCommand({ findandmodify: "jobs",
  sort: { priority: -1 },
  remove: true
}).value;
```

**Sharding limitations**

`findandmodify` will behave the same when called through a *mongos* as long as the collection it is modifying is unsharded. If the collection is sharded, then the query must contain the shard key. This is the same as regular sharded updates.

**See Also**

- Atomic Operations

**Updating Data in Mongo**

- Updating a Document in the mongo Shell with `save()`
- Embedding Documents Directly in Documents
- Database References

**Updating a Document in the mongo Shell with `save()`**

As shown in the previous section, the `save()` method may be used to save a new document to a collection. We can also use `save()` to update an existing document in a collection.

Continuing with the *example* database from the last section, let’s add new information to the document `{name: "mongo"}` that already is in the collection.
This was a simple example, adding a string valued element to the existing document. When we called `save()`, the method saw that the document already had an "_id" field, so it simply performed an update on the document.

In the next two sections, we’ll show how to embed documents within documents (there are actually two different ways), as well as show how to query for documents based on values of embedded documents.

**Embedding Documents Directly in Documents**

As another example of updating an existing document, lets embed a document within an existing document in the collection. We’ll keep working with the original `{name: "mongo"}` document for simplicity.

As you can see, we added new data to the mongo document, adding `{a:1, b:2}` under the key "data".

Note that the value of "data" is a document itself - it is embedded in the parent mongo document. With **BSON**, you may nest and embed documents to any level. You can also query on embedded document fields, as shown here:

Note that the second `findOne()` doesn’t return anything, because there are no documents that match.

**Database References**

Alternatively, a document can reference other documents which are not embedded via a database reference, which is analogous to a foreign key in a relational database. A database reference (or "DBRef" for short), is a reference implemented according to the **Database References**. Most drivers support helpers for creating DBRefs. Some also support additional functionality, like dereference helpers and auto-referencing. See specific driver documentation for examples / more information.

In the previous section we saw that the statement

```
obj_a.x = obj_b;
```

Lets repeat the above example, but create a document and place in a different collection, say `otherthings`, and embed that as a reference in our favorite "mongo" object under the key "otherdata".
// first, save a new doc in the 'otherthings' collection

> var other = { s: "other thing", n: 1};
> db.otherthings.save(other);
> db.otherthings.find();
{ "_id": "497dcb36b27d59a708e89a4", "s": "other thing", "n": 1 }

// now get our mongo object, and add the 'other' doc as 'otherthings'

> var mongo = db.things.findOne();
> print(tojson(mongo));
{ "_id": "497dab624ee47b3a675d2d9c", "name": "mongo", "type": "database", "data": {"a": 1, "b": 2} }
> mongo.otherthings = new DBRef( 'otherthings' , other._id );
> mongo = db.things.findOne();
> db.things.save(mongo);
> db.things.findOne().otherthings.fetch();
{ "_id": "497dab624ee47b3a675d2d9c", "name": "mongo", "type": "database", "data": {"a": 1, "b": 2}, "otherthings" : {"_id": "497dcb36b27d59a708e89a4", "s": "other thing", "n": 1} }

// now, lets modify our 'other' document, save it again, and see that when the dbshell
// gets our mongo object and prints it, if follows the dbref and we have the new value

> other.n = 2;
2
> db.otherthings.save(other);
> db.otherthings.find();
{ "_id": "497dcb36b27d59a708e89a4", "s": "other thing", "n": 2 }

MapReduce

Map/reduce in MongoDB is useful for batch manipulation of data and aggregation operations. It is similar in spirit to using something like Hadoop with all input coming from a collection and output going to a collection. Often, in a situation where you would have used GROUP BY in SQL, map/reduce is the right tool in MongoDB.

Indexing and standard queries in MongoDB are separate from map/reduce. If you have used CouchDB in the past, note this is a big difference: MongoDB is more like MySQL for basic querying and indexing. See the queries and indexing documentation for those operations.
map/reduce is invoked via a database command. The database creates a temporary collection to hold output of the operation. The collection is cleaned up when the client connection closes, or when explicitly dropped. Alternatively, one can specify a permanent output collection name. map and reduce functions are written in JavaScript and execute on the server.

**Command syntax:**

```javascript
db.runCommand(
  { mapreduce : <collection>,
    map : <mapfunction>,
    reduce : <reducefunction>,
    [, query : {query filter object}]
    [, sort : {sort the query. useful for optimization}]
    [, limit : {number of objects to return from collection}]
    [, out : {output-collection name}]%n    [, keeptemp : {true|false}]
    [, finalize : {finalizefunction}]
    [, scope : {object where fields go into javascript global scope}]
    [, verbose : {true}]
  }
);
```

- `keeptemp`: if true, the generated collection is not treated as temporary. Defaults to false. When `out` is specified, the collection is automatically made permanent.
- `finalize`: function to apply to all the results when finished
- `verbose`: provide statistics on job execution time
- `scope`: can pass in variables that can be access from map/reduce/finalize example mr5

**Result:**

```javascript
{ result : <collection_name>,
  counts : {
    input : <number of objects scanned>,
    emit : <number of times emit was called>,
    output : <number of items in output collection>
  },
  timeMillis : <job_time>,
  ok : <1_if_ok>,
  [, err : <errmsg_if_error>]
}
```

A command helper is available in the MongoDB shell:

```javascript
db.collection.mapReduce(mapfunction,reducefunction[,options]);
```

map, reduce, and finalize functions are written in JavaScript.

**Map Function**

The map function references the variable `this` to inspect the current object under consideration. A map function must call `emit(key,value)` at least once, but may be invoked any number of times, as may be appropriate.

```javascript
function map(void) -> void
```

**Reduce Function**

The reduce function receives a key and an array of values. To use, reduce the received values, and return a result.

```javascript
function reduce(key, value_array) -> value
```

The MapReduce engine may invoke reduce functions iteratively; thus, these functions must be idempotent. That is, the following must hold for your reduce function:
for all k,vals : reduce( k, [reduce(k,vals)] ) == reduce(k,vals)

If you need to perform an operation only once, use a finalize function.

The output of emit (the 2nd param) and reduce should be the same format to make iterative reduce possible. If not, there will be weird bugs that are hard to debug.

Currently, the return value from a reduce function cannot be an array (it's typically an object or a number).

**Finalize Function**

A finalize function may be run after reduction. Such a function is optional and is not necessary for many map/reduce cases. The finalize function takes a key and a value, and returns a finalized value.

```javascript
function finalize(key, value) -> final_value
```

**Sharded Environments**

In sharded environments, data processing of map/reduce operations runs in parallel on all shards.

**Examples**

**Shell Example 1**

The following example assumes we have an events collection with objects of the form:

```json
{ time : <time>, user_id : <userid>, type : <type>, ... }
```

We then use MapReduce to extract all users who have had at least one event of type "sale":

```javascript
> m = function() { emit(this.user_id, 1); }
> r = function(k,vals) { return 1; }
> res = db.events.mapReduce(m, r, { query : {type:'sale'} });
> db[ res.result ].find().limit(2)
{ "_id" : 8321073716060 , "value" : 1 }
{ "_id" : 7921232311289 , "value" : 1 }
```

If we also wanted to output the number of times the user had experienced the event in question, we could modify the reduce function like so:

```javascript
> r = function(k,vals) {
... var sum=0;
... for(var i in vals) sum += vals[i];
... return sum;
... }
```

Note, here, that we cannot simply return vals.length, as the reduce may be called multiple times.

**Shell Example 2**
More Examples

- example mr1
- Finalize example: example mr2

Note on Permanent Collections

Even when a permanent collection name is specified, a temporary collection name will be used during processing. At map/reduce completion, the temporary collection will be renamed to the permanent name atomically. Thus, one can perform a map/reduce job periodically with the same target collection name without worrying about a temporary state of incomplete data. This is very useful when generating statistical output collections on a regular basis.

Parallelism

As of right now, MapReduce jobs on a single mongod process are single threaded. This is due to a design limitation in current JavaScript engines. We are looking into alternatives to solve this issue, but for now if you want to parallelize your MapReduce jobs, you will need to either use sharding or do the aggregation client-side in your code.

Presentations

Map/reduce, geospatial indexing, and other cool features - Kristina Chodorow at MongoSF (April 2010)

See Also

- Aggregation

Data Processing Manual

DRAFT - TO BE COMPLETED.

This guide provides instructions for using MongoDB batch data processing oriented features including map/reduce.
By "data processing", we generally mean operations performed on large sets of data, rather than small interactive operations.

**Import**

One can always write a program to load data of course, but the `mongoimport` utility also works for some situations. `mongoimport` supports importing from json, csv, and tsv formats.

A common usage pattern would be to use mongoimport to load data in a relatively raw format and then use a server-side script (`db.eval()` or `map/reduce`) to reduce the data to a more clean format.

**See Also**

- Import/Export Tools
- Server-Side Code Execution
- Map/Reduce

**mongo - The Interactive Shell**

- Introduction
- More Information
- Some Notes on Datatypes in the Shell
  - Numbers
  - Dates
  - BinData
- Presentations

**Introduction**

The MongoDB distribution includes `bin/mongo`, the MongoDB interactive shell. This utility is a JavaScript shell that allows you to issue commands to MongoDB from the command line. (Basically, it is an extended SpiderMonkey shell.)

The shell is useful for:

- inspecting a database's contents
- testing queries
- creating indices
- other administrative functions.

When you see sample code in this wiki and it looks like JavaScript, assume it is a shell example. See the driver syntax table for a chart that can be used to convert those examples to any language.

**More Information**

- Shell Overview
- Shell Reference
- Shell APIDocs

**Some Notes on Datatypes in the Shell**

**Numbers**

The shell treats all numbers as floating-point values. If you have long/integer BSON data from the database you may see something like this:

```javascript
"bytes" : {
   "floatApprox" : 575175
}
```

or something like this for larger numbers:
In addition, setting/incrementing any number will (most likely) change the data type to a floating point value.

**Dates**

The `Date()` function returns a string and a **new Date()** will return an object (which is what you should use to store values).

```javascript
> Date()
Sun May 02 2010 19:07:40 GMT-0700 (Pacific Daylight Time)
> new Date()
"Sun May 02 2010 19:07:43 GMT-0700 (Pacific Daylight Time)"
> typeof(new Date())
object
> typeof(Date())
string
```

**BinData**

The BSON BinData datatype is represented via class BinData in the shell. Run `help misc` for more information.

**Presentations**

- **CRUD and the JavaScript Shell** - Presentation by Mike Dirolf at MongoSF (April 2010)

**Overview - The MongoDB Interactive Shell**

**Starting the Shell**

The interactive shell is included in the standard MongoDB distribution. To start the shell, go into the root directory of the distribution and type

```
./bin/mongo
```

It might be useful to add `mongo_distribution_root/bin` to your `PATH` so you can just type `mongo` from anywhere.

If you start with no parameters, it connects to a database named "test" running on your local machine on the default port (27017). You can see the db to which you are connecting by typing `db`:

```
./mongo
> help for help
> db
> test
```

You can pass `mongo` an optional argument specifying the address, port and even the database to initially connect to:

```
./mongo foo       connects to the foo database on your local machine
./mongo 192.168.13.7/foo connects to the foo database on 192.168.13.7
./mongo dbserver.mydomain.com/foo connects to the foo database on dbserver.mydomain.com
./mongo 192.168.13.7:9999/foo connects to the foo database on 192.168.13.7 on port 9999
```

**Connecting**
If you have not connected via the command line, you can use the following commands:

```
conn = new Mongo(host);
db = conn.getDB(dbname);
db.auth(username,password);
```

where `host` is a string that contains either the name or address of the machine you want to connect to (e.g. "192.168.13.7") or the machine and port (e.g. "192.168.13.7:9999"). Note that host is an optional argument, and can be omitted if you want to connect to the database instance running on your local machine. (e.g. `conn = new Mongo();`)

Alternatively you can use the `connect` helper method:

```
> db = connect("localhost:27020/mytestdb"); // example with a nonstandard port 
```

### Basics Commands

The following are three basic commands that provide information about the available databases, and collections in a given database.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>show dbs</code></td>
<td>Displays all the databases on the server you are connected to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>use db_name</code></td>
<td>Switches to <code>db_name</code> on the same server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>show collections</code></td>
<td>Displays a list of all the collections in the current database</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Querying

`mongo` uses a JavaScript API to interact with the database. Because `mongo` is also a complete JavaScript shell, `db` is the variable that is the current database connection.

To query a collection, you simply specify the collection name as a property of the `db` object, and then call the `find()` method. For example:

```
db.foo.find();
```

This will display the first 10 objects from the `foo` collection. Typing `it` after a `find()` will display the next 10 subsequent objects.

### Inserting Data

In order to insert data into the database, you can simply create a JavaScript object, and call the `save()` method. For example, to save an object `{ name: "sara" }` in a collection called `foo`, type:

```
db.foo.save({ name : "sara"});
```

Note that MongoDB will implicitly create any collection that doesn’t already exist.

### Modifying Data

Let's say you want to change someone’s address. You can do this using the following `mongo` commands:

```
person = db.people.findOne( { name : "sara" } );
person.city = "New York";
db.people.save( person );
```

### Deleting Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.drop()</code></td>
<td>Drop the entire <code>foo</code> collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.remove()</code></td>
<td>Remove all objects from the collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.remove({ name : &quot;sara&quot; })</code></td>
<td>Remove objects from the collection where name is sara</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Indexes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.getIndexKeys()</code></td>
<td>get all fields that have indexes on them</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.ensureIndex({ _field_ : 1 })</code></td>
<td>create an index on field if it doesn't exist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Line Continuation

If a line contains open '(' or '{' characters, the shell will request more input before evaluating:

```
> function f() {
  ...
  ...
  }
```

You can press Ctrl-C to escape from "..." mode and terminate line entry.

See Also

- MongoDB Shell Reference

dbshell Reference

- Command Line
- Special Command Helpers
- Basic Shell Javascript Operations
- Queries
- Error Checking
- Administrative Command Helpers
- Opening Additional Connections
- Miscellaneous
- Examples

Command Line

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>--help</td>
<td>Show command line options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--nodb</td>
<td>Start without a db, you can connect later with <code>new Mongo()</code> or <code>connect()</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--shell</td>
<td>After running a .js file from the command line, stay in the shell rather than terminating</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special Command Helpers

Non-javascript convenience macros:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Macro</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>Show help</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>db.help()</td>
<td>Show help on db methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>db.myColl.help()</td>
<td>Show help on collection methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show dbs</td>
<td>Print a list of all databases on this server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use dbname</td>
<td>Set the db variable to represent usage of <code>dbname</code> on the server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show collections</td>
<td>Print a list of all collections for current database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show users</td>
<td>Print a list of users for current database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>show profile</td>
<td>Print most recent profiling operations that took &gt;= 1ms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic Shell Javascript Operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>db</td>
<td>The variable that references the current database object / connection. Already defined for you in your instance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**db.auth(user,pass)**
Authenticate with the database (if running in secure mode).

**coll = db.collection**
Access a specific collection within the database.

**cursor = coll.find();**
Find all objects in the collection. See queries.

**coll.remove(objpattern);**
Remove matching objects from the collection. objpattern is an object specifying fields to match. E.g.: `coll.remove( { name: "Joe" } );`

**coll.save(object)**
Save an object in the collection, or update if already there. If your object has a presave method, that method will be called before the object is saved to the db (before both updates and inserts)

**coll.insert(object)**
Insert object in collection. No check is made (i.e., no upsert) that the object is not already present in the collection.

**coll.update(...)**
Update an object in a collection. See the Updating documentation; update() has many options.

**coll.ensureIndex( { name : 1 } )**
Creates an index on tab.name. Does nothing if index already exists.

**coll.update(...)**
Drops the collection coll
db.getSisterDB(name)
Return a reference to another database using this same connection. Usage example:
`db.getSisterDB('production').getCollectionNames()`

**Queries**

**coll.find();**
Find all.

**coll.find( criteria );**
Find objects matching criteria in the collection. E.g.: `coll.find( { name: "Joe" } );`

**coll.findOne( criteria );**
Find and return a single object. Returns null if not found. If you want only one object returned, this is more efficient than just find() as limit(1) is implied. You may use regular expressions if the element type is a string, number, or date:
`coll.find( { name: /joe/i } );`

**coll.find( criteria, fields );**
Get just specific fields from the object. E.g.: `coll.find( {}, {name:true} );`

**coll.find().sort( {field:1} );**
Return results in the specified order (field ASC). Use -1 for DESC.

**coll.find( criteria ).sort( { field : 1 } )**
Return the objects matching criteria, sorted by field.

**coll.find( ... ).limit(n)**
Limit result to n rows. Highly recommended if you need only a certain number of rows for best performance.

**coll.find( ... ).skip(n)**
Skip n results.

**coll.count();**
Returns total number of objects in the collection.

**coll.find( ... ).count();**
Returns the total number of objects that match the query. Note that the number ignores limit and skip; for example if 100 records match but the limit is 10, count() will return 100. This will be faster than iterating yourself, but still take time.

More information: see queries.

**Error Checking**

**db.getLastError();**
Returns error from the last operation.

**db.getPrevError();**
Returns error from previous operations.
**Administrative Command Helpers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Command</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>db.cloneDatabase(fromhost)</code></td>
<td>Clone the current database from the other host specified. fromhost database must be in noauth mode.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.copyDatabase(fromdb, todb, fromhost)</code></td>
<td>Copy fromhost/fromdb to todb on this server. fromhost must be in noauth mode.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.repairDatabase()</code></td>
<td>Repair and compact the current database. This operation can be very slow on large databases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.addUser(user,pwd)</code></td>
<td>Add user to current database.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.getCollectionNames()</code></td>
<td>get list of all collections.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.dropDatabase()</code></td>
<td>Drops the current database.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Opening Additional Connections**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>db = connect(&quot;&lt;host&gt;:&lt;port&gt;/&lt;dbname&gt;&quot;)</code></td>
<td>Open a new database connection. One may have multiple connections within a single shell, however, automatic getLastError reporting by the shell is done for the 'db' variable only. See here for an example of connect().</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>conn = new Mongo(&quot;hostname&quot;)</code></td>
<td>Open a connection to a new server. Use <code>getDB()</code> to select a database thereafter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db = conn.getDB(&quot;dbname&quot;)</code></td>
<td>Select a specific database for a connection</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Miscellaneous**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>Object.bsonsize(db.foo.findOne())</code></td>
<td>prints the bson size of a db object (mongo version 1.3 and greater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.findOne().bsonsize()</code></td>
<td>prints the bson size of a db object (mongo versions predating 1.3)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For a full list of functions, see the shell API.

**Examples**

The MongoDB source code includes a `jstests/` directory with many mongo shell scripts.

**Developer FAQ**

- What's a "namespace"?
- How do I copy all objects from one database collection to another?
- If you remove an object attribute is it deleted from the store?
- Are null values allowed?
- Does an update fsync to disk immediately?
- How do I do transactions/locking?
- How do I do equivalent of SELECT count * and GROUP BY?
- What are so many "Connection Accepted" messages logged?
- What RAID should I use?
- Can I run on Amazon EBS? Any issues?
- Why are my data files so large?
- Do I Have to Worry About SQL Injection
- How does concurrency work
- SQL to Mongo Mapping Chart
- What is the Compare Order for BSON Types

Also check out Markus Gatoli's excellent FAQ on his website.

**What's a "namespace"?**

MongoDB stores BSON objects in collections. The concatenation of the database name and the collection name (with a period in between) is called a namespace.

For example, `acme.users` is a namespace, where `acme` is the database name, and `users` is the collection name. Note that periods can occur in
collection names, so a name such as `acme.blog.posts` is legal too (in that case `blog.posts` is the collection name.

How do I copy all objects from one database collection to another?

See below. The code below may be ran server-side for high performance with the `eval()` method.

```javascript
    db.myoriginal.find().forEach( function(x){db.mycopy.save(x)} );
```

If you remove an object attribute is it deleted from the store?

Yes, you remove the attribute and then `re-save()` the object.

Are null values allowed?

For members of an object, yes. You cannot add null to a database collection though as null isn’t an object. You can add `{}`, though.

Does an update `fsync` to disk immediately?

No, writes to disk are lazy by default. A write may hit disk a couple of seconds later. For example, if the database receives a thousand increments to an object within one second, it will only be flushed to disk once. (Note `fsync` options are available both at the command line and via `getLastError`.)

How do I do transactions/locking?

MongoDB does not use traditional locking or complex transactions with rollback, as it is designed to be lightweight and fast and predictable in its performance. It can be thought of as analogous to the MySQL MyISAM autocommit model. By keeping transaction support extremely simple, performance is enhanced, especially in a system that may run across many servers.

The system provides alternative models for atomically making updates that are sufficient for many common use cases. See the wiki page "Atomics Operations" for detailed information.

How do I do equivalent of `SELECT count *` and `GROUP BY`?

See aggregation.

What are so many "Connection Accepted" messages logged?

If you see a tremendous number of connection accepted messages in the `mongod` log, that means clients are repeatedly connecting and disconnected. This works, but is inefficient.

With CGI this is normal. If you find the speed acceptable for your purposes, run `mongod` with `--quiet` to suppress these messages in the log. If you need better performance, which to a solution where connections are pooled -- such as an Apache module.

What RAID should I use?

We recommend not using RAID-5, but rather, RAID-10 or the like. Both will work of course.

Can I run on Amazon EBS? Any issues?

Works fine in our experience; more information here.

Why are my data files so large?

MongoDB does aggressive preallocation of reserved space to avoid file system fragmentation. This is configurable. More info here.

Do I Have to Worry About SQL Injection

Generally, with MongoDB we are not building queries from strings, so traditional SQL Injection attacks are not a problem. More details and some nuances are covered below.

MongoDB queries are represented as BSON objects. Typically the programming language gives a convenient way to build these objects that is injection free. For example in C++ one would write:

```c++
    BSONObj my_query = BSON("name" << a_name);
    auto_ptr<DBClientCursor> cursor = c.query("tutorial.persons", my_query);
```
my_query then will have a value such as { name : "Joe" }. If my_query contained special characters such as ", : {, etc., nothing bad happens, they are just part of the string.

Javascript

Some care is appropriate when using server-side Javascript. For example when using the $where statement in a query, do not concatenate user supplied data to build Javascript code; this would be analogous to a SQL injection vulnerability. Fortunately, most queries in MongoDB can be expressed without Javascript. Also, we can mix the two modes. It's a good idea to make all the user-supplied fields go straight to a BSON field, and have your Javascript code be static and passed in the $where field.

If you need to pass user-supplied values into a $where clause, a good approach is to escape them using the CodeWScope mechanism. By setting the user values as variables in the scope document you will avoid the need to have them eval'ed on the server-side.

If you need to use db.eval() with user supplied values, you can either use a CodeWScope or you can supply extra arguments to your function. Something like: db.eval(function(userVal){...}, user_value); This will ensure that user_value gets sent as data rather than code.

User-Generated Keys

Sometimes it is useful to build a BSON object where the key is user-provided. In these situations, keys will need to have substitutions for the reserved $ and . characters. If you are unsure what characters to use, the Unicode full width equivalents aren't a bad choice: U+FF04 () and U+FFOE ()

For example:

```javascript
BSONObj my_object = BSON( a_key << a_name );
```

The user may have supplied a $ value within a_key. my_object could be { $where : "things" }. Here we can look at a few cases:

- Inserting. Inserting into the the database will do no harm. We are not executing this object as a query, we are inserting the data in the database.
  
- Update. update(query, obj) allows $ operators in the obj field. $where is not supported in update. Some operators are possible that manipulate the single document only -- thus, the keys should be escaped as mentioned above if reserved characters are possible.

- Querying. Generally this is not a problem as for { x : user_obj }, dollar signs are not top level and have no effect. In theory one might let the user build a query completely themself and provide it to the database. In that case checking for $ characters in keynames is important. That however would be a highly unusual case.

One way to handle user-generated keys is to always put them in sub-objects. Then they are never at top level (where $operators live) anyway.

See Also

- http://groups.google.com/group/mongodb-user/browse_thread/thread/b4ef57912cbf09d7

How does concurrency work

- mongos
- mongod
  - v1.0-v1.2 Concurrency
  - Viewing Operations in Progress
  - Read/Write Lock
  - Operations
  - On Javascript
  - Multicore

mongos

For sharded environments, mongos can perform any number of operations concurrently. This results in downstream operations to mongod instances. Execution of operations at each mongod is independent; that is, one mongod does not block another.

mongod

The original mongod architecture is concurrency friendly; however, some work with respect to granular locking and latching is not yet done. This means that some operations can block others. This is particular true in versions < 1.3. Version 1.3+ has improvements to concurrency, although future work will make things even better.

v1.0-v1.2 Concurrency

In these versions of mongod, most operations prevent concurrent execution of other operations. In many circumstances, this worked reasonably
as most operations can be executed very quickly.

The following operations do have concurrent support in v1.2 and below:

1. `db.currentOp()` and `db.killOp()` commands
2. `map/reduce`
3. queries returning large amounts of data do interleave with other operations (but does block when scanning data that is not returned)

The rest of this document focuses on concurrency for v1.3+.

**Viewing Operations in Progress**

Use `db.currentOp()` to view operations in progress, and `db.killOp()` to terminate an operation.

You can also see operations in progress from the administrative `Http Interface`.

**Read/Write Lock**

mongod uses a read/write lock for many operations. Any number of concurrent read operations are allowed, but typically only one write operation (although some write operations *yield* and in the future more concurrency will be added). The write lock acquisition is greedy: a pending write lock acquisition will prevent further read lock acquisitions until fulfilled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Lock type</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OP_QUERY (query )</td>
<td>Acquires read lock</td>
<td>see also: SERVER-517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_GETMORE (get more from cursor )</td>
<td>Acquires read lock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_INSERT (insert )</td>
<td>Acquires write lock</td>
<td>Inserts are normally fast and short-lived operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_DELETE (remove )</td>
<td>Acquires write lock</td>
<td>Yields while running to allow other operations to interleave.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP_UPDATE (update )</td>
<td>Acquires write lock</td>
<td>Will yield for interleave (1.5.2+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>map/reduce</code></td>
<td>At times locked</td>
<td>Allows substantial concurrent operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>create index</code></td>
<td>See notes</td>
<td>Batch build acquires write lock. But a background build option is available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.eval()</code></td>
<td>Acquires write lock</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>getLastError</code> command</td>
<td>Non-blocking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>ismaster</code> command</td>
<td>Non-blocking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>serverStatus</code> command</td>
<td>Non-blocking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**On Javascript**

Only one thread in the mongod process executes Javascript at a time (other database operations are often possible concurrent with this).

**Multicore**

With read operations, it is easy for mongod 1.3+ to saturate all cores. However, because of the read/write lock above, write operations will not yet fully utilize all cores. This will be improved in the future.

**SQL to Mongo Mapping Chart**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MySQL Program</th>
<th>Mongo Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mysqld</td>
<td>mongod</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MongoDB queries are expressed as JSON (BSON) objects. This quick reference chart shows examples as both SQL and in Mongo Query Language syntax.

The query expression in MongoDB (and other things, such as index key patterns) is represented as JSON. However, the actual verb (e.g. “find”) is done in one’s regular programming language. The exact forms of these verbs vary by language. The examples below are Javascript and can be executed from the mongo shell.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SQL Statement</th>
<th>Mongo Query Language Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CREATE TABLE USERS (a Number, b Number)</td>
<td>implicit; can be done explicitly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSERT INTO USERS VALUES(1,1)</td>
<td>db.users.insert([a:1,b:1])</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT a,b FROM users</td>
<td>db.users.find({}, {a:1,b:1})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT * FROM users</td>
<td>db.users.find()</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT * FROM users WHERE age=33</td>
<td>db.users.find({age:33})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT a,b FROM users WHERE age=33</td>
<td>db.users.find({age:33}, {a:1,b:1})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT * FROM users WHERE age&gt;33 ORDER BY name</td>
<td>db.users.find({age:33}).sort({name:1})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SELECT * FROM users WHERE age&gt;=33</td>
<td>db.users.find({'age':{$gt:33}})</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SQL Query</td>
<td>MongoDB Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT * FROM users WHERE age&lt;33</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.find({'age':{$lt:33}})</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT * FROM users ORDER BY name DESC</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.find().sort({name:-1})</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>CREATE INDEX myindexname ON users(name)</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.ensureIndex({name:1})</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT * FROM users WHERE a=1 and b='q'</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.find({a:1,b:'q'})</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT * FROM users LIMIT 10 SKIP 20</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.find().limit(10).skip(20)</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT * FROM users LIMIT 1</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.findOne()</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>EXPLAIN SELECT * FROM users WHERE z=3</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.find({z:3}).explain()</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT DISTINCT last_name FROM users</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.distinct('last_name')</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT COUNT(*y) FROM users</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.count()</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>SELECT COUNT(*y) FROM users where AGE &gt; 30</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.find({age: {'$gt': 30}}).count()</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>UPDATE users SET a=1 WHERE b='q'</code></td>
<td><code>db.users.update({b:'q'}, {$set:{a:1}}, false, true)</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What is the Compare Order for BSON Types**
MongoDB allows objects in the same collection which have values which may differ in type. When comparing values from different types, a convention is utilized as to which value is less than the other. This (somewhat arbitrary but well defined) ordering is listed below.

Note that some types are treated as equivalent for comparison purposes -- specifically numeric types which undergo conversion before comparison.

See also the BSON specification.

- Null
- Numbers (ints, longs, doubles)
- Symbol, String
- Object
- Array
- BinData
- ObjectID
- Boolean
- Date, Timestamp
- Regular Expression

Example (using the mongo shell):

```
> t = db.mycoll;
> t.insert({x:3});
> t.insert({x : 2.9});
> t.insert({x : new Date()});
> t.insert({x : true})
> t.find().sort({x:1})

{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b03155dce8de6586fb002c7"), "x" : 2.9 }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b03154ec86de6586fb002c6"), "x" : 3 }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b031566ce8de6586fb002c9"), "x" : true }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b031563ce8de6586fb002c8"), "x" : "Tue Nov 17 2009 16:28:03 GMT-0500 (EST)" }
```

MinKey and MaxKey

In addition to the above types MongoDB internally uses a special type for MinKey and MaxKey which are less than, and greater than all other possible BSON element values, respectively.

From the mongo Javascript Shell

For example we can continue our example from above adding two objects which have x key values of MinKey and MaxKey respectively:

```
> t.insert({ x : MaxKey })
> t.insert({ x : MinKey })
> t.find().sort({x:1})

{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b040994b7ce65b846e2090112"), "x" : { $minKey : 1 } }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b03155dce8de6586fb002c7"), "x" : 2.9 }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b031546ce8de6586fb002c6"), "x" : 3 }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b031455ce8de6586fb002c9"), "x" : true }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b031563ce8de6586fb002c8"), "x" : "Tue Nov 17 2009 16:28:03 GMT-0500 (EST)" }
```

From C++

See also the Tailable Cursors page for an example of using MinKey from C++. See also minKey and maxKey definitions in jsobj.h.

Admin Zone
Community Admin-Related Articles

- boxedice.com - notes from a production deployment
- Survey of Admin UIs for MongoDB
- MongoDB Nagios Check
- MongoDB Cacti Graphs

See Also

- Commands in Developer Zone

Production Notes

- Architecture
  - Production Options
  - Backups
- Recommended Unix System Settings
- TCP Port Numbers
- Tips
- See Also

Architecture

Production Options

- Master Slave
- 1 master, $N$ slaves - failover is handled manually
- Version 1.6: Replica Sets
  - $N$ servers, 1 is always primary, auto-failover, auto-recovery

Backups

- Import Export Tools

Recommended Unix System Settings

- Turn off atime
- Set file descriptor limit to 4k+ (see etc/limits and ulimit)
- Do not use large VM pages with Linux (more info)

TCP Port Numbers

Default TCP port numbers for MongoDB processes:

- Standalone `mongod` – 27017
- `mongos` – 27017
- shard server (`mongod --shardsvr`) – 27018
- config server (`mongod --configsvr`) – 27019
- web stats page for `mongod` – add 1000 to port number (28017, by default)

Tips

- Handling Halted Replication

See Also
MongoDB supports asynchronous replication of data between servers for failover and redundancy. Only one server (in the set/shard) is active for writes (the primary, or master) at a given time. With a single active master at any point in time, strong consistency semantics are available. One can optionally send read operations to the slaves/secondaries when eventual consistency semantics are acceptable.

- **Master-Slave Replication**
- **Replica Sets**

### Which should I use?

- if using <v1.6 : master/slave
- if need automatic fail-over and recovery (easy administration): replica sets
- if using ---auth (security) or ---slavedelay: for now, master/slave
- if using sharding : either, but replica sets are best for clusters that are not small
- if risk averse : master/slave (replica sets are new to v1.6.0)

### Verifying propagation of writes with `getLastError`

A client can block until a write operation has been replicated to N servers -- [read more here](#).

### Presentations

- Replication Video
- Replication Slides Only

### Verifying Propagation of Writes with `getLastError`

At least `v1.5+`.

A client can block until a write operation has been replicated to N servers. Use the `getLastError` command with a new parameter `w`:

```javascript
db.runCommand( { getLastError : 1 , w : 2 } )
```

If `w` is not set, or equals 1, the command returns immediately, implying the data is on 1 server (itself). If `w` is 2, then the data is on the current server and 1 other server (a secondary).

The higher `w` is, the longer acknowledgement may take. A recommended way of using this feature in a web context is to do all the write operations for a page, then call this once if needed. That way you're only paying the cost once.

There is an optional `wtimeout` parameter that allows you to timeout after a certain number of milliseconds and perhaps return an error or warning to a user. For example, the following will wait for 3 seconds before giving up:
> db.runCommand({getlasterror : 1, w : 40, wtimeout : 3000})
{
    "err" : null,
    "n" : 0,
    "wtimeout" : true,
    "waited" : 3006,
    "errmsg" : "timed out waiting for slaves",
    "ok" : 0
}

Note: the current implementation returns when the data has been delivered to w servers. Future versions will provide more options for delivery vs. say, physical fsync at the server.

See also replica set configuration for information on how to change the getlasterror default parameters.

**Replica Sets**

⚠️ v1.6.0 and higher.

Replica Sets are MongoDB's new method for replication. They are an elaboration on the existing master/slave replication, adding automatic failover and automatic recovery of member nodes.

Replica Sets are "Replica Pairs version 2" and are available in MongoDB version 1.6. Replica Pairs will be deprecated.

**Features**

- Supports 1-7 servers in the cluster
- Automatic failover and recovery
- Data center aware (v1.6.1) (rack aware too, eventually)
- Supports passive set members (slaves) that are never primary

**Docs**

To get started:

- Try it out
- Learn how to configure your set

If you would like to start using replica sets with an existing system:

- Learn how to migrate your existing setup
- Upgrade your client code to use replica set connections (see also your driver's documentation for details)

When running replica sets, it is important to know about:

- The admin UI
- Administrative commands

**More Docs**

- Sample Replica Set Config Session.pdf
- Limits
- Design Concepts
- HowTo
  - Resyncing a Very Stale Replica Set Member
  - Adding a New Set Member
  - Adding an Arbiter
  - About the local database

**See Also**

- Replication Video
- Replication Slides Only
About the local database

`mongod` reserves the database `local` for system functionality. The local database is special in that its contents are never replicated.

Replica Sets

Replica sets use the following collections in `local`:

- `local.system.replset` the replica set's configuration object is stored here. (View via the `rs.conf()` helper in the shell — or query it directly.)
- `local.oplog.rs` is a capped collection that is the oplog. You can use the `--oplogSize` command line parameter to set the size of this collection.

Replica Set Design Concepts

1.

A write is only truly committed once it has replicated to a majority of members of the set. For important writes, the client should request acknowledgement of this with a `getLastError({w:...})` call.

2.

Writes which are committed at the primary of the set may be visible before the true cluster-wide commit has occurred. This property, which is more relaxed than some traditional RDBMS products, makes theoretically achievable performance and availability higher.

3.

On a failover, if there is data which has not replicated from the primary, the data is dropped (thus the use of `getlasterror` in #1 above).

Data is now backed up on rollback, although the assumption is that in most cases this data is never recovered as that would require operator intervention: [http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1512](http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1512).

Replica Sets Troubleshooting

can't get `local.system.replset` config from self or any seed (EMPTYCONFIG)

Set needs to be initiated. Run `rs.initiate()` from the shell.

If the set is already initiated and this is a new node, verify it is present in the replica set's configuration and there are no typos in the host names:

```
> // send to a working node in the set:
> rs.conf()
```

Replica Set Tutorial

This tutorial will guide you through the basic configuration of a replica set on a single machine. If you're attempting to deploy replica sets in production, be sure to read the comprehensive replica set documentation. Also, do keep in mind that replica sets are production-ready as of MongoDB 1.6.

- Introduction
- Starting the nodes
- Initializing the set
- Replication
- Failing Over
- Changing the replica set configuration
- Running with two nodes
- Drivers

Introduction

A replica set is group of `N` `mongod` nodes that work together to provide automated failover.

Setting up a replica set is a two-step process that requires starting each node and then formally initiating the set. Here, we'll be configuring a set of three nodes, which is standard.
Once the `mongod` nodes are started, we’ll issue a command to properly initialize the set. After a few seconds, one node will be elected master, and you can begin writing to and querying the set.

**Starting the nodes**

First, create a separate data directory for each of the nodes in the set:

```bash
mkdir -p /data/r0
mkdir -p /data/r1
mkdir -p /data/r2
```

Next, start each `mongod` process with the `--replSet` parameter. The parameter requires that you specify the name of the replica set. Let’s call our replica set “foo.” We’ll launch our first node like so:

```
mongod --replSet foo --port 27017 --dbpath /data/r0
```

The second node gets launched on port 27018:

Let’s start the second node on port 27018:

```
mongod --replSet foo --port 27018 --dbpath /data/r1
```

And, finally, we’ll start a third node on port 27019.

```
mongod --replSet foo --port 27019 --dbpath /data/r2
```

You should now have three nodes running. At this point, each node should be printing the following warning:

```
Mon Aug  2 11:30:19 [startReplSets] replSet can't get local.system.replset config from self or any seed (EMPTYCONFIG)
```

We can’t use the replica set until we’ve initialized it, which we’ll do next.

**Initializing the set**

We can initiate the replica set by connecting to one of the members and running the `replSetInitiate` command. This command takes a configuration object that specifies the name of the set and each of the members.

```
mongo localhost:27017
[kyle@arete ~$] $ mongo localhost:27017
MongoDB shell version: 1.5.7
connecting to: localhost:27017/test
> config = {_id: 'foo', members: [
    { _id: 0, host: 'localhost:27017' },
    { _id: 1, host: 'localhost:27018' },
    { _id: 2, host: 'localhost:27019' }]
}
> rs.initiate(config);
{
    "info": "Config now saved locally. Should come online in about a minute.",
    "ok": 1
}
```

We specify the config object and then pass it to `rs.initiate()`. Then, if everything is in order, we get a response saying that the replica set will
be online in a minute. During this time, one of the nodes will be elected master.

To check the status of the set, run `rs.status`:

```
> rs.status()
{
    "set" : "foo",
    "date" : "Mon Aug 02 2010 11:39:08 GMT-0400 (EDT)",
    "myState" : 1,
    "members" : [
        {
            "name" : "arete.local:27017",
            "self" : true,
        },
        {
            "name" : "localhost:27019",
            "health" : 1,
            "uptime" : 101,
        },
        {
            "name" : "localhost:27018",
            "health" : 1,
            "uptime" : 107,
        }
    ],
    "ok" : 1
}
```

You'll see that both of the other members of the set are up. You may also notice that the `myState` value is 1, indicating that we're connected to the master node; a value of 2 indicates a slave.

You can also check the set's status in the [HTTP Admin UI](https://docs.mongodb.com/manual/reference/http-admin-ui/).

**Replication**

Go ahead and write something to the master node:

```
db.messages.save({name: "ReplSet Tutorial"});
```

If you pay attention to the logs on the slave nodes, you'll see the write being replicated. This initial replication is essential for failover; the system won't fail over to a new master until an initial sync between nodes is complete.

**Failing Over**

Now, the purpose of a replica set is to provide automated failover. This means that, if the master node is killed, a slave node can take over. To see how this works in practice, go ahead and kill the master node with `^C`:

```
^CMon Aug  2 11:50:16 got kill or ctrl c or hup signal 2 (Interrupt), will terminate after current cmd ends
Mon Aug  2 11:50:16 [interruptThread] now exiting
Mon Aug  2 11:50:16 dbexit:
```

If you look at the logs on the slave nodes, you'll see a series of messages indicating failover. On our first slave, we see this:
Both nodes notice that the master has gone down and, as a result, a new primary node is elected. In this case, the node at port 27019 is promoted. If we bring the failed node on 27017 back online, it will come up as a slave.

Changing the replica set configuration

There are times when you’ll want to change the replica set configuration. Suppose, for instance, that you want to adjust the number of votes available to each node. To do this, you need to pass a new configuration object to the database’s replSetReconfig command. Here’s how.

First, define the new configuration:

```javascript
new_config = {_id: 'foo', members: [
    {_id: 0, host: 'localhost:27017', votes: 1},
    {_id: 1, host: 'localhost:27018', votes: 2},
    {_id: 2, host: 'localhost:27019', votes: 3}]
}
```

Then, add the version to the config object. To do this, you’ll need to increment the old config version.

```javascript
use local
old_config = db.system.replset.findOne();
new_config.version = old_config.version + 1;
```

Finally, reconfigure:

```javascript
use admin
db.runCommand({replSetReconfig: new_config});
```

Running with two nodes

Suppose you want to run replica sets with just two database servers. This is possible as long as you also use an arbiter on a separate node; most likely, running the arbiter on one or more application servers will be ideal. With an arbiter in place, the replica set will behave appropriately, recovering automatically during both network partitions and node failures (e.g., machine crashes).

You start up an arbiter just as you would a standard replica set node, with the --replSet option. However, when initiating, you need to include the arbiterOnly option in the config document.

With an arbiter, the configuration presented above would look like this instead:
The other requirement here is that the total number of votes for the database nodes needs to consist of a majority. This means that if you have two database nodes and ten arbiters, there’s a total of twelve votes. So the best bet in this case it to give each database node enough votes so that even if all but a single arbiter goes down, the master still has enough votes to stay up. In that situation, each database node would need at least three votes.

For more information on arbiters and other interesting config options, see the [replica set configuration docs](#).

**Drivers**

All of the MongoDB drivers are designed to take any number of replica set seed hosts from a replica set and then cache the hosts of any other known members.

With this complete set of potential master nodes, the driver can automatically find the new master if the current master fails. See your driver’s documentation for details. If you happen to be using the Ruby driver, check out [Replica Sets in Ruby](#).

**Replica Set Configuration**

- **Command Line**
- **Initial Setup**
- **The Replica Set Config Object**
- **Shell Example 1**
- **Shell Example 2**
- **See Also**

### Command Line

Each mongod participating in the set should have a `--replSet` parameter on its command line. The syntax is

```shell
mongod --replSet setname
```

_setname_ is the logical name of the set.

> The `--rest` command line parameter is also recommended when using replica sets, as the web admin interface of mongod (normally at port 28017) shows status information on the set.

### Initial Setup

We use the initiate command for initial configuration of a replica set. Send the initiate command to a single server with the set to christen the set. The member being initiated may have initial data; the other servers in the set should be empty.

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { replSetInitiate : <config_object> } )
```

A shorthand way to type the above is via a helper method in the shell:

```javascript
> rs.initiate(<config_object>)
```

A quick way to initiate a set is to leave out the config object parameter. The initial set will then consist of the member to which the shell is communicating, along with all the seeds that member knows of. However, see the configuration object details below for more options.

```javascript
> rs.initiate()
```

### The Replica Set Config Object
local.system.replset holds a singleton object which contains the replica set configuration. The config object automatically propagates among members of the set. The object is not directly manipulated, but rather changed via commands (such as replSetInitiate).

The config object has the form:

```json
{
  _id: <setname>,
  members: [
    {
      _id: <ordinal>,
      host: <hostname>[<port>],
      [priority: <priority>]
      [arbiterOnly: true]
      [votes: <n>]
    }
    ,...
  ],
  settings: {
    [heartbeatSleep: <seconds>]
    [heartbeatTimeout: <seconds>]
    [heartbeatConnRetries: <n>]
    [getLastErrorDefaults: <lasterrdefaults>]
  }
}
```

- **_id** - The replica set name.
- **members** - An array of member objects, each containing:
  - **_id** - The member’s ordinal number within the set.
  - **host** - The member’s host name and optional port.
  - **priority** - The server’s priority for potential election as primary. Defaults to 1.0. Priority zero means the server can never be primary.
  - **arbiterOnly** - Whether the member participates in consensus, but receives no data.
  - **votes** - The votes the member gets in elections. Defaults to 1.
- **settings** - An object containing heartbeat parameters:
  - **heartbeatSleep** - Frequency of heartbeat messages. Default: 2 seconds.
  - **heartbeatTimeout** - Time before a node is declared down. Default: 10 seconds.
  - **heartbeatConnRetries** - Number of retries after a heartbeat timeout. Default: 3
- **getLastErrorDefaults** - Default options for the `getLastError` command. Not yet implemented in v1.6.0.

**Shell Example 1**

```bash
> // all at once method
> cfg = {
    ... _id: "acme_a",
    ... members: [
      ... {
          _id: 0, host: "sf1.acme.com"
        },
      ... {
          _id: 1, host: "sf2.acme.com"
        },
      ... {
          _id: 2, host: "sf3.acme.com"
        }
    ]
> rs.initiate(cfg)
> rs.status()
```

**Shell Example 2**

```bash
$ # incremental configuration method
$ mongo sf1.acme.com/admin
> rs.initiate();
> rs.add("sf2.acme.com");
> rs.add("sf3.acme.com");
> rs.status();
```

**See Also**
Adding a New Set Member

Adding a new node to an existing replica set is easy. The new node should either have an empty data directory or a recent copy of the data from another set member. When we start the new node, we only need to provide the replica set name:

```
$ ./mongod --replSet foo
```

After bringing up the new server (we'll call it broadway:27017) we need to add it to the set - we connect to our primary server using the shell:

```
$ ./mongo
MongoDB shell version: ...
connecting to: test
> rs.add("broadway:27017");
{ "ok" : 1 }
```

After adding the node it will perform a full resync and come online as a secondary. If the node is started with a recent copy of data from another node in the set it won't need a full resync.

See also:
Adding an Arbiter

Adding an Arbiter

Arbiters are nodes in a replica set that only participate in elections: they don't have a copy of the data and will never become the primary node (or even a readable secondary). They are mainly useful for breaking ties during elections (e.g. if a set only has two members).

To add an arbiter, bring up a new node and point it at the replica set using the `--replSet` flag - this part is identical to when Adding a New Set Member. To start as an arbiter, we'll use `rs.addArb()` instead of `rs.add()`. While connected to the current primary:

```
> rs.addArb("broadway:27017");
{ "ok" : 1 }
```

See Also

- Adding a New Set Member
- Adding an Arbiter

Upgrading to Replica Sets

- Upgrading From a Single Server
- Upgrading From Replica Pairs or Master/Slave
- Upgrading Drivers

Upgrading From a Single Server

If you're running MongoDB on a single server, upgrading to replica sets is trivial (and a good idea!). First, we'll initiate a new replica set with a single node. We need a name for the replica set - in this case we're using `foo`. Start by shutting down the server and restarting with the `--replSet` option, and our set name:

```
$ ./mongod --replSet foo
```

Add the `--rest` option too (just be sure that port is secured): the `<host>:28017/_replSet` diagnostics page is incredibly useful.

The server will allocate new `local` data files before starting back up. Consider pre-allocating those files if you need to minimize downtime.

Next we'll connect to the server from the shell and initiate the replica set:
The server should now be operational again, this time as the primary in a replica set consisting of just a single node. The next step is to add some additional nodes to the set.

### Upgrading From Replica Pairs or Master/Slave

Version 1.6.1 will have more seamless support for upgrading, track this case for details: [http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1553](http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1553).

With 1.6.0 the best way to upgrade is to simply restart the current master as a single server replica set, and then add any slaves after wiping their data directory. To find the master in a replica pair, use the `ismaster` command.

Once you know the master, the process will look like this:

```bash
m$ # shutdown mongod master and slave
m$ killall mongod
s$ killall mongod

m$ # backup your /data/db directory on the master
m$ cp /data/db/* /to_somewhere_backup/

s$ # we start empty on the slave. so let's save the old data (assuming drive large enough)
s$ mv /data/db /data/old_slave_data
s$ mkdir /data/db
s$ # /data/db is now empty

m$ mongod --rest --replSet mysetname
m$ mongo
m> rs.initiate()

m> // try these:
m> db.isMaster()
m> rs.help()
m> rs.status()
m> rs.conf()
m> // see also http://localhost:28017/_replSet

s$ # start replica set member on the old slave.
s$ # it has no data and will do a full sync initially
s$ mongod --rest --replSet mysetname
s$ mongo m/admin

m> // still in the mongo shell on the master
m> rs.add("s") // "s" is your slave host name
m> rs.status(); // see also http://localhost:28017/_replSet

arb$ # we should now add an arbiter so break ties on elections and
arb$ # know who is up in a network partition.
arb$ # arbiter is very lightweight and can run on about any server
arb$ # including 32 bit servers.
arb$ # we use different directories and ports here so that the server
arb$ # is still available as a "normal" mongod server if that is
arb$ # desired and also to avoid confusion. the /data/arb directory
arb$ # will be very light in content.
arb$ mkdir /data/arb
arb$ mongod --rest --replSet mysetname --dbpath /data/arb --port 30000 --oplogSize 8

m> rs.addArb("arb:30000"); // replace 'arb' with your arb host name
m> rs.status()
```
Upgrading Drivers

There are new versions of most MongoDB Drivers which support replica sets elegantly. See the documentation pages for the specific driver of interest.

Replica Set Admin UI

The mongod process includes a simple administrative UI for checking the status of a replica set.

To use, first enable --rest from the mongod command line. The rest port is the db port plus 1000 (thus, the default is 28017). Be sure this port is secure before enabling this.

Then you can navigate to http://<hostname>:28017/ in your web browser. Once there, click Replica Set Status (/_replSet) to move to the Replica Set Status page.

See Also

- Http Interface
- Replica Set Commands

Shell Helpers

- rs.help()                      show help
- rs.status()                    ( replSetGetStatus : 1 )
- rs.initiate()                  ( replSetInitiate : null ) initiate
- rs.initiate(cfg)               ( replSetInitiate : cfg )
- rs.add(hostportstr)            add a new member to the set
- rs.add(membercfgobj)           add a new member to the set
- rs.addArb(hostportstr)         add a new member which is arbiterOnly: true
- rs.stepDown()                  ( replSetStepDown : true )
- rs.conf()                      return configuration from local.system.replset
- db.isMaster()                  check who is primary
Commands

{ isMaster : 1 }

Checks if the node to which we are connecting is currently primary. Most drivers do this check automatically and then send requires to the current primary.

Returns an object that looks like:

```
{
    "ismaster" : false,
    "secondary" : true,
    "hosts" : [
        "sf1.example.com",
        "sf4.example.com",
        "ny3.example.com"
    ],
    "passives" : [
        "sf3.example.com",
        "sf2.example.com",
        "ny2.example.com"
    ],
    "arbiters" : [
        "ny1.example.com"
    ],
    "primary" : "sf4.example.com",
    "ok" : 1
}
```

The `hosts` array lists primary and secondary servers, the `passives` array lists passive servers, and the `arbiters` array lists arbiters.

If the "ismaster" field is `false`, there will be a "primary" field that indicates which server is primary.

{ replSetGetStatus : 1 }

Status information on the replica set from this node's point of view.

The output looks like:

```
{
    "set" : "florble",
    "date" : "Wed Jul 28 2010 15:01:01 GMT-0400 (EST)",
    "myState" : 1,
    "members" : [
        {
            "name" : "dev1.example.com",
            "self" : true,
            "errmsg" : ""
        },
        {
            "name" : "dev2.example.com",
            "health" : 1,
            "uptime" : 13777,
            "lastHeartbeat" : "Wed Jul 28 2010 15:01:01 GMT-0400 (EST)",
            "errmsg" : "initial sync done"
        }
    ],
    "ok" : 1
}
```

The `myState` field indicates the state of this server. Valid states are:

0  Starting up, phase 1
The *health* field is 1 if the server is up and 0 if it is down.

The *errmsg* field can contain informational messages, as shown above.

```json
{ replSetInitiate : <config> }
```

Initiate a replica set. Run this command at one node only, to initiate the set. Whatever data is on the initiating node becomes the initial data for the set. This is a one time operation done at cluster creation. See also Configuration.

```json
{ replSetStepDown : true }
```

Step down as primary. Node will become eligible to be primary again after 1 minute. (Presumably, another node will take over by then if it were eligible.)

This command will be enhanced later to allow specification of a min duration of the step-down.

```json
{ replSetFreeze : <bool> }
```

Freezing a replica set prevents failovers from occurring. This can be useful during maintenance.

Note: As of v1.6.0, replSetFreeze is not yet implemented.

```json
{ replSetReconfig: <config> }
```

Adjust configuration of a replica set (just like initialize)

```javascript
db._adminCommand({replSetReconfig: cfg })
```

Note: db._adminCommand is short-hand for db.getSisterDB("admin").runCommand();

**Replica Set FAQ**

How long does failover take?

Failover thresholds are configurable. With the defaults, it may take 20-30 seconds for the primary to be declared down by the other members and a new primary elected. During this window of time, the cluster is down for "primary" operations – that is, writes and strong consistent reads. However, you may execute eventually consistent queries to secondaries at any time, including during this window.

Should I use replica sets or replica pairs?

After 1.6, use *Replica Sets*.

**Connecting to Replica Sets from Clients**

Most drivers have been updated to provide ways to connect to a replica set. In general, this is very similar to how the drivers support connecting to a replica pair.

Instead of taking a pair of hostnames, the drivers will typically take a comma separated list of host[port] names. This is a *seed host list*; it need not be every member of the set. The driver then looks for the primary from the seeds. The seed members will report back other members of the set that the client is not aware of yet. Thus we can add members to a replica set without changing client code.

**With Sharding**
With sharding, the client connects to a mongos process. The mongos process will then automatically find the right member(s) of the set.

See Also

- Driver authors should review Connecting Drivers to Replica Sets.

Replica Sets Limits

v1.6

- Authentication mode not supported. JIRA
- Limits on config changes to sets at first. Especially when a lot of set members are down.
- Map/reduce writes new collections to the server. Because of this, for now it may only be used on the primary. This will be enhanced later.

Resyncing a Very Stale Replica Set Member

MongoDB writes operations to an oplog. For replica sets this data is stored in collection local.oplog.rs. This is a capped collection and wraps when full “RRD”-style. Thus, it is important that the oplog collection is large enough to buffer a good amount of writes when some members of a replica set are down. If too many writes occur, the down nodes, when they resume, cannot catch up. In that case, a full resync would be required.

Sizing the oplog

The command line --oplogSize parameter sets the oplog size. A good rule of thumb is 5 to 10% of total disk space. On 64 bit builds, the default is large and similar to this percentage. You can check your existing oplog sizes from the mongo shell:

```
> use local
> db.oplog.rs.stats()
```

What to do on a sync error

If one of your members has been offline and is now too far behind to catch up, you will need to resync. There are a number of ways to do this.

1. Delete all data. If you stop the failed mongod, delete all data, and restart it, it will automatically resynchronize itself. Of course this may be slow if the database is huge or the network slow.

2. Copy data from another member. You can copy all the data files from another member of the set IF you have a snapshot of that member’s data file’s. This can be done in a number of ways. The simplest is to stop mongod on the source member, copy all its files, and then restart mongod on both nodes. The Mongo fsync and lock feature is another way to achieve this. On a slow network, snapshotting all the datafiles from another (inactive) member to a gziped tarball is a good solution. Also similar strategies work well when using SANs and services such as Amazon Elastic Block Service snapshots.

3. Find a member with older data. Each member of the replica set has an oplog. It is possible that a member has a larger oplog than the current primary.

Replica Set Internals

- Design Concepts
- Configuration
  - Command Line
  - Node Types
  - local.system.replset
  - Set Initiation (Initial Setup)
- Design
  - Server States
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  - Resync (Connecting to a New Primary)
  - Consensus
  - Increasing Durability
  - Reading from Secondaries and Staleness
- Example
- Administration
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Design Concepts

Check out the Replica Set Design Concepts for some of the core concepts underlying MongoDB Replica Sets.

Configuration

Command Line

We specify --replSet set_name/seed_hostname_list on the command line. seed_hostname_list is a (partial) list of some members of the set. The system then fetches full configuration information from the collection local.system.replset. set_name is specified to help the system catch misconfigurations.

Node Types

Conceptually, we have some different types of nodes:

- Standard - a standard node as described above. Can transition to and from being a primary or a secondary over time. There is only one primary (master) server at any point in time.
- Passive - a server can participate as if it were a member of the replica set, but be specified to never be Primary.
- Arbiter - member of the cluster for consensus purposes, but receives no data. Arbiters cannot be seed hosts.

Each node in the set has a priority setting. On a resync (see below), the rule is: choose as master the node with highest priority that is healthy. If multiple nodes have the same priority, pick the node with the freshest data. For example, we might use 1.0 priority for Normal members, 0.0 for passive (0 indicates cannot be primary no matter what), and 0.5 for a server in a less desirable data center.

local.system.replset

This collection has one document storing the replica set's configuration. See the configuration page for details.

Set Initiation (Initial Setup)

For a new cluster, on negotiation the max OpOrdinal is zero everywhere. We then know we have a new replica set with no data yet. A special command

```
{replSetInitiate:1}
```

is sent to a (single) server to begin things.

Design

Server States

- Primary - Can be thought of as "master" although which server is primary can vary over time. Only 1 server is primary at a given point in time.
- Secondary - Can be thought of as a slave in the cluster; varies over time.
- Recovering - getting back in sync before entering Secondary mode.

Applying Operations

Secondaries apply operations from the Primary. Each applied operation is also written to the secondary's local oplog. We need only apply from the current primary (and be prepared to switch if that changes).

OpOrdinal

We use a monotonically increasing ordinal to represent each operation.

These values appear in the oplog (local.oplog.$main). maxLocalOpOrdinal() returns the largest value logged. This value represents how up-to-date we are. The first operation is logged with ordinal 1.

Note two servers in the set could in theory generate different operations with the same ordinal under some race conditions. Thus for full uniqueness we must look at the combination of server id and op ordinal.

Picking Primary

We use a consensus protocol to pick a primary. Exact details will be spared here but that basic process is:

1. get maxLocalOpOrdinal from each server.
2. if a majority of servers are not up (from this server's POV), remain in Secondary mode and stop.
3. If the last op time seems very old, stop and await human intervention.
4. Else, using a consensus protocol, pick the server with the highest maxLocalOpOrdinal as the Primary.

Any server in the replica set, when it fails to reach master, attempts a new election process.

**Heartbeat Monitoring**

All nodes monitor all other nodes in the set via heartbeats. If the current primary cannot see half of the nodes in the set (including itself), it will fall back to secondary mode. This monitoring is a way to check for network partitions. Otherwise in a network partition, a server might think it is still primary when it is not.

**Assumption of Primary**

When a server becomes primary, we assume it has the latest data. Any data newer than the new primary's will be discarded. Any discarded data is backed up to a flat file as raw BSON, to allow for the possibility of manual recovery (see [this case for some details](#)). In general, manual recovery will not be needed - if data must be guaranteed to be committed it should be written to a majority of the nodes in the set.

**Failover**

We renegotiate when the primary is unavailable, see [Picking Primary](#).

**Resync (Connecting to a New Primary)**

When a secondary connects to a new primary, it must resynchronize its position. It is possible the secondary has operations that were never committed at the primary. In this case, we roll those operations back. Additionally we may have new operations from a previous primary that never replicated elsewhere. The method is basically:

- For each operation in our oplog that DNE at the primary, (1) remove from oplog and (2) resync the document in question by a query to the primary for that object. Update the object, deleting if it does not exist at the primary.

We can work our way back in time until we find a few operations that are consistent with the new primary, and then stop.

Any data that is removed during the rollback is stored offline (see [Assumption of Primary](#), so one can manually recover it. It can't be done automatically because there may be conflicts.

Reminder: you can use w= to ensure writes make it to a majority of slaves before returning to the user, to ensure no writes need to be rolled back.

**Consensus**

Fancier methods would converge faster but the current method is a good baseline. Typically only ~2 nodes will be jockeying for primary status at any given time so there isn't much contention:

- Query all others for their maxappliedoptime
- Try to elect self if we have the highest time and can see a majority of nodes
  - If a tie on highest time, delay a short random amount first
  - Elect (selfid,maxoptime) msg -> others
- If we get a msg and our time is higher, we send back NO
- We must get back a majority of YES
- If a YES is sent, we respond NO to all others for 1 minute. Electing ourself counts as a YES.
- Repeat as necessary after a random sleep

**Increasing Durability**

We can trade off durability versus availability in a replica set. When a primary fails, a secondary will assume primary status with whatever data it has. Thus, we have some desire to see that things replicate quickly. Durability is guaranteed once a majority of servers in the replica set have an operation.

To improve durability clients can call getlasterror and wait for acknowledgement until replication of an operation has occurred. The client can then selectively call for a blocking, somewhat more synchronous operation.

**Reading from Secondaries and Staleness**

Secondaries can report via a command how far behind the primary they are. Then, a read-only client can decide if the server's data is too stale or close enough for usage.

**Example**

```
server-a: secondary oplog: ()
server-b: secondary oplog: ()
server-c: secondary oplog: ()
```

```
server-a: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,a4,a5)
```
server-b: secondary oplog: ()
server-c: secondary oplog: ()
...
server-a: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,a4,a5)
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1)
server-c: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3)
...
// server-a goes down
...
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1)
server-c: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3)
...
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1)
server-c: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3)
...
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1)
server-c: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
...
server-a resumes
...
server-a: recovering oplog: (a1,a2,a3,a4,a5)
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3)
server-c: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
...
server-a: recovering oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
server-c: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
...
server-a: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4)
server-c: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4,c5,c6,c7,c8)
...
server-a: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4,c5,c6,c7,c8)
server-b: secondary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4,c5,c6,c7,c8)
server-c: primary oplog: (a1,a2,a3,c4,c5,c6,c7,c8)
...
...
In the above example, server-c becomes primary after server-a fails. Operations (a4,a5) are lost. c4 and c5 are new operations with the same ordinals.

Administration

See the Replica Set Commands page for full info.

Commands:

- `{ replSetFreeze : <bool> }` "freeze" or unfreeze a set. When frozen, new nodes cannot be elected master. Used when doing administration. Details TBD.
- `{ replSetGetStatus : 1 }` get status of the set, from this node's POV
- `{ replSetInitiate : 1 }`
- `{ ismaster : 1 }` check if this node is master

Future Versions

- add support for replication trees / hierarchies
- replicating to a slave that is not a member of the set (perhaps we do not need this given we have the Passive set member type)

Master Slave

- Configuration and Setup
- Command Line Options
  - Master
  - Slave
  - --slavedelay
- Diagnostics
- Security
- Administrative Tasks
  - Failing over to a Slave (Promotion)
  - Inverting Master and Slave
  - Creating a slave from an existing master's disk image
  - Creating a slave from an existing slave's disk image
  - Resyncing a slave that is too stale to recover
- See Also
Configuration and Setup

To configure an instance of Mongo to be a master database in a master-slave configuration, you'll need to start two instances of the database, one in *master* mode, and the other in *slave* mode.

**Data Storage**

The following examples explicitly specify the location of the data files on the command line. This is unnecessary if you are running the master and slave on separate machines, but in the interest of the readers who are going try this setup on a single node, they are supplied in the interest of safety.

```
$ bin/mongod --master [--dbpath /data/masterdb/]
```

As a result, the master server process will create a `local.oplog.$main` collection. This is the "transaction log" which queues operations which will be applied at the slave.

To configure an instance of Mongo to be a slave database in a master-slave configuration:

```
$ bin/mongod --slave --source <masterhostname>[:<port>] [--dbpath /data/slavedb/]
```

Details of the source server are then stored in the slave's `local.sources` collection. Instead of specifying the `--source` parameter, one can add an object to `local.sources` which specifies information about the master server:

```
$ bin/mongo <slavehostname>/local

> db.sources.find(); // confirms the collection is empty. then:
> db.sources.insert({ host: <masterhostname> });
```

- `host: masterhostname` is the IP address or FQDN of the master database machine. Append `:port` to the server hostname if you wish to run on a nonstandard port number.
- `only: databasename` (optional) if specified, indicates that only the specified database should replicate. NOTE: A bug with only is fixed in v1.2.4+.

A slave can pull from multiple upstream masters. In such a situation add multiple configuration objects to the `local.sources` collection. See the [One Slave Two Masters](#) doc page.

A slave may become out of sync with a master if it falls far behind the data updates available from that master, or if the slave is terminated and then restarted some time later when relevant updates are no longer available from the master. If a slave becomes out of sync, replication will terminate and operator intervention is required by default if replication is to be restarted. An operator may restart replication using the `{resync:1}` command. Alternatively, the command line option `--autoresync` causes a slave to restart replication automatically (after ten second pause) if it becomes out of sync. If the `--autoresync` option is specified, the slave will not attempt an automatic resync more than once in a ten minute period.

The `--oplogSize` command line option may be specified (along with `--master`) to configure the amount of disk space in megabytes which will be allocated for storing updates to be made available to slave nodes. If the `--oplogSize` option is not specified, the amount of disk space for storing updates will be 5% of available disk space (with a minimum of 1GB) for 64bit machines, or 50MB for 32bit machines.

**Command Line Options**

**Master**

```
--master              master mode
--oplogSize arg       size limit (in MB) for op log
```

**Slave**

```
--slave              slave mode
--source arg         arg specifies master as <server:port>
--only arg           arg specifies a single database to replicate
--slavedelay arg     arg specifies delay (in seconds) to be used when applying master ops to slave
--autoresync         automatically resync if slave data is stale
```
--slavedelay

Sometimes its beneficial to have a slave that is purposefully many hours behind to prevent human error. In MongoDB 1.3.3+, you can specify this with the --slavedelay mongod command line option. Specify the delay in seconds to be used when applying master operations to the slave.

Specify this option at the slave. Example command line:

```
mongod --slave --source mymaster.foo.com --slavedelay 7200
```

Diagnostics

Check master status from the mongo shell with:

```
// inspects contents of local.oplog.$main on master and reports status:
db.printReplicationInfo()
```

Check slave status from the mongo shell with:

```
// inspects contents of local.sources on the slave and reports status:
db.printSlaveReplicationInfo()
```

(Note you can evaluate the above functions without the parenthesis above to see their javascript source and a bit on the internals.)

As of 1.3.2, you can do this on the slave

```
db._adminCommand( { serverStatus : 1 , repl : N } )
```

N is the level of diagnostic information and can have the following values:

- 0 - none
- 1 - local (doesn't have to connect to other server)
- 2 - remote (has to check with the master)

Security

When security is enabled, one must configure a user account for the local database that exists on both servers.

The slave-side of a replication connection first looks for a user repl in local.system.users. If present, that user is used to authenticate against the local database on the source side of the connection. If repl user does not exist, the first user object in local.system.users is tried.

The local database works like the admin database: an account for local has access to the entire server.

Example security configuration when security is enabled:

```
$ mongo <slavehostname>/admin -u <existingadminusername> -p<adminpassword>
> use local
> db.addUser('repl', <replpassword>);
^c
$ mongo <masterhostname>/admin -u <existingadminusername> -p<adminpassword>
> use local
> db.addUser('repl', <replpassword>);
```

Administrative Tasks

Failing over to a Slave (Promotion)

To permanently fail over from a down master (A) to a slave (B):

- shut down A
- stop mongod on B
- backup or delete local.* datafiles on B
- restart mongod on B with the --master option
Note that is a one time cutover and the “mirror” is broken. A cannot be brought back in sync with B without a full resync.

Inverting Master and Slave

If you have a master (A) and a slave (B) and you would like to reverse their roles, this is the recommended sequence of steps. Note the following assumes A is healthy and up.

1. Halt writes on A (using the `fsync command`)
2. Make sure B is caught up
3. Shut down B
4. Start up B with the `--master` option
5. Do a write on B (primes the oplog)
6. Shut down B
7. Shut down A and replace A's `local.*` files with a copy of B's `local.*` files
8. Start B with the `--master` option
9. Start A with `--fastsync`

If A is not healthy but the hardware is okay (power outage, server crash, etc.):

- Skip the first two steps
- Replace all of A's files with B's files in step 7.

If the hardware is not okay, replace A with a new machine and then follow the instructions in the previous paragraph.

Creating a slave from an existing master’s disk image

`--fastsync` is a way to start a slave starting with an existing master disk image/backup. This option declares that the administrator guarantees the image is correct and completely up to date with that of the master. If you have a full and complete copy of data from a master (and the master is not accepting new writes concurrently!) you can use this option to avoid a full synchronization upon starting the slave.

Creating a slave from an existing slave’s disk image

You can just copy the other slave's data file snapshot without any special options. Note data snapshots should only be taken when a `mongod` process is down or in fsync-and-lock state.

Resyncing a slave that is too stale to recover

Slaves asynchronously apply write operations from the master. These operations are stored in the master's oplog. The oplog is finite in length. If a slave is too far behind, a full resync will be necessary. See the Halted Replication page.

See Also

- Replica Sets

One Slave Two Masters

This document shows an example session with one slave pulling data from two different masters.

Despite the example shown here, it is better, simpler, and generally recommended to have multiple `mongod --slave` processes on a single box than to have one process pull from multiple masters.

A few notes:
Each master host has a different hostname (hostname:port).
Pulling the same database from two different databases can have unexpected results. This can be done in certainly limited ways, as the data will tend to be merged, but there are some edge cases: for example the two masters should have exactly the same set of collections or else some may not show up. Generally, this is not recommended.
Slaving a replica pair is unfortunately not currently supported – see SERVER-30.

$ mkdir /data/1
$ mkdir /data/2
$ mkdir /data/3
$ ./mongod --port 27020 --dbpath /data/1 --master &
$ ./mongod --port 27021 --dbpath /data/2 --master &
$ ./mongod --port 27022 --dbpath /data/3 --slave &

$ # add some data to masters
$ ./mongo localhost:27020
> use db1
> db.foo.insert({x:1})
> db.foo.insert({x:2})
^C
$ # master 2
$ ./mongo localhost:27021
> use db2
> db.foo.insert({x:999, note:"in db2"})
^C

$ # configure slave
$ ./mongo localhost:27022
> use local
> db.sources.insert({host:"localhost:27020"})
> db.sources.insert({host:"localhost:27021"})
> db.sources.find()
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b8ecfac0cb095ca52b62949"), "host" : "localhost:27020" }
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b8ecfc30cb095ca52b6294a"), "host" : "localhost:27021" }

> // wait a little, still connected to slave

> use db1
> db.foo.count()
2
> use db2
> db.foo.find()
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4b8edd01a1d42d47b3afa3c47"), "x" : 999, "note" : "in db2" }
> db.printSlaveReplicationInfo()
source: localhost:27020
syncedTo: Wed Mar 03 2010 16:04:35 GMT-0500 (EST)
= 2717secs ago (0.75hrs)
source: localhost:27021
syncedTo: Wed Mar 03 2010 16:09:31 GMT-0500 (EST)
= 2421secs ago (0.67hrs)

Replica Pairs

- Setup of Replica Pairs
- Consistency
- Security
- Replacing a Replica Pair Server
- Querying the slave
- What is and when should you use an arbiter?
- Working with an existing (non-paired) database
- See Also

Setup of Replica Pairs

⚠️ Replica Sets will soon replace replica pairs. If you are just now setting up an instance, you may want to wait for that and use master/slave replication in the meantime.
Mongo supports a concept of replica pairs. These databases automatically coordinate which is the master and which is the slave at a given point in time.

At startup, the databases will negotiate which is master and which is slave. Upon an outage of one database server, the other will automatically take over and become master from that point on. In the event of another failure in the future, master status would transfer back to the other server. The databases manage this themselves internally.

**Note:** Generally, start with empty /data/db directories for each pair member when creating and running the pair for the first time. See section on Existing Databases below for more information.

To start a pair of databases in this mode, run each as follows:

```
$ ./mongod --pairwith <remoteserver> --arbiter <arbiterserver>
```

where

- **remoteserver** is the hostname of the other server in the pair. Append :port to the server hostname if you wish to run on a nonstandard port number.
- **arbiter** is the hostname (and optional port number) of an arbiter. An arbiter is a Mongo database server that helps negotiate which member of the pair is master at a given point in time. Run the arbiter on a third machine; it is a "tie-breaker" effectively in determining which server is master when the members of the pair cannot contact each other. You may also run with no arbiter by not including the --arbiter option. In that case, both servers will assume master status if the network partitions.

One can manually check which database is currently the master:

```
$ ./mongo
> db.$cmd.findOne({ismaster:1});
{ "ismaster" : 0.0 , "remote" : "192.168.58.1:30001" , "ok" : 1.0 }
```

(Note: When security is on, remote is only returned if the connection is authenticated for the admin database.)

However, Mongo drivers with replica pair support normally manage this process for you.

**Consistency**

Members of a pair are only eventually consistent on a failover. If machine L of the pair was master and fails, its last couple seconds of operations may not have made it to R - R will not have those operations applied to its dataset until L recovers later.

**Security**

Example security configuration when security is enabled:

```
$ ./mongo <lefthost>/admin -u <adminusername> -p<adminpassword>
> use local
> db.addUser('repl', <replpassword>);
^c
$ ./mongo <righthost>/admin -u <adminusername> -p<adminpassword>
> use local
> db.addUser('repl', <replpassword>);
```

**Replacing a Replica Pair Server**

When one of the servers in a Mongo replica pair set fails, should it come back online, the system recovers automatically. However, should a machine completely fail, it will need to be replaced, and its replacement will begin with no data. The following procedure explains how to replace one of the machines in a pair.

Let's assume nodes (n1, n2) is the old pair and that n2 dies. We want to switch to (n1,n3).

1. If possible, assure the dead n2 is offline and will not come back online: otherwise it may try communicating with its old pair partner.
2. We need to tell n1 to pair with n3 instead of n2. We do this with a replacepeer command. Be sure to check for a successful return value from this operation.
n1> ./mongo n1/admin
> db.$cmd.findOne({replacepeer:1});

```
{
    "info" : "adjust local.sources hostname; db restart now required",
    "ok" : 1.0
}
```

At this point, `n1` is still running but is reset to not be confused when it begins talking to `n3` in the future. The server is still up although replication is now disabled.

3. Restart `n1` with the right command line to talk to `n3`

```
n1> ./mongod --pairwith n3 --arbiter <arbiterserver>
```

4. Start `n3` paired with `n1`.

```
n3> ./mongod --pairwith n1 --arbiter <arbiterserver>
```

Note that `n3` will not accept any operations as "master" until fully synced with `n1`, and that this may take some time if there is a substantial amount of data on `n1`.

**Querying the slave**

You can query the slave if you set the slave ok flag. In the shell:

```
  db.getMongo().setSlaveOk()
```

**What is and when should you use an arbiter?**

The arbiter is used in some situations to determine which side of a pair is master. In the event of a network partition (left and right are both up, but can't communicate) whoever can talk to the arbiter becomes master.

If your left and right server are on the same switch, an arbiter isn't necessary. If you're running on the same `ec2` availability zone, probably not needed as well. But if you've got left and right on different `ec2` availability zones, then an arbiter should be used.

**Working with an existing (non-paired) database**

Care must be taken when enabling a pair for the first time if you have existing datafiles you wish to use that were created from a singleton database. Follow the following procedure to start the pair. Below, we call the two servers "left" and "right".

- assure no `mongod` processes are running on both servers
- we assume the data files to be kept are on server left. Check that there is no local.* datafiles in left's /data/db (--dbpath) directory. If there are, remove them.
- check that there are no datafiles at all on right's /data/db directory
- start the left process with the appropriate command line including --pairwith argument
- start the right process with the appropriate paired command line

If both left and right servers have datafiles in their `dbpath` directories at pair initiation, errors will occur. Further, you do not want a local database (which contains replication metadata) during initiation of a new pair.

**See Also**

- [Replica Pairs in Ruby](#)

**Master Master Replication**

Mongo does not support full master-master replication. However, for certain restricted use cases master-master can be used. Generally speaking, we don't recommend the using a master-master configuration with MongoDB.

Master-master usages is eventually consistent.

To configure master-master, simply run both databases with both the --master and --slave parameters. For example, to set up this configuration on a single machine as a test one might run:
This mode is safe for:

- insert operations
- delete operations by _id;
- any query

Master-master should not be used if:

- concurrent updates of single object may occur (including $inc and other updates)

A sample test session on a single computer follows:

```bash
$ # terminal 1, we run a mongod on default db port (27017)
$ ./mongod --slave --master --source localhost:10000

$ # terminal 2, we run a mongod on port 10000
$ ./mongod --slave --master --dbpath /data/slave --port 10000 --source localhost

$ # terminal 3, we run the shell here
$ ./mongo

> // 'db' is now connected to localhost:27017/test
> z = connect("localhost:10000/test")
> // 'z' is now connected to localhost:10000/test db
> db.foo.insert({x:7});
> z.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
> db.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
> db.foo.insert({x:8})
> db.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9182a938798896fd8a906"), "x": 8)
> z.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9182a938798896fd8a906"), "x": 8)
> z.foo.save({x:9})
> z.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9182a938798896fd8a906"), "x": 8)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9188ac50e4c10591ce3b7"), "x": 9)
> db.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9182a938798896fd8a906"), "x": 8)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9188ac50e4c10591ce3b7"), "x": 9)
> z.foo.remove({x:8})
> db.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9188ac50e4c10591ce3b7"), "x": 9)
> z.foo.find()
("_id": ObjectId("4ab917d7c50e4c10591ce3b6"), "x": 7)
("_id": ObjectId("4ab9188ac50e4c10591ce3b7"), "x": 9)
> db.foo.drop()
{"nIndexesWas": 1, "msg": "all indexes deleted for collection", "ns": "test.foo", "ok": 1}
> db.foo.find()
> z.foo.find()
> \
```
Replication Olog Length

Replication uses an operation log ("oplog") to store write operations. These operations replay asynchronously on other nodes.

The length of the oplog is important if a secondary is down. The larger the log, the longer the secondary can be down and still recover. Once the oplog has exceeded the downtime of the secondary, there is no way for the secondary to apply the operations; it will then have to do a full synchronization of the data from the primary.

By default, on 64 bit builds, oplogs are quite large - perhaps 5% of disk space. Generally this is a reasonable setting.

The mongod --oplogSize command line parameter sets the size of the oplog.

This collection is named:
- local.oplog.$main for master/slave replication;
- local.oplog.rs for replica sets

See also
- The Halted Replication page
- Resyncing a Very Stale Replica Set Member

Halted Replication

These instructions are for master/slave replication. For replica sets, see Resyncing a Very Stale Replica Set Member instead.

If you're running mongod with master-slave replication, there are certain scenarios where the slave will halt replication because it hasn't kept up with the master's oplog.

The first is when a slave is prevented from replicating for an extended period of time, due perhaps to a network partition or the killing of the slave process itself. The best solution in this case is to resync the slave. To do this, open the mongo shell and point it at the slave:

```
$ mongo <slave_host_and_port>
```

Then run the resync command:

```
> use admin
> db.runCommand({resync: 1})
```

This will force a full resync of all data (which will be very slow on a large database). The same effect can be achieved by stopping mongod on the slave, delete all slave datafiles, and restarting it.

Increasing the OpLog Size

Since the oplog is a capped collection, it's allocated to a fixed size; this means that as more data is entered, the collection will loop around and overwrite itself instead of growing beyond its pre-allocated size. If the slave can't keep up with this process, then replication will be halted. The solution is to increase the size of the master's oplog. There are a couple of ways to do this, depending on how big your oplog will be and how much downtime you can stand. But first you need to figure out how big an oplog you need.

If the current oplog size is wrong, how do you figure out what's right? The goal is not to let the oplog age out in the time it takes to clone the database. The first step is to print the replication info. On the master node, run this command:

```
> db.printReplicationInfo();
```

You'll see output like this:

```
configured oplog size: 1048.576MB
log length start to end: 7200secs (2hrs)
oplog first event time: Wed Mar 03 2010 16:20:39 GMT-0500 (EST)
oplog last event time: Wed Mar 03 2010 18:20:39 GMT-0500 (EST)
now: Wed Mar 03 2010 18:40:34 GMT-0500 (EST)
```
This indicates that you’re adding data to the database at a rate of 524MB/hr. If an initial clone takes 10 hours, then the oplog should be at least 5240MB, so something closer to 8GB would make for a safe bet.

The standard way of changing the oplog size involves stopping the mongod master, deleting the local.* oplog datafiles, and then restarting with the oplog size you need, measured in MB:

```
$ # Stop mongod - killall mongod or kill -2 or ctrl-c) - then:
$ rm /data/db/local.*
$ mongod --oplog=8038 --master
```

Once you’ve changed the oplog size, restart with slave with --autoresync:

```
mongod --slave --autoresync
```

This method of oplog creation might pose a problem if you need a large oplog (say, > 10GB), since the time it takes mongod to pre-allocate the oplog files may mean too much downtime. If this is the case, read on.

**Manually Allocating OpLog Files**

An alternative approach is to create the oplog files manually before shutting down mongod. Suppose you need an 20GB oplog; here’s how you’d go about creating the files:

1. Create a temporary directory, /tmp/local.
2. You’ll be creating ten 2GB datafiles. Here’s a shell script for doing just that:

   ```
   cd /tmp/local
   for i in {0..9}
   do
     echo $i
     head -c 2146435072 /dev/zero > local.$i
   done
   ```

   Note that the datafiles aren’t exactly 2GB due MongoDB’s max int size.

3. Shut down the mongod master (kill -2) and then replace the oplog files:

   ```
   $ mv /data/db/local.* /safe/place
   $ mv /tmp/local/* /data/db/
   ```

4. Restart the master with the new oplog size:

   ```
   $ mongod --master --oplogSize=20000
   ```

5. Finally, resync the slave. This can be done by shutting down the slave, deleting all its datafiles, and restarting it.

**Sharding**

MongoDB scales horizontally via an auto-sharding architecture.

Sharding offers:

- Scaling out to thousands of nodes
- Easy addition of new machines
- Automatic balancing for changes in load and data distribution
- Zero single points of failure
- Automatic failover

*Sharding will be production-ready in MongoDB v1.6, estimated to be released in Aug 6th, 2010.* *Please see the limitations page for progress updates and current restrictions.*

**Documentation**
1. What Is Sharding?
Here we provide an introduction to MongoDB's auto-sharding, highlighting its philosophy, use cases, and its core components.

2. How To Set Up and Manage a Cluster
How to set up a sharding cluster and manage it.
- Configuration
- Administration
- Failover

3. Sharding Internals
Auto-Sharding implementation details.

4. Restrictions and Limitations
Sharding in the 1.5.x development branch is not yet production-ready. Here you can find out the current limitations and keep track of progress towards the 1.6 production release.

5. FAQ
Common questions.

Presentations and Further Materials
- Sharding Presentation from MongoSF April 2010

Sharding Introduction
MongoDB supports an automated sharding architecture, enabling horizontal scaling across multiple nodes. For applications that outgrow the resources of a single database server, MongoDB can convert to a sharded cluster, automatically managing failover and balancing of nodes, with few or no changes to the original application code.

This document explains MongoDB's auto-sharding approach to scalability in detail and provides an architectural overview of the various components that enable it.

Since auto-sharding as of the 1.5.x branch is still alpha, be sure to acquaint yourself with the current limitations.

- MongoDB's Auto-Sharding
  - Sharding in a Nutshell
  - Balancing and Failover
  - Scaling Model
- Architectural Overview
  - Shards
  - Shard Keys
  - Chunks
  - Config Servers
  - Routing Processes
  - Operation Types
  - Server Layout
  - Configuration

MongoDB's Auto-Sharding

Sharding in a Nutshell
Sharding is the partitioning of data among multiple machines in an order-preserving manner. To take an example, let's imagine sharding a collection of users by their state of residence. If we designate three machines as our shard servers, the first of those machines might contain users from Alaska to Kansas, the second from Kentucky to New York, and the third from North Carolina to Wyoming.

Our application connects to the sharded cluster through a mongos process, which routes operations to the appropriate shard(s). In this way, the sharded MongoDB cluster continues to look like a single-node database system to our application. But the system's capacity is greatly enhanced. If our users collection receives heavy writes, those writes are now distributed across three shard servers. Queries continue to be efficient, as well, because they too are distributed. And since the documents are organized in an order-preserving manner, any operations specifying the state of residence will be routed only to those nodes containing that state.

Sharding occurs on a per-collection basis, not on the database as a whole. This makes sense since, as our application grows, certain collections will grow much larger than others. For instance, if we were building a service like Twitter, our collection of tweets would likely be several orders of magnitude larger than the next biggest collection. The size and throughput demands of such a collection would be prime for sharding, whereas smaller collections would still live on a single server. In the context on MongoDB's sharded architecture, non-sharded collections will reside on just one of the shards.

Balancing and Failover
A sharded architecture needs to handle balancing and failover. Balancing is necessary when the load on any one shard node grows out of proportion with the remaining nodes. In this situation, the data must be redistributed to equalize load across shards. A good portion of the work being applied to the 1.5.x branch is devoted to auto-balancing.

Automated failover is also quite important since proper system functioning requires that each shard node be always online. In practice, this means that each shard consists of more than one machine in a configuration known as a replica set. A replica set is a set of \( n \) servers, frequently three or more, each of which contains a replica of the entire data set for the given shard. One of the \( n \) servers in a replica set will always be master. If the master replica fails, the remaining replicas are capable of electing a new master. Thus is automated failover provided for the individual shard.

Replica sets are another focus of development in 1.5.x. See the documentation on replica sets for more details.

**Scaling Model**

MongoDB's auto-sharding scaling model shares many similarities with Yahoo's PNUTS and Google's BigTable. Readers interested in detailed discussions of distributed databases using order-preserving partitioning are encouraged to look at the PNUTS and BigTable white papers.

**Architectural Overview**

A MongoDB shard cluster consists of two or more shards, one or more config servers, and any number of routing processes to which the application servers connect. Each of these components is described below in detail.

![Shard Architecture Diagram]

**Shards**

Each shard consists of one or more servers and stores data using `mongod` processes (\texttt{mongod} being the core MongoDB database process). In a production situation, each shard will consist of multiple replicated servers per shard to ensure availability and automated failover. The set of servers/\texttt{mongod} process within the shard comprise a replica set.

Replica sets, as discussed earlier, represent an improved version of MongoDB's replication (SERVER-557).

For testing, you can use sharding with a single \texttt{mongod} instance per shard. If you need redundancy, use one or more slaves for each shard's \texttt{mongod} master. This configuration will require manual failover until replica sets become available.

**Shard Keys**

To partition a collection, we specify a shard key pattern. This pattern is similar to the key pattern used to define an index; it names one or more fields to define the key upon which we distribute data. Some example shard key patterns include the following:
MongoDB's sharding is order-preserving; adjacent data by shard key tends to be on the same server. The config database stores all the metadata indicating the location of data by range:

```
{ state : 1 }
{ name : 1 }
{ _id : 1 }
{ lastname : 1, firstname : 1 }
{ tag : 1, timestamp : -1 }
```

Chunks

A chunk is a contiguous range of data from a particular collection. Chunks are described as a triple of `collection, minKey, maxKey`. Thus, the shard key \(K\) of a given document assigns that document to the chunk where \(minKey \leq K < maxKey\).

Chunks grow to a maximum size, usually 200MB. Once a chunk has reached that approximate size, the chunk splits into two new chunks. When a particular shard has excess data, chunks will then migrate to other shards in the system. The addition of a new shard will also influence the migration of chunks.

When choosing a shard key, keep in mind that these values should be granular enough to ensure an even distribution of data. For instance, in the above example, where we're sharding on `name`, we have to be careful that we don't have a disproportionate number of users with the same name. In that case, the individual chunk can become too large and find itself unable to split, e.g., where the entire range comprises just a single key.

Thus, if it's possible that a single value within the shard key range might grow exceptionally large, it's best to use a compound shard key instead so that further discrimination of the values will be possible.

Config Servers

The config servers store the cluster's metadata, which includes basic information on each shard server and the chunks contained therein.

Chunk information is the main data stored by the config servers. Each config server has a complete copy of all chunk information. A two-phase commit is used to ensure the consistency of the configuration data among the config servers.

If any of the config servers is down, the cluster's meta-data goes read only. However, even in such a failure state, the MongoDB cluster can still be read from and written to.

Routing Processes

The `mongos` process can be thought of as a routing and coordination process that makes the various components of the cluster look like a single system. When receiving client requests, the `mongos` process routes the request to the appropriate server(s) and merges any results to be sent back to the client.

`mongos` processes have no persistent state; rather, they pull their state from the config server on startup. Any changes that occur on the the config servers are propagated to each `mongos` process.

`mongos` processes can run on any server desired. They may be run on the shard servers themselves, but are lightweight enough to exist on each application server. There are no limits on the number of `mongos` processes that can be run simultaneously since these processes do not coordinate between one another.

Operation Types

Operations on a sharded system fall into one of two categories: `global` and `targeted`.

For targeted operations, `mongos` communicates with a very small number of shards -- often a single shard. Such targeted operations are quite efficient.

Global operations involve the `mongos` process reaching out to all (or most) shards in the system.
The following table shows various operations and their type. For the examples below, assume a shard key of `{ x : 1 }.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operation</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find( { x : 300 } )</code></td>
<td>Targeted</td>
<td>Queries a single shard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find( { x : 300, age : 40 } )</code></td>
<td>Targeted</td>
<td>Queries a single shard.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find( { age : 40 } )</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>Queries all shards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find()</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>sequential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find(...).count()</code></td>
<td>Variable</td>
<td>Same as the corresponding find() operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find(...).sort( { age : 1 } )</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>parallel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.find(...).sort( { x : 1 } )</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>sequential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.count()</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td>parallel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.insert( &lt;object&gt; )</code></td>
<td>Targeted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.update( { x : 100 }, &lt;object&gt; )</code></td>
<td>Targeted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.remove( { x : 100 } )</code></td>
<td>Targeted</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.update( { age : 40 }, &lt;object&gt; )</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.remove( { age : 40 } )</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.getLastError()</code></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>db.foo.ensureIndex(...)</code></td>
<td>Global</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Server Layout**

Machines may be organized in a variety of fashions. For instance, it's possible to have separate machines for each config server process, `mongos`, `process`, and `process`. However, this can be overkill since the load is almost certainly low on the config servers. Here, then, is an example where some sharing of physical machines is used to lay out a cluster.
Yet more configurations are imaginable, especially when it comes to *mongos*. For example, it's possible to run *mongos* processes on all of servers 1-6. Alternatively, as suggested earlier, the *mongos* processes can exists on each application server (server 7). There is some potential benefit to this configuration, as the communications between app server and *mongos* then can occur over the localhost interface.

**Configuration**

Sharding becomes a bit easier to understand once you've set it up. It's even possible to set up a sharded cluster on a single machine. To try it for yourself, see the configuration docs.

**Configuring Sharding**

**Introduction**

This document describes the steps involved in setting up a basic sharding cluster. A sharding cluster requires, at minimum, three components:

1. Two or more shards.
2. At least one config server.
3. A *mongos* routing process.

For testing purposes, it's possible to start all the required processes on a single server, whereas in a production situation, a number of server configurations are possible.

Once the shards, config servers, and *mongos* processes are running, configuration is simply a matter of issuing a series of commands to establish the various shards as being part of the cluster. Once the cluster has been established, you can begin sharding individual collections.

This document is fairly detailed; if you're the kind of person who prefers a terse, code-only explanation, see the sample shard configuration. If you'd like a quick script to set up a test cluster on a single machine, we have a python sharding script that can do the trick.

- Introduction
- 1. Sharding Components
  - Shard Servers
  - Config Servers
  - *mongos* Router
1. Sharding Components

First, start the individual shards, config servers, and mongos processes.

Shard Servers

Run mongod on the shard servers. Use the --shardsvr command line parameter to indicate this mongod is a shard. For auto failover support, replica sets will be required. See replica sets for more info.

Note that replica pairs will never be supported as shards.

To get started with a simple test, we recommend running a single mongod process per shard, as a test configuration doesn't demand automated failover.

Config Servers

Run mongod on the config server(s) with the --configsvr command line parameter. If the config servers are running on a shared machine, be sure to provide a separate dbpath for the config data (--dbpath command line parameter).

mongo Router

Run mongos on the servers of your choice. Specify the --configdb parameter to indicate location of the config database(s).

2. Configuring the Shard Cluster

Once the shard components are running, issue the sharding commands. You may want to automate or record your steps below in a .js file for replay in the shell when needed.

Start by connecting to one of the mongos processes, and then switch to the admin database before issuing any commands.

Keep in mind that once these commands are run, the configuration data will be persisted to the config servers. So, regardless of the number of mongos processes you've launched, you'll only need run these commands on one of those processes.

You can connect to the admin database via mongos like so:

```
./mongo <mongos-hostname>:<mongos-port>/admin
> db
admin
```

Adding shards

Each shard can consist of more than one server (see replica sets); however, for testing, only a single server with one mongod instance need be used.

You must explicitly add each shard to the cluster's configuration using the addshard command:

```
> db.runCommand( { addshard : "<serverhostname>[::<port>]" } );
"ok" : 1 , "added" : ...}
```

Run this command once for each shard in the cluster.

If the individual shards consist of pairs or sets of servers, their hosts and ports can be specified by comma-separating the server[<port>] names in the addshard command (alpha 3 and beyond).

Optional Parameters

name
Each shard has a name, which can be specified using the name option. If no name is given, one will be assigned automatically.

maxSize
The addshard command accepts an optional maxSize parameter. This parameter lets you tell the system a maximum amount of disk space in
megabytes to use on the specified shard. If unspecified, the system will use the entire disk. maxSize is useful when you have machines with
different disk capacities or when you want to prevent storage of too much data on a particular shard.

As an example:

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { addshard : "sf103", maxSize:100000 } );
```

**Listing shards**

To see current set of configured shards, run the listshards command:

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { listshards : 1 } );
```

This way, you can verify that all the shard have been committed to the system.

**Removing a shard**

Before a shard can be removed, we have to make sure that all the chunks and databases that once lived there were relocated to other shards.
The 'removeshard' command takes care of "draining" the chunks out of a shard for us. To start the shard removal, you can issue the command

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { removeshard : } );
```

That will put the shard in "draining mode". Its chunks are going to be moved away slowly over time, so not to cause any disturbance to a running system. The command will return right away but the draining task will continue on the background. If you issue the command again during it, you'll get a progress report instead:

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { removeshard : } );
```

Whereas the chunks will be removed automatically from that shard, the databases hosted there will need to be moved manually. (This has to do with a current limitation that will go away eventually):

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { moveprimary : "test", to : "localhost:10001" } );
```

When the shard is empty, you could issue the 'removeshard' command again and that will clean up all metadata information:

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { removeshard : "localhost:10000" } );
```

After the 'removeshard' command reported being done with that shard, you can take that process down.

**Enabling Sharding on a Database**

Once you've added the various shards, you can enable sharding on a database. This is an important step; without it, all collection in the database will be stored on the same shard.

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { enablesharding : "<dbname>" } );
```

Once enabled, mongos will place different collections for the database on different shards, with the caveat that each collection will still exists on one shard only. To enable real partitioning of data, we have to shard an individual collection.

**3. Sharding a Collection**

Use the shardcollection command to shard a collection. When you shard a collection, you must specify the shard key, for which an index will be automatically created.
For example, let's assume we want to shard a GridFS chunks collection stored in the test database. We'd want to shard on the files_id key, so we'd invoke the shardcollection command like so:

```javascript
> db.runCommand( { shardcollection : "test.fs.chunks", key : { files_id : 1 } } )
```

One note: a sharded collection can have only one unique index, which must exist on the shard key. No other unique indexes can exist on the collection.

Of course, a unique shard key wouldn't make sense on the GridFS chunks collection. But it'd be practically a necessity for a user's collection sharded on email address:

```javascript
db.runCommand( { shardcollection : "test.users", key : { email : 1 }, unique : true } );
```

Relevant Examples and Docs

Examples

- Sample configuration session
- The following example shows how to run a simple shard setup on a single machine for testing purposes: Sharding JS Test.

Docs

- Sharding Administration
- Notes on TCP Port Numbers

A Sample Configuration Session

The following example uses two shards (one server each), one config db, and one mongos process, all running on a single test server. In addition to the script below, a python script for starting and configuring shard components on a single machine is available.

Creating the Shards

First, start up a couple _mongod_s to be your shards.

```
$ mkdir /data/db/a /data/db/b
$ ./mongod --shardsvr --dbpath /data/db/a --port 10000 > /tmp/sharda.log &
$ cat /tmp/sharda.log
$ ./mongod --shardsvr --dbpath /data/db/b --port 10001 > /tmp/shardb.log &
$ cat /tmp/shardb.log
```

Now you need a configuration server and mongos:

```
$ mkdir /data/db/config
$ ./mongod --configsvr --dbpath /data/db/config --port 20000 > /tmp/configdb.log &
$ cat /tmp/configdb.log
$ ./mongod --configsvr --dbpath /data/db/config --port 20001 > /tmp/shardb.log &
$ cat /tmp/shardb.log
```

_mongos_ does not require a data directory, it gets its information from the config server.

You can toy with sharding by using a small --chunkSize, e.g. 1MB. This is more satisfying when you're playing around, as you won't have to insert 200MB of documents before you start seeing them moving around. It should not be used in production.

```
$ ./mongos --configdb localhost:20000 --chunkSize 1 > /tmp/mongos.log &
```
Setting up the Cluster

We need to run a few commands on the shell to hook everything up. Start the shell, connecting to the `mongos` process (at localhost:27017 if you followed the steps above).

To set up our cluster, we'll add the two shards (`a` and `b`).

```
$ ./mongo
MongoDB shell version: 1.6.0
connecting to: test
> use admin
switched to db admin
> db.runCommand( { addshard : "localhost:10000" } )
{ "shardadded" : "shard0000", "ok" : 1 }
> db.runCommand( { addshard : "localhost:10001" } )
{ "shardadded" : "shard0001", "ok" : 1 }
```

Now you need to tell the database that you want to spread out your data at a database and collection level. You have to give the collection a key (or keys) to partition by. This is similar to creating an index on a collection.

```
> db.runCommand( { enablesharding : "test" } )
{"ok" : 1}
> db.runCommand( { shardcollection : "test.people", key : {name : 1} } )
{"ok" : 1}
```

Administration

To see what's going on in the cluster, use the `config` database.

```
> use config
switched to db config
> show collections
chunks
databases
lockpings
locks
mongos
settings
shards
system.indexes
version
```

These collections contain all of the sharding configuration information.

Upgrading from a Non-Sharded System

A `mongod` process can become part of a sharded cluster without any change to that process or downtime. If you haven't done so yet, feel free to have a look at the Sharding Introduction to familiarize yourself with the components of a sharded cluster and at the Sample Configuration Session to get to know the basic commands involved.

⚠️ Sharding is a new feature introduced at the 1.6.0 release. This page assumes your non-sharded `mongod` is on that release.

Adding the `mongod` process to a cluster

If you haven't changed the `mongod` default port, it would be using port 27017. You care about this now because a mongo shell will always try to connect to it by default. But in a sharded environment, you want your shell to connect to a `mongos` instead.

If the port 27017 is taken by a `mongod` process, you'd need to bring up the `mongos` in a different port. Assuming that port is 30000 you can
connect your shell to it by issuing:

```
$ mongo <mongos-host-address>:30000/admin
```

We're switching directly to the `admin` database on the mongos process. That's where we will be able to issue the following command:

```
> db.runCommand( { addshard : "192.168.25.203:27017" } )
```

The host address and port you see on the command are the original mongod's. All the databases of that process were added to the cluster and are accessible now through mongos.

```
> db.runCommand( { listdatabases : 1 } )
```

Note that that doesn't mean that the database or any of its collections is sharded. They haven't moved (see next). All we did so far is to make them visible within the cluster environment.

You should stop accessing the former stand-alone mongod directly and should have all the clients connect to a mongos process, just as we've been doing here.

**Sharding a collection**

All the databases of your mongod-process-turned-shard can be chunked and balanced among the cluster's shards. The commands and examples to do so are listed at the Configuring Sharding page. Note that a chunk size defaults to 200MB in version 1.6.0, so if you want to change that – for testing purposes, say – you would do so by starting the mongos process with the additional --chunkSize parameter.

**Difference between upgrading and starting anew**

You should pay attention to the host addresses and ports when upgrading, is all. Again, if you haven't changed the default ports of your mongod process, it would be listening on 27017, which is the port that mongos would try to bind by default, too.

**Sharding Administration**

Here we present a list of useful commands for obtaining information about a sharding cluster.

To set up a sharding cluster, see the docs on sharding configuration.

- Identifying a Shard Cluster
- List Existing Shards
- List Which Databases are Sharded
- View Sharding Details
- Chunk Operations

**Identifying a Shard Cluster**
// Test if we're speaking to a mongos process or if straight to a mongod process
> db.runCommand({ isdbgrid : 1 });

// if connected to mongos, this command returns { ismaster: 0.0, msg: "isdbgrid" }
> db.runCommand({ismaster:1});

List Existing Shards

> db.runCommand({ listshards : 1 });
{
  "servers" :
    [ { "_id" : ObjectId("4a9d40c981ba1487ccfaa634"), "host" : "localhost:10000" },
      { "_id" : ObjectId("4a9d40df81ba1487ccfaa635"), "host" : "localhost:10001" } ],
  "ok" : 1
}

List Which Databases are Sharded

Here we query the config database, albeit through mongo. The getSiblingDB command is used to return the config database.

> config = db.getSisterDB("config")
> config.system.namespaces.find()

View Sharding Details

> use admin
> db.printShardingStatus();

// A very basic sharding configuration on localhost
sharding version: { "_id" : 1, "version" : 2 }
shards:
    { "_id" : ObjectId("4bd9ae3e0a2e26420e556876"), "host" : "localhost:30001" }
    { "_id" : ObjectId("4bd9ae420a2e26420e556877"), "host" : "localhost:30002" }
    { "_id" : ObjectId("4bd9ae460a2e26420e556878"), "host" : "localhost:30003" }
databases:
    { "name" : "admin", "partitioned" : false,
      "primary" : "localhost:20001",
      "_id" : ObjectId("4bd9add2c0302e394c6844b6") }
my chunks
    { "name" : "foo", "partitioned" : true,
      "primary" : "localhost:30002",
      "sharded" : { "foo.foo" : { "key" : { "_id" : 1 }, "unique" : false } },
      "_id" : ObjectId("4bd9ae60c0302e394c6844b7") }
my chunks
foo.foo { "_id" : { $minKey : 1 } } -->> { "_id" : { $maxKey : 1 } }
on : localhost:30002 { "t" : 1272557259000, "i" : 1 }

Notice the output to the printShardingStatus command. First, we see the locations the three shards comprising the cluster. Next, the various databases living on the cluster are displayed.

The first database shown is the admin database, which has not been partitioned. The primary field indicates the location of the database, which, in the case of the admin database, is on the config server running on port 20001.

The second database is partitioned, and it's easy to see the shard key and the location and ranges of chunks comprising the partition. Since there's no data in the foo database, only a single chunk exists. That single chunk includes the entire range of possible shard keys.
Chunk Operations

MongoDB v1.6 will managing the arrangement chunks automatically. However, it may be desirable to move a chunk manually; here's the command to do that:

```javascript
db.runCommand( { movechunk : "test.blog.posts" ,
find : { author : "eliot" } ,
to : "shard1" } )
```

Parameters:
- `movechunk`: a full collection namespace, including the database name
- `find`: a query expression that falls within the chunk to be moved
- `to`: shard id where the chunk will be moved

Sharding and Failover

A properly-configured MongoDB shard cluster will have no single point of failure.

This document describes the various potential failure scenarios of components within a shard cluster, and how failure is handled in each situation.

1. Failure of a *mongos* routing process.

One *mongos* routing process will be run on each application server, and that server will communicate to the cluster exclusively through the *mongos* process. *mongos* process aren't persistent; rather, they gather all necessary config data on startup from the config server.

This means that the failure of any one application server will have no effect on the shard cluster as a whole, and all other application servers will continue to function normally. Recovery is simply a matter starting up a new app server and *mongos* process.

2. Failure of a single *mongod* server within a shard.

Each shard will consist of a group of *n* servers in a configuration known as a replica set. If any one server in the replica set fails, read and write operations on the shard are still permitted. What's more, no data need be lost on the failure of a server because the replica allows an option on write that forces replication of the write before returning. This is similar to setting *W* to 2 on Amazon's Dynamo.

Replica sets will be available as of MongoDB v1.6. Read more about replica set internals or follow the jira issue.

3. Failure of all *mongod* servers comprising a shard.

If all replicas within a shard are down, the data within that shard will be unavailable. However, operations that can be resolved at other shards will continue to work properly. See the documentation on global and targeted operations to see why this is so.

If the shard is configured as a replica set, with at least one member of the set in another data center, then an outage of an ensure shard is extremely unlikely. This will be the recommended configuration for maximum redundancy.

4. Failure of a config server.

A production shard cluster will have three config server processes, each existing on a separate machine. Writes to config servers use a two-phase commit to ensure an atomic and replicated transaction of the shard cluster’s metadata.

On the failure of any one config server, the system’s metadata becomes read-only. The system will continue to function, but chunks will be unable to split within a single shard or migrate across shards. For most use cases, this will present few problems, since changes to the chunk metadata will be infrequent.

That said, it will be important that the down config server be restored in a reasonable time period (say, a day) so that shards do not become unbalanced due to lack of migrates (again, for many production situations, this may not be an urgent matter).

Sharding Limits

Sharding Alpha 2 (MongoDB v1.1)

- Work is still underway on replication/failover. For Alpha 2, please use a single mongod master per shard (and manual slaves if desired). Replica sets, which are intended for use with sharding, are coming: SERVER-557.
- `group()` is not supported in alpha 2. In generally, we recommend using the `map/reduce` facility in sharded environments.
- Sharding must be ran in trusted security mode, without explicit security.
Shard Keys

- Shard keys are immutable in the current version.
- Compound shard keys are not yet supported, but will be in the future.

Differences from Unsharded Configurations

Sharded databases behave differently in certain circumstances from a standalone, single-server mongod instance.

$where

$where works with sharding. However do not reference the db object from the $where function (one normally does not do this anyway).

db.eval

db.eval() may not be used with sharded collections. However, you may use db.eval() if the evaluation function accesses unsharded collections within your database. Use map/reduce in sharded environments.

getPrevError

getPrevError is unsupported for sharded databases, and may remain so in future releases (TBD).

Unique Indexes

For a sharded collection, you may only (optionally) specify a unique constraint on the shard key. Other secondary indexes work (via a global operation) as long as no unique constraint is specified.

Counts

Count is supported with sharding; however, a "count all in collection" will not be instantaneous for a sharded collection as it is for an unsharded collection.

Scale Limits

Goal is support of systems of up to 1,000 shards. Testing for Alpha 2 will be limited to clusters with a modest number of shards (e.g., 20). More information will be reported here later on any scaling limitations which are encountered.

MongoDB sharding supports two styles of operations -- targeted and global. On giant systems, global operations will be of less applicability.

Sharding Internals

This section includes internal implementation details for MongoDB auto sharding. See also the main sharding documentation.

Note: some internals docs could be out of date -- if you see that let us know so we can fix.

Internals

- Moving Chunks
- Sharding Config Schema
- Sharding Design
- Sharding Use Cases
- Shard Ownership
- Splitting Chunks

Unit Tests

```
./mongo --nodb jstests/sharding/*js
```

Moving Chunks

- inc version
- try to set on from
- if set is successful, have it "locked"
- start transfer
- finish transfer
- commit result

max version for a shard is MAX( chunks on shard )
this poses slight problem when moving last chunk off of a shard, so add a special marker

**Sharding Config Schema**

Sharding configuration schema. This lives in the config servers.

**Collections**

**version**

This is a singleton that contains the current meta-data version number.

```
> db.getCollection("version").findOne()
{ ".id" : 1, "version" : 2 }
```

**settings**

Key/Value table for configurable options (chunkSize)

```
> db.settings.find()
{ ".id" : "chunksize", "value" : 200 }
{ ".id" : "balancer", "who" : "ubuntu:27017", "x" : ObjectId("4bd0cb39503139ae28630ee9") }
```

**shards**

Stores information about the shards.

```
> db.shards.findOne()
{ ".id" : "shard0", "host" : "localhost:30001" }
```

**databases**

```
{
  ".id" : "admin",
  "partitioned" : false,
  "primary" : "localhost:20001"
}
```

**chunks**

```
{
  ".id" : "test.foo-x_MinKey",
  "lastmod" : {
    "t" : 1271946858000,
    "i" : 1
  },
  "ns" : "test.foo",
  "min" : {
    "x" : { $minKey : 1 }
  },
  "max" : {
    "x" : { $maxKey : 1 }
  },
  "shard" : "localhost:30002"
}
```

**mongos**

Record of all mongos affiliated with this cluster. mongos will ping every 30 seconds so we know who is alive.
> db.mongos.findOne()
{
"_id": "erh-wd1:27017",
"ping": "Fri Apr 23 2010 11:08:39 GMT-0400 (EST)",
"up": 30
}

changelog

Human readable log of all meta-data changes. Capped collection that defaults to 10mb.

> db.changelog.findOne()
{
"_id": "erh-wd1-2010-3-21-17-24-0",
"server": "erh-wd1",
"time": "Wed Apr 21 2010 13:24:24 GMT-0400 (EST)",
"what": "split",
"ns": "test.foo",
"details": {
"before": {
"min": {
"x": { $minKey : 1 }
},
"max": {
"x": { $maxKey : 1 }
}
},
"left": {
"min": {
"x": { $minKey : 1 }
},
"max": {
"x": 5
}
},
"right": {
"min": {
"x": 5
},
"max": {
"x": { $maxKey : 1 }
}
}
}

Changes

2 (<= 1.5.0) -> 3 (1.5.1)
- shards: _id is now the name
- databases: _id is now the db name
- general: all references to a shard can be via name or host

Sharding Design

concepts
- config database - the top level database that stores information about servers and where things live.
- shard. this can be either a single server or a replica pair.
- database - one top level namespace. a database can be partitioned or not
• chunk - a region of data from a particular collection. A chunk can be though of as (collectionname,fieldname,lowvalue,highvalue). The range is inclusive on the low end and exclusive on the high end, i.e., [lowvalue,highvalue).

components and database collections

• config database
  • config.servers - this contains all of the servers that the system has. These are logical servers. So for a replica pair, the entry would be 192.168.0.10,192.168.0.11
  • config.databases - all of the databases known to the system. This contains the primary server for a database, and information about whether its partitioned or not.
    • config.shards - a list of all database shards. Each shard is a db pair, each of which runs a db process.
    • config.homes - specifies which shard is home for a given client db.
• shard databases
  • client.system.chunklocations - the home shard for a given client db contains a client.system.chunklocations collection. This collection lists where to find particular chunks; that is, it maps chunk->shard.
• mongos process
  • "routes" request to proper db's, and performs merges. can have a couple per system, or can have 1 per client server.
  • gets chunk locations from the client db's home shard. load lazily to avoid using too much mem.
    • chunk information is cached by mongos. This information can be stale at a mongos (it is always up to date at the owning shard; you cannot migrate an item if the owning shard is down). If so, the shard contacted will tell us so and we can then retry to the proper location.

db operations

• moveprimary - move a database's primary server
• migrate - migrate a chunk from one machine to another.
  • lock and migrate
  • shard db's coordinate with home shard to atomically pass over ownership of the chunk (two phase commit)
• split - split a chunk that is growing too large into pieces. as the two new chunks are on the same machine after the split, this is really just a metadata update and very fast.
• reconfiguration operations
  • add shard - dbgrid processes should lazy load information on a new (unknown) shard when encountered.
  • retire shard - in background gradually migrate all chunks off

minimizing lock time

If a chunk is migrating and is 50MB, that might take 5-10 seconds which is too long for the chunk to be locked.

We could perform the migrate much like Cloner works, where we copy the objects and then apply all operations that happened during copying. This way lock time is minimal.

Sharding Use Cases

What specific use cases do we want to address with db partitioning (and other techniques) that are challenging to scale? List here for discussion.

• video site (e.g., youtube) (also, GridFS scale-up)
  • seems straightforward: partition by video for related videos feature, see search below
• social networking (e.g., facebook)
  • this can be quite hard to partition, because it is difficult to cluster people.
• very high RPS sites with small datasets
  • N replicas, instead of partitioning, might help here
    • replicas only work if the dataset is really small as we are using/wasting the same RAM on each replica. thus, partitioning might help us with ram cache efficiency even if entire data set fits on one or two drives.
• twitter
• search & tagging

Log Processing

Use cases related to map-reduce like things.

• massive sort
• top N queries per day
• compare data from two nonadjacent time periods

Shard Ownership

By shard ownership we mean which server owns a particular key range.

Early draft/thoughts will change:
Contract

- the master copy of the ownership information is in the config database
- mongos instances have cached info on which server owns a shard. this information may be stale.
- mongod instances have definitive information on who owns a shard (atomic with the config db) when they know about a shards ownership

mongod

The mongod processes maintain a cache of shards the mongod instance owns:

map<ShardKey, state> ownership

State values are as follows:

- missing - no element in the map means no information available. In such a situation we should query the config database to get the state.
- 1 - this instance owns the shard
- 0 - this instance does not own the shard (indicates we queried the config database and found another owner, and remembered that fact)

Initial Assignment of a region to a node.

This is trivial: add the configuration to the config db. As the ShardKey is new, no nodes have any cached information.

Splitting a Key Range

The mongod instance A which owns the range R breaks it into R1,R2 which are still owned by it. It updates the config db. We take care to handle the config db crashing or being unreachable on the split:

lock(R) on A
update the config db -- ideally atomically perhaps with eval(). await return code.
ownership[R].erase
unlock(R) on A

After the above the cache has no information on the R,R1,R2 ownerships, and will requery configdb on the next request. If the config db crashed and failed to apply the operation, we are still consistent.

Migrate ownership of keyrange R from server A->B. We assume here that B is the coordinator of the job:

lock(R) on A
lock(R) on A and B
B copies any additional operations from A (fast)
clear ownership maps for R on A and B. B waits for a response from A on this operation.
B then updates the ownership data in the config db. (Perhaps even fsyncing.) await return code.
unlock(R) on B
delete R on A (cleanup)
unlock (R) on A

We clear the ownership maps first. That way, if the config db update fails, nothing bad happens, IF mongos filters data upon receipt for being in the correct ranges (or in its query parameters).

R stays locked on A for the cleanup work, but as that shard no longer owns the range, this is not an issue even if slow. It stays locked for that operation in case the shard were to quickly migrate back.

Migrating Empty Shards

Typically we migrate a shard after a split. After certain split scenarios, a shard may be empty but we want to migrate it.

Splitting Chunks

For chunk [lowbound,highbound)->shard, there are two types of splits we can perform. In one case, we split the range such that both new chunks have about the same number of values, in another, we split the range but one of the new chunk is almost empty.

When at least one bound is MinKey or MaxKey, we choose a split strategy such that most existing values remain in one chunk. For example:
chunk \([\text{MinKey}, \text{MaxKey})\) values \{1, 5, 9, 12\}
becomes
chunk \([\text{MinKey}, 12)\) values \{1, 5, 9\}
chunk \([12, \text{MaxKey})\) values \{12\}

whereas
chunk \([0, 15)\) values \{1, 5, 9, 12\}
becomes
chunk \([0, 9)\) values \{1, 5\}
chunk \([9, 15)\) values \{9, 12\}

This approach is more efficient when items are added in key order because migrating the top or bottom chunk can be done cheaply.

**Sharding FAQ**

- How does sharding work with replication?
- Where do unsharded collections go if sharding is enabled for a database?
- When will data be on more than one shard?
- What happens if I try to update a document on a chunk that is being migrated?
- What if a shard is down or slow and I do a query?
- How do queries distribute across shards?
- Now that I sharded my collection, how do I \(<\ldots\) (e.g. drop it)?
- If I don't shard on \(\_\_id\) how is it kept unique?

How does sharding work with replication?

Each shard is a logical collection of partitioned data. The shard could consist of a single server or a cluster of replicas. Typically in production one would use a replica set for each shard.

Where do unsharded collections go if sharding is enabled for a database?

In alpha 2 unsharded data goes to the “primary” for the database specified (query config.database to see details). Future versions will parcel out unsharded collections to different shards (that is, a collection could be on any shard, but will be on only a single shard if unsharded).

When will data be on more than one shard?

MongoDB sharding is range based. So all the objects in a collection get put into a chunk. Only when there is more than 1 chunk is there an option for multiple shards to get data. Right now, the chunk size is 50mb, so you need at least 50mb for a migration to occur.

What happens if I try to update a document on a chunk that is being migrated?

The update will go through immediately on the old shard, and then the change will be replicated to the new shard before ownership transfers.

What if a shard is down or slow and I do a query?

If a shard is down, the query will return an error. If a shard is responding slowly, mongos will wait for it. You won't get partial results.

How do queries distribute across shards?

There are a few different cases to consider, depending on the query keys and the sort keys. Suppose 3 distinct attributes, X, Y, and Z, where X is the shard key. A query that keys on X and sorts on X will translate straightforwardly to a series of queries against successive shards in X-order. A query that keys on X and sorts on Y will execute in parallel on the appropriate shards, and perform a merge sort keyed on Y of the documents found. A query that keys on Y must run on all shards: if the query sorts by X, the query will serialize over shards in X-order; if the query sorts by Z, the query will parallelize over shards and perform a merge sort keyed on Z of the documents found.

Now that I sharded my collection, how do I \(<\ldots\) (e.g. drop it)?

Even if chunked, your data is still part of a collection and so all the collection commands apply.

If I don't shard on \(\_\_id\) how is it kept unique?

If you don't use \(\_\_id\) as the shard key then it is your responsibility to keep the \(\_\_id\) unique. If you have duplicate \(\_\_id\) values in your collection **bad things will happen** (as mstearn says).

**Hosting Center**

**Cloud-Style**
• MongoHQ provides cloud-style hosted MongoDB instances
• Mongo Machine is currently in private beta

Dedicated Servers
• ServerBeach offers preconfigured, dedicated MongoDB servers
• EngineYard supports MongoDB on its private cloud.

VPS
• (mt) Media Temple's (ve) server platform is an excellent choice for easy MongoDB deployment.
• Dreamhost offers instant configuration and deployment of MongoDB.
• LOCUM Hosting House is a project-oriented shared hosting and VDS. MongoDB is available for all customers as a part of their subscription plan.

Setup Instructions for Others
• Amazon EC2
• Joyent
• Linode
• Webfaction

Amazon EC2
• Instance Types
• Linux
• EC2 TCP Port Management
• EBS Snapshooting
• EBS vs. Local Drives

MongoDB runs well on Amazon EC2. This page includes some notes in this regard.

Instance Types
MongoDB works on most EC2 types including Linux and Windows. We recommend you use a 64 bit instance as this is required for all MongoDB databases of significant size. Additionally, we find that the larger instances tend to be on the freshest ec2 hardware.

Linux
One can download a binary or build from source. Generally it is easier to download a binary. We can download and run the binary without being root. For example on 64 bit Linux:

```sh
[~]$ curl --o http://downloads.mongodb.org/linux/mongodb-linux-x86_64-1.0.1.tgz
[~]$ tar -xzf mongodb-linux-x86_64-1.0.1.tgz
[~]$ cd mongodb-linux-x86_64-1.0.1/bin
[bin]$ ./mongod --version
```

Before running the database one should decide where to put datafiles. Run df -h to see volumes. On some images /mnt will be the many locally attached storage volume. Alternatively you may want to use Elastic Block Store which will have a different mount point. Regardless, create a directory in the desired location and then run the database:

```
mkdir /mnt/db
./mongod --fork --logpath ~/mongod.log --dbpath /mnt/db/
```

EC2 TCP Port Management
By default the database will now be listening on port 27017. The web administrative UI will be on port 28017.

**EBS Snapshotting**

If your datafiles are on an EBS volume, you can snapshot them for backups. Use the fsync lock command to lock the database to prevent writes. Then, snapshot the volume. Then use the unlock command to allow writes to the database again. See the fsync documentation for more information.

This method may also be used with slave databases.

**EBS vs. Local Drives**

Local drives may be faster than EBS; however, they are impermanent. One strategy is to have a hot server which uses local drives and a slave which uses EBS for storage.

We have seen sequential read rates by MongoDB from ebs (unstriped) of 400Mbps on an extra large instance box. (YMMV)

**Joyent**

The prebuilt MongoDB Solaris 64 binaries work with Joyent accelerators.

Some newer gcc libraries are required to run -- see sample setup session below.

```bash
$ # assuming a 64 bit accelerator
$ /usr/bin/isainfo -kv
64-bit amd64 kernel modules

$ # get mongodb
$ # note this is 'latest' you may want a different version
$ curl -O http://downloads.mongodb.org/sunos5/mongodb-sunos5-x86_64-latest.tgz
$ gzip -d mongodb-sunos5-x86_64-latest.tgz
$ tar -xf mongodb-sunos5-x86_64-latest.tar
$ mv "mongodb-sunos5-x86_64-2009-10-26" mongo

$ cd mongo

$ # get extra libraries we need (else you will get a libstdc++.so.6 dependency issue)
$ gzip -d mongo-extra-64.tgz
$ tar -xf mongo-extra-64.tar
$ # just as an example - you will really probably want to put these somewhere better:
$ export LD_LIBRARY_PATH=mongo-extra-64
$ bin/mongod --help
```

**Monitoring and Diagnostics**

- Query Profiler
- Http Console
- db.serverStatus() from mongo shell
- Trending/Monitoring Adaptors
- Database Record/Replay
- Checking Server Memory Usage
- Database Profiler
- Http Interface
- mongostat
- mongosniff

**Admin Uls**

**Query Profiler**
Use the Database Profiler to analyze slow queries.

Http Console

The mongod process includes a simple diagnostic screen at http://localhost:28017/. See the Http Interface docs for more information.

db.serverStatus() from mongo shell

```
> db.stats()
> db.serverStatus()
> db.foo.find().explain()
> help
> db.help()
> db.foo.help()
```

Server Status Fields

- globalLock - totalTime & lockTime are total microseconds since startup that there has been a write lock
- mem - current usage in megabytes
- indexCounters - counters since startup, may rollover
- opcounters - operation counters since startup
- asserts - assert counters since startup

Trending/Monitoring Adaptors

- munin, and another munin
- ganglia
- scout app slow queries
- cacti

Chris Lea from (mt) Media Temple has made an easy to install Ubuntu package for the munin plugin.

Database Record/Replay

Recording database operations, and replaying them later, is sometimes a good way to reproduce certain problems in a controlled environment.

To enable logging:

```
db._adminCommand( { diagLogging : 1 } )
```

To disable:

```
db._adminCommand( { diagLogging : 0 } )
```

Values for diagLogging:

- 0 off. Also flushes any pending data to the file.
- 1 log writes
- 2 log reads
- 3 log both

Note: if you log reads, it will record the findOnes above and if you replay them, that will have an effect!

Output is written to diaglog.bin_ in the /data/db/ directory (unless --dbpath is specified).

To replay the logged events:

```
nc ''database_server_ip'' 27017 < ''someLog.bin'' | hexdump -c
```

Checking Server Memory Usage

Checking using DB Commands

The serverStatus() command provides memory usage information.
Checking via Unix Commands

`mongod` uses memory-mapped files; thus the memory stats in top are not that useful. On a large database, virtual bytes/VSIZE will tend to be the size of the entire database, and if the server doesn’t have other processes running, resident bytes/RSIZE will be the total memory of the machine (as this counts file system cache contents).

`vmstat` can be useful. Try running `vmstat 2`. On OS X, use `vm_stat`.

Checking in Windows

Help, any Windows admin experts out there? What should be here?

Historical Memory Leak Bugs (that are fixed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>FixVersion</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SERVER-768</td>
<td>1.3.4</td>
<td>Memory leak and high memory usage from snapshots thread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SERVER-774</td>
<td></td>
<td>MessagingPorts are leaking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Database Profiler

Mongo includes a profiling tool to analyze the performance of database operations.

See also the `currentOp` command.

Enabling Profiling

To enable profiling, from the `mongo` shell invoke:

```
> db.setProfilingLevel(2);
{ "was" : 0 , "ok" : 1 }
> db.getProfilingLevel()
2
```

Profiling levels are:

- 0: off
- 1: log slow operations (>100ms)
- 2: log all operations

Starting in 1.3.0, you can also enable on the command line, `--profile=1`

⚠️ When profiling is enabling, there is continual writing to the `system.profile` table. This is very fast but does use a write lock which has certain implications for concurrency.

Viewing

Profiling data is recorded in the database's `system.profile` collection. Query that collection to see the results.

```
> db.system.profile.find()
```

To see output without `$cmd` (command) operations, invoke:

```
> db.system.profile.find()
```
To view operations for a particular collection:

```javascript
> db.system.profile.find( { info: /test.foo/ } )
{
  "ts": "Thu Jan 29 2009 15:19:40 GMT-0500 (EST)",
  "info": "insert test.foo",
  "millis": 0
}
```

To view operations slower than a certain number of milliseconds:

```javascript
> db.system.profile.find( { millis : { $gt : 5 } } )
{
  "ts": "Thu Jan 29 2009 15:21:27 GMT-0500 (EST)",
  "info": "query test.foo exception",
  "millis": 88
}
```

To see newest information first:

```
db.system.profile.find().sort({$natural:-1})
```

The mongo shell includes a helper to see the most recent 5 profiled events that took at least 1ms to execute. Type show profile at the command prompt to use this feature.

**Understanding the Output**

The output reports the following values:

- **ts**: Timestamp of the profiled operation.
- **millis**: Time, in milliseconds, to perform the operation.
- **info**: Details on the operation.
- **query**: A database query operation. The query info field includes several additional terms:
  - **ntoreturn**: Number of objects the client requested for return from a query. For example, `<code>findOne()`</code> sets ntoreturn to 1. `<code>limit()`</code> sets the appropriate limit. Zero indicates no limit.
  - **query**: Details of the query spec.
  - **nscanned**: Number of objects scanned in executing the operation.
  - **reslen**: Query result length in bytes.
  - **nreturned**: Number of objects returned from query.
- **update**: A database update operation. `<code>save()`</code> calls generate either an update or insert operation.
  - **fastmod**: Indicates a fast modify operation. See Updates. These operations are normally quite fast.
  - **fastmodinsert**: Indicates a fast modify operation that performed an upsert.
  - **upsert**: Indicates an upsert performed.
  - **moved**: Indicates the update moved the object on disk (not updated in place). This is slower than an in place update, and normally occurs when an object grows.
- **insert**: A database insert.
- **getmore**: For large queries, the database initially returns partial information. getmore indicates a call to retrieve further information.

**Optimizing Query Performance**

- If `nscanned` is much higher than `nreturned`, the database is scanning many objects to find the target objects. Consider creating an index to improve this.
- A large number of bytes returned (hundreds of kilobytes or more) causes slow performance. Consider passing `<code>find()`</code> a second parameter of the member names you require.

**Note**: There is a cost for each index you create. The index causes disk writes on each insert and some updates to the collection. If a rare query, it may be better to let the query be "slow" and not create an index. When a query is common relative to the number of saves to the collection, you will want to create the index.

**Optimizing Update Performance**
Examine the `nscanned` info field. If it is a very large value, the database is scanning a large number of objects to find the object to update. Consider creating an index if updates are a high-frequency operation.

Use fast modify operations when possible (and usually with these, an index). See Updates.

**Profiler Performance**

When enabled, profiling affects performance, although not severely.

Profile data is stored in the database's `system.profile` collection, which is a Capped Collection. By default it is set to a very small size and thus only includes recent operations.

**Configuring "Slow"**

Since 1.3.0 there are 2 ways to configure "slow"

- `--slowms` on the command line when starting mongod (or file config)
- `db.setProfilingLevel( level , slowms )`

```javascript
const level = 1, slowms = 10;
db.setProfilingLevel( level , slowms );
```

will log all queries over 10ms to system.profile

**See Also**

- Optimization
- `explain()`
- Viewing and Terminating Current Operation

**Http Interface**

- REST Interfaces
  - Sleepy Mongoose (Python)
  - MongoDB Rest (Node.js)
- HTTP Console
  - HTTP Console Security
  - Simple REST Interface
    - `JSON in the simple REST interface`
- See Also

**REST Interfaces**

**Sleepy Mongoose (Python)**

Sleepy Mongoose is a full featured REST interface for MongoDB which is available as a separate project.

**MongoDB Rest (Node.js)**

MongoDB Rest is an alpha REST interface to MongoDB, which uses the MongoDB Node Native driver.

**HTTP Console**

MongoDB provides a simple http interface listing information of interest to administrators. This interface may be accessed at the port with numeric value 1000 more than the configured mongod port; the default port for the http interface is 28017. To access the http interface an administrator may, for example, point a browser to `http://localhost:28017` if mongod is running with the default port on the local machine.
Here is a description of the informational elements of the http interface:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>element</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>db version</td>
<td>database version information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>git hash</td>
<td>database version developer tag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sys info</td>
<td>mongod compilation environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dblocked</td>
<td>indicates whether the primary mongod mutex is held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uptime</td>
<td>time since this mongod instance was started</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assertions</td>
<td>any software assertions that have been raised by this mongod instance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>replInfo</td>
<td>information about replication configuration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>currentOp</td>
<td>most recent client request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># databases</td>
<td>number of databases that have been accessed by this mongod instance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>curclient</td>
<td>last database accessed by this mongod instance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cursors</td>
<td>describes outstanding client cursors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>master</td>
<td>whether this mongod instance has been designated a master</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slave</td>
<td>whether this mongod instance has been designated a slave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>initialSyncCompleted</td>
<td>whether this slave or repl pair node has completed an initial clone of the mongod instance it is replicating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBTOP</td>
<td>Displays the total time the mongod instance has devoted to each listed collection, as well as the percentage of available time devoted to each listed collection recently and the number of reads, writes, and total calls made recently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dt</td>
<td>Timing information about the primary mongod mutex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**HTTP Console Security**

If security is configured for a mongod instance, authentication is required for a client to access the http interface from another machine.
Simple REST Interface

The mongod process includes a simple read-only REST interface for convenience. For full REST capabilities we recommend using an external tool such as Sleepy.Mongoose.

Note: in v1.3.4+ of MongoDB, this interface is disabled by default. Use --rest on the command line to enable.

To get the contents of a collection (note the trailing slash):

```
http://127.0.0.1:28017/databaseName/collectionName/
```

To add a limit:

```
http://127.0.0.1:28017/databaseName/collectionName/?limit=-10
```

To skip:

```
http://127.0.0.1:28017/databaseName/collectionName/?skip=5
```

To query for \{a : 1\}:

```
http://127.0.0.1:28017/databaseName/collectionName/?filter_a=1
```

Separate conditions with an &:

```
http://127.0.0.1:28017/databaseName/collectionName/?filter_a=1&limit=-10
```

JSON in the simple REST Interface

The simple ReST interface uses strict JSON (as opposed to the shell, which uses Dates, regular expressions, etc.). To display non-JSON types, the web interface wraps them in objects and uses the key for the type. For example:

```json
# ObjectIds just become strings
"_id" : "4a8acf6e7fbadc242de5b4f3"

# dates
"date" : { "$date" : 1250609897802 }

# regular expressions
"match" : { "$regex" : "foo", "$options" : "ig" }
```

The code type has not been implemented yet and causes the DB to crash if you try to display it in the browser.

See Mongo Extended JSON for details.

See Also

- Replica Set Admin UI
- Diagnostic Tools

mongostat

Use the mongostat utility to quickly view statistics on a running mongod instance.

⚠️ Starting in 1.3.3; this output is from 1.5.5
### Fields:
- **inserts/s**: # of inserts per second
- **query/s**: # of queries per second
- **update/s**: # of updates per second
- **delete/s**: # of deletes per second
- **getmore/s**: # of get mores (cursor batch) per second
- **command/s**: # of commands per second
- **flushes/s**: # of fsync flushes per second
- **mapped**: amount of data mmaped (total data size) megabytes
- **vsize**: virtual size of process in megabytes
- **res**: resident size of process in megabytes
- **faults/s**: # of pages faults/sec (Linux only)
- **locked**: percent of time in global write lock
- **idx miss**: percent of btree page misses (sampled)
- **q t|r|w**: lock queue lengths (total|read|write)
- **conn**: number of open connections

### mongosniff

Unix releases of MongoDB include a utility called mongosniff. This utility is to MongoDB what tcpdump is to TCP/IP; that is, fairly low level and for complex situations. The tool is quite useful for authors of driver tools.

```sh
$ ./mongosniff --help
Usage: mongosniff [--help] [--forward host:port] [--source (NET <interface> | FILE <filename>)] [<port0> <port1> ...]

--forward Forward all parsed request messages to mongod instance at specified host:port
--source Source of traffic to sniff, either a network interface or a file containing perviously captured packets, in pcap format. If no source is specified, mongosniff will attempt to sniff from one of the machine’s network interfaces.

<port0>... These parameters are used to filter sniffing. By default, only port 27017 is sniffed.
--help Print this help message.
```

### Building

mongosniff is including in the binaries for Unix distributions. The MongoDB SConstruct only builds mongosniff if libpcap is installed.

```sh
sudo yum install libpcap-devel
scons mongosniff
```

### Backups
Several strategies exist for backing up MongoDB databases. A word of warning: it's not safe to back up the mongod data files (by default in /data/db/) while the database is running and writes are occurring; such a backup may turn out to be corrupt. See the fsync option below for a way around that.

**Fsync, Write Lock and Backup**

MongoDB v1.3.1 and higher supports an fsync and lock command with which we can flush writes, lock the database to prevent writing, and then backup the datafiles.

While in this locked mode, all writes will block. If this is a problem consider one of the other methods below.

For example, you could use LVM2 to create a snapshot after the fsync+lock, and then use that snapshot to do an offsite backup in the background. This means that the server will only be locked while the snapshot is taken. Don't forget to unlock after the backup/snapshot is taken.

**Shutdown and Backup**

A simple approach is just to stop the database, back up the data files, and resume. This is safe but of course requires downtime.

**Exports**

The mongodump utility may be used to dump an entire database, even when the database is running and active. The dump can then be restored later if needed.

**Slave Backup**

Another good technique for backups is replication to a slave database. The slave polls master continuously and thus always has a nearly-up-to-date copy of master.

We then have several options for backing up the slave:

1. Fsync, write lock, and backup the slave.
2. Shut it down, backup, and restart.
3. Export from the slave.

For methods 1 and 2, after the backup the slave will resume replication, applying any changes made to master in the meantime.

Using a slave is advantageous because we then always have backup database machine ready in case master fails (failover). But a slave also gives us the chance to back up the full data set without affecting the performance of the master database.

**Community Stuff**

- [http://github.com/micahwedeemeyer/automongobackup](http://github.com/micahwedeemeyer/automongobackup)

### How to do Snapshotted Queries in the Mongo Database

This document refers to query snapshots. For backup snapshots of the database's datafiles, see the fsync lock page.

MongoDB does not support full point-in-time snapshotting. However, some functionality is available which is detailed below.

**Cursors**

A MongoDB query returns data as well as a cursor ID for additional lookups, should more data exist. Drivers lazily perform a "getMore" operation as needed on the cursor to get more data. Cursors may have latent getMore accesses that occurs after an intervening write operation on the database collection (i.e., an insert, update, or delete).

Conceptually, a cursor has a current position. If you delete the item at the current position, the cursor automatically skips its current position forward to the next item.

MongoDB cursors do not provide a snapshot: if other write operations occur during the life of your cursor, it is unspecified if your application will see the results of those operations. In fact, it is even possible (although unlikely) to see the same object returned twice if the object were updated and grew in size (and thus moved in the datafile). To assure no update duplications, use snapshot() mode (see below).
Snapshot Mode

snapshot() mode assures that objects which update during the lifetime of a query are returned once and only once. This is most important when doing a find-and-update loop that changes the size of documents that are returned ($inc does not change size).

```javascript
> // mongo shell example
> var cursor = db.myCollection.find({country:'uk'}).snapshot();
```

Even with snapshot mode, items inserted or deleted during the query may or may not be returned; that is, this mode is not a true point-in-time snapshot.

Because snapshot mode traverses the _id index, it may not be used with sorting or explicit hints. It also cannot use any other index for the query.

You can get the same effect as snapshot by using any unique index on a field(s) that will not be modified (probably best to use explicit hint() too). If you want to use a non-unique index (such as creation time), you can make it unique by appending _id to the index at creation time.

Import Export Tools

- **mongoimport**
- **mongoexport**
- **mongodump**
  - Example: Dumping Everything
  - Example: Dumping a Single Collection
  - Example: Dumping a Single Collection to Stdout
- **mongorestore**
- **bsondump**

If you just want to do Clone Database from one server to another you don’t need these tools.

These tool just work with the raw data (the documents in the collection); they do not save, or load, the metadata like the defined indexes or (capped) collection properties. You will need to (re)create those yourself in a separate step, before loading that data. Vote here to change this.

**mongoimport**

This utility takes a single file that contains 1 JSON/CSV/TSV string per line and inserts it. You have to specify a database and a collection.

**options:**

- `-h` | `--help` produce help message
- `-v` | `--verbose` be more verbose (include multiple times for more verbosity e.g. -vvvv)
- `-h` | `--host` arg mongo host to connect to ("left,right" for pairs)
- `-d` | `--db` arg database to use
- `-c` | `--collection` arg collection to use (some commands)
- `-u` | `--username` arg username
- `-p` | `--password` arg password
- `--dbpath` arg directly access mongod data files in the given path, instead of connecting to a mongod instance - needs to lock the data directory, so cannot be used if a mongod is currently accessing the same path
- `--directoryperdb` if dbpath specified, each db is in a separate directory
- `-f` | `--fields` arg comma separated list of field names e.g. -f name,age
- `--fieldFile` arg file with fields names - 1 per line
- `--ignoreBlanks` if given, empty fields in csv and tsv will be ignored
- `--type arg` type of file to import. default: json (json, csv, tsv)
- `--file arg` file to import from; if not specified stdin is used
- `--drop` drop collection first
- `--headerline` CSV, TSV only - use first line as headers

**mongoexport**

This utility takes a database and a collection and produces a file that contains 1 JSON/CSV/TSV string per line. You have to specify a database and a collection.

**options:**

- `-h` | `--help` produce help message
- `-v` | `--verbose` be more verbose (include multiple times for more verbosity e.g. -vvvv)
- `-h` | `--host` arg mongo host to connect to ("left,right" for pairs)
- `-d` | `--db` arg database to use
- `-c` | `--collection` arg collection to use (some commands)
- `-u` | `--username` arg username
- `-p` | `--password` arg password
- `--dbpath` arg directly access mongod data files in the given path, instead of connecting to a mongod instance - needs to lock the data directory, so cannot be used if a mongod is currently accessing the same path
- `--directoryperdb` if dbpath specified, each db is in a separate directory
- `-f` | `--fields` arg comma separated list of field names e.g. -f name,age
- `--fieldFile` arg file with fields names - 1 per line
- `--ignoreBlanks` if given, empty fields in csv and tsv will be ignored
- `--type arg` type of file to export. default: json (json, csv, tsv)
- `--file arg` file to export to; if not specified stdout is used
- `--drop` drop collection first
- `--headerline` CSV, TSV only - use first line as headers
This utility takes a collection and exports to either JSON or CSV. You can specify a filter for the query, or a list of fields to output.

Neither JSON nor TSV/CSV can represent all data types. Please be careful not to lose or change data (types) when using this. For full fidelity please use mongodump.

If you want to output CSV, you have to specify the fields in the order you want them.

Example

```
options:
- --help  produce help message
- v | --verbose | be more verbose (include multiple times for more
  verbosity e.g. --vvvv)
- h | --host | mongo host to connect to ("left,right" for pairs)
- d | --db | database to use
- c | --collection | collection to use (some commands)
- u | --username | username
- p | --password | password
- dbpath arg  directly access mongod data files in the given path,
  instead of connecting to a mongod instance - needs to
  lock the data directory, so cannot be used if a
  mongod is currently accessing the same path
- directoryperdb | if dbpath specified, each db is in a separate
  directory
- q | --query | query filter, as a JSON string
- f | --fields | comma seperated list of field names e.g. -f name,age
- csv | export to csv instead of json
- o | --out | output file; if not specified, stdout is used
```

**mongodump**

This takes a database and outputs it in a binary representation. This is mostly used for doing hot backups of a database.

If you’re using sharding and try to migrate data this way, this will dump shard configuration information and overwrite configurations upon restore.

```
options:
- --help  produce help message
- v | --verbose | be more verbose (include multiple times for more
  verbosity e.g. --vvvv)
- h | --host | mongo host to connect to ("left,right" for pairs)
- d | --db | database to use
- c | --collection | collection to use (some commands)
- u | --username | username
- p | --password | password
- dbpath arg  directly access mongod data files in the given path,
  instead of connecting to a mongod instance - needs to
  lock the data directory, so cannot be used if a
  mongod is currently accessing the same path
- directoryperdb | if dbpath specified, each db is in a separate
  directory
- o | --out | output directory
```

Example: Dumping Everything

To dump all of the collections in all of the databases, run `mongodump` with just the `--host:`
$ ./mongodump --host prod.example.com
connected to: prod.example.com
all dbs
DATABASE: log to dump/log
  log.errors to dump/log/errors.bson 713 objects
  log.analytics to dump/log/analytics.bson 234810 objects
DATABASE: blog to dump/blog
  blog.posts to dump/blog/posts.bson 59 objects
DATABASE: admin to dump/admin

You'll then have a folder called “dump” in your current directory.

If you're running mongod locally on the default port, you can just do:

$ ./mongodump

Example: Dumping a Single Collection

If we just want to dump a single collection, we can specify it and get a single .bson file.

$ ./mongodump --db blog --collection posts
connected to: 127.0.0.1
DATABASE: blog to dump/blog
  blog.posts to dump/blog/posts.bson 59 objects

Example: Dumping a Single Collection to Stdout

In version 1.7.0+, you can use stdout instead of a file by specifying --out stdout:

$ ./mongodump --db blog --collection posts --out stdout > blogposts.bson

mongodump creates a file for each database collection, so we can only dump one collection at a time to stdout.

mongorestore

This takes the output from mongodump and restores it.
usage: ./mongorestore [options] [directory or filename to restore from]

options:
--help                  produce help message
-v | --verbose          be more verbose (include multiple times for more
                       verbosity e.g. -vvvvv)
-h | --host arg          mongo host to connect to {"left,right" for pairs)
-d | --db arg            database to use
-c | --collection arg    collection to use (some commands)
-u | --username arg      username
-p | --password arg      password
--dbpath arg            directly access mongod data files in the given path,
                        instead of connecting to a mongod instance - needs to
                        lock the data directory, so cannot be used if a
                        mongod is currently accessing the same path
--directoryperdb        if dbpath specified, each db is in a separate
                        directory
--drop                  drop each collection before import
--objcheck              validate object before inserting

bsondump

This takes a bson file and converts it to json/debug output.

usage: ./bsondump [options] [filename]

options:
--help                  produce help message
--type arg (=json)      type of output: json,debug

Durability and Repair

- Single Server Durability
- Repair Command
- Validate Command
- --syncdelay Command Line Option
- See Also

Single Server Durability

The v1.8 release of MongoDB will have single server durability. You can follow the Jira here: http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-980.

We recommend using replication to keep copies of data for now – and likely forever – as a single server could fail catastrophically regardless.

Repair Command

There is a bug with repair and replica sets in MongoDB v1.6.0. Please see this Jira for information: http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER-1614. Do NOT run repair without reading this first. This bug applies to 1.6.0 only. Will be fixed in 1.6.1. In the meantime there are workarounds.

After a machine crash or or kill -9 termination, consider running the repairDatabase command. This command will check all data for corruption, remove any corruption found, and compact data files a bit.

In the event of a hard crash, we recommend running a repair – analogous to running fsck. If a slave crashes, another option is just to restart the slave from scratch.

From the command line:
From the shell (you have to do for all dbs including local if you go this route):

```
> db.repairDatabase();
```

During a repair operation, `mongod` must store temporary files to disk. By default, `mongod` creates temporary directories under the dbpath for this purpose. Alternatively, the `--repairpath` command line option can be used to specify a base directory for temporary repair files.

Note that repair is a slow operation which inspects the entire database.

If the databases exited uncleanly and you attempt to restart the database, `mongod` will print:

```
**************
old lock file: /data/db/mongod.lock. probably means unclean shutdown
recommend removing file and running --repair
see: http://dochub.mongodb.org/core/repair for more information
*************
```

Then it will exit. After running with `--repair`, `mongod` will start up normally.

**Validate Command**

Alternatively one could restart and run the `validate` command on select tables. The `validate` command checks if the contents of a collection are valid.

For example, here we validate the `users` collection:

```
> db.users.validate();
{
    "ns" : "test.users",
    "result" : " validate
details: 0x1243dbbdc of:740bdc
firstExtent:0:178b00 ns:test.users
lastExtent:0:178b00 ns:test.users
# extents:1
datasize?:44 nrecords?:1 lastExtentSize:8192
padding:1
first extent:
    loc:0:178b00 xnext:null xprev:null
nsdiag:test.users
size:8192 firstRecord:0:178bb0 lastRecord:0:178bb0
1 objects found, nobj:1
60 bytes data w/headers
44 bytes data wout/headers
deletedList: 0000000010000000000
deleted: n: 1 size: 7956
nIndexes:2
test.users.$_id_ keys:1
    test.users.$username_1 keys:1 ",
"ok" : 1,
"valid" : true,
"lastExtentSize" : 8192
}
```

**--syncdelay Command Line Option**

Since 1.1.4, the `--syncdelay` option controls how often changes are flushed to disk (the default is 60 seconds). If replication is not being used, it may be desirable to reduce this default.

**See Also**
Security and Authentication

Running Without Security (Trusted Environment)

This is the default option and is recommended.

One valid way to run the Mongo database is in a trusted environment, with no security and authentication (much like how one would use, say, memcached). Of course, in such a configuration, one must be sure only trusted machines can access database TCP ports.

The current versions of sharding and replica sets requires trusted (nonsecure) mode.

Mongo Security

The current version of Mongo supports only very basic security. One authenticates a username and password in the context of a particular database. Once authenticated, a normal user has full read and write access to the database in question while a read only user only has read access.

The `admin` database is special. In addition to several commands that are administrative being possible only on `admin`, authentication on `admin` gives one read and write access to all databases on the server. Effectively, `admin` access means root access to the server process.

Run the database (`mongod` process) with the `--auth` option to enable security. You must either have added a user to the `admin` db before starting the server with `--auth`, or add the first user from the localhost interface.

Configuring Authentication and Security

Authentication is stored in each database's `system.users` collection. For example, on a database `projectx`, `projectx.system.users` will contain user information.

We should first configure an administrator user for the entire db server process. This user is stored under the special `admin` database.

If no users are configured in `admin.system.users`, one may access the database from the localhost interface without authenticating. Thus, from the server running the database (and thus on localhost), run the database shell and configure an administrative user:

```
$ ./mongo
> use admin
> db.addUser("theadmin", "anadminpassword")
```

We now have a user created for database `admin`. Note that if we have not previously authenticated, we now must if we wish to perform further operations, as there is a user in `admin.system.users`.

```
> db.auth("theadmin", "anadminpassword")
```

We can view existing users for the database with the command:

```
> db.system.users.find()
```

Now, let's configure a "regular" user for another database.

```
> use projectx
> db.addUser("joe", "passwordForJoe")
```

Finally, let's add a readonly user. (only supported in 1.3.2+)

```
```
Changing Passwords

The shell `addUser` command may also be used to update a password: if the user already exists, the password simply updates.

Many Mongo drivers provide a helper function equivalent to the db shell's `addUser` method.

Deleting Users

To delete a user:

```javascript
db.system.users.remove( { user: username } )
```

Admin UIs

Several administrative user interfaces, or GUIs, are available for MongoDB. Tim Gourley's blog has a good summary of the tools.

- Fang of Mongo
- Futon4Mongo
- Mongo3
- MongoHub
- MongoVUE
- Mongui
- Myngo
- Opricot
- PHPMoAdmin
- RockMongo
- The built-in replica set admin UI

Details

Fang of Mongo

A web-based user interface for MongoDB build with django and jquery.

It will allow you to explore content of mongodb with simple but (hopefully) pleasant user interface.

Features:
- field name autocompletion in query builder
- data loading indicator
- human friendly collection stats
- disabling collection windows when there is no collection selected
- twitter stream plugin
- many more minor usability fixes
- works well on recent chrome and firefox

See it in action at: http://blueone.pl:8001/fangofmongo/
Get it from github: http://github.com/Fiedzia/Fang-of-Mongo
Or track progress on twitter: @fangofmongo

MongoHub

MongoHub is a native OS X GUI.

MongoVUE

MongoVUE is a .NET GUI for MongoDB.
Opricot

Opricot is a hybrid GUI/CLI/Scripting web frontend implemented in PHP to manage your MongoDB servers and databases. Use as a point-and-click adventure for basic tasks, utilize scripting for automated processing or repetitive things.

Opricot combines the following components to create a fully featured administration tool:

- An interactive console that allows you to either work with the database through the UI, or by using custom Javascript.
- A set of simple commands that wrap the Javascript driver, and provide an easy way to complete the most common tasks.
- Javascript driver for Mongo that works on the browser and talks with the AJAX interface.
- Simple server-side AJAX interface for communicating with the MongoDB server (currently available for PHP).

PHPMoAdmin

PHPMoAdmin is a MongoDB administration tool for PHP built on a stripped-down version of the Vork high-performance framework.

- Nothing to configure - place the moadmin.php file anywhere on your web site and it just works!
- Fast AJAX-based XHTML 1.1 interface operates consistently in every browser!
- Self-contained in a single 95kb file!
- Works on any version of PHP5 with the MongoDB NoSQL database installed & running.
- Super flexible - search for exact-text, text with * wildcards, regex or JSON (with Mongo-operators enabled)
- Option to enable password-protect-fore one or more users; to activate protection, just add the username-password(s) to the array at the top of the file.
- E_STRICT PHP code is formatted to the Zend Framework coding standards + fully-documented in the phpDocumentor DocBlock standard.
- Textareas can be resized by dragging/stretching the lower-right corner.
- Free & open-source! Release under the GPLv3 FOSS license!
- Option to query MongoDB using JSON or PHP-array syntax
- Multiple design themes to choose from
- Instructional error messages - phpMoAdmin can be used as a PHP-Mongo connection debugging tool

PHPMoAdmin can help you discover the source of connection issues between PHP and Mongo. Download phpMoAdmin, place the moadmin.php file in your web site document directory and navigate to it in a browser. One of two things will happen:

- You will see an error message explaining why PHP and Mongo cannot connect and what you need to do to fix it.
- You will see a bunch of Mongo-related options, including a selection of databases (by default, the "admin" and "local" databases always exist) - if this is the case your installation was successful and your problem is within the PHP code that you are using to access MongoDB, troubleshoot that from the Mongo docs on php.net
RockMongo

RockMongo is a MongoDB management tool, written in PHP 5.

Main features:

- easy to install, and open source
- multiple hosts, and multiple administrators for one host
- password protection
- query dbs
- advanced collection query tool
- read, insert, update, duplicate and remove single row
- query, create and drop indexes
- clear collection
- remove and change (only work in higher php_mongo version) criteria matched rows
- view collection statistics

Starting and Stopping Mongo

**Starting Mongo**
• Default Data Directory, Default Port
• Alternate Data Directory, Default Port
• Alternate Port
• Running as a Daemon

• Stopping Mongo
  • Control-C
  • Sending shutdownServer() message from the mongo shell
  • Sending a Unix INT or TERM signal

• Memory Usage

MongoDB is run as a standard program from the command line. Please see Command Line Parameters for more information on those options.

The following examples assume that you are in the directory where the Mongo executable is, and the Mongo executable is called mongod.

Starting Mongo

Default Data Directory, Default Port

To start Mongo in default mode, where data will be stored in the /data/db directory (or c:\data\db on Windows), and listening on port 27017, just type

```
$ ./mongod
```

Alternate Data Directory, Default Port

To specify a directory for Mongo to store files, use the --dbpath option:

```
$ ./mongod --dbpath /var/lib/mongodb/
```

Note that you must create the directory and set its permissions appropriately ahead of time -- Mongo will not create the directory if it doesn't exist.

Alternate Port

You can specify a different port for Mongo to listen on for connections from clients using the --port option

```
$ ./mongod --port 12345
```

This is useful if you want to run more than one instance of Mongo on a machine (e.g., for running a master-slave pair).

Running as a Daemon

Note: these options are only available in MongoDB version 1.1 and later.

This will fork the Mongo server and redirect its output to a logfile. As with --dbpath, you must create the log path yourself, Mongo will not create parent directories for you.

```
$ ./mongod --fork --logpath /var/log/mongodb.log --logappend
```

Stopping Mongo

Control-C

If you have mongo running in the foreground in a terminal, you can simply "Ctrl-C" the process. This will cause Mongo to do a clean exit, flushing and closing it's data files. Note that it will wait until all ongoing operations are complete.

Sending shutdownServer() message from the mongo shell

The shell can request that the server terminate.

```
$ ./mongo
> db.shutdownServer()
```
This command only works from localhost, or, if one is authenticated.

From a driver (where the helper function may not exist), one can run the command

```json
{ "shutdown" : 1 }
```

**Sending a Unix INT or TERM signal**

You can cleanly stop mongod using a SIGINT or SIGTERM signal on Unix-like systems. Either ^C, "kill -2 PID," or kill -15 PID will work.

Sending a KILL signal kill -9 will probably cause damage as mongod will not be able to cleanly exit. (In such a scenario, run the repairDatabase command.)

After a unclean shutdown, MongoDB will say it was not shutdown cleanly, and ask you to do a repair. This is absolutely not the same as corruption, this is MongoDB saying it can't 100% verify what's going on, and to be paranoid, run a repair.

**Memory Usage**

Mongo uses memory mapped files to access data, which results in large numbers being displayed in tools like top for the mongod process. This is not a concern, and is normal when using memory-mapped files. Basically, the size of mapped data is shown in the virtual size parameter, and resident bytes shows how much data is being cached in RAM.

You can get a feel for the "inherent" memory footprint of Mongo by starting it fresh, with no connections, with an empty /data/db directory and looking at the resident bytes. (Running with --nojni option will result in even lower core memory usage.)

**Logging**

MongoDB outputs some important information to stdout while its running. There are a number of things you can do to control this

**Command Line Options**

- `-q` - less verbose output
- `-v` - more verbose output. use more v's (such as -vvvvv) for higher levels of verbosity
- `-logpath <file>` output to file instead of stdout
  - if you use logpath, you can rotate the logs by either running the logRotate command (1.3.4+) or sending SIGUSR1

```
> db.runCommand("logRotate");
```

**Command Line Parameters**

MongoDB can be configured via command line parameters in addition to File Based Configuration. You can see the currently supported set of command line options by running the database with `-h [ --help ]` as a single parameter:

```
$ ./mongod --help
```

Information on usage of these parameters can be found in Starting and Stopping Mongo.

The following list of options is not complete; for the complete list see the usage information as described above.

**Basic Options**

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<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>Shows all options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>-f</code></td>
<td>Specify a configuration file to use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>--config &lt;file&gt;</code></td>
<td>Specifies the port number on which Mongo will listen for client connections. Default is 27017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>--port &lt;portno&gt;</code></td>
<td>Specifies the directory for datafiles. Default is /data/db or c:\data\db</td>
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<td><code>--dbpath &lt;path&gt;</code></td>
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<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
--bind_ip <ip>  Specifies a single IP that the database server will listen for

--directoryperdb  Specify use of an alternative directory structure, in which files for each database are kept in a unique directory. (since 1.3.2)

--quiet  Reduces amount of log output

--nohttpinterface  Disable the HTTP interface (localhost:27018)

--rest  Allow extended operations at the HTTP Interface

--logpath <file>  File to write logs to (instead of stdout). You can rotate the logs by sending SIGUSR1 to the server.

--logappend  Append to existing log file, instead of overwriting

--repairpath <path>  Root path for temporary files created during database repair. Default is dbpath value.

--cpu  Enables periodic logging of CPU utilization and I/O wait

--noauth  Turns off security. This is currently the default

--auth  Turn on security

-v[v[v[v]]]] | --verbose  Verbose logging output (--vvvv is most verbose, -v == --verbose)

--objcheck  Inspect all client data for validity on receipt (useful for developing drivers)

--quota  Enable db quota management

--diaglog <n>  Set oplogging level where n is 0=off (default) 1=W 2=R 3=both 7=W+some reads

--nocursors  Diagnostic/debugging option

--nohints  Ignore query hints

--noscripting  Turns off server-side scripting. This will result in greatly limited functionality

--notablescan  Turns off table scans. Any query that would do a table scan fails

--noprealloc  Disable data file preallocation

--smallfiles  Use a smaller default file size

--nssize <MB>  Specifies .ns file size for new databases

--sysinfo  Print system info as detected by Mongo and exit

--upgrade  Upgrade database files to new format if necessary (required when upgrading from <= 1.0 to 1.1+)

**Master/Slave Replication Options**

--master  Designate this server as a master in a master-slave setup

--slave  Designate this server as a slave in a master-slave setup

--source <server:port>  Specify the source (master) for a slave instance

--only <db>  Slave only: specify a single database to replicate

--arbiter <server:port>  Address of arbiter server

--autoresync  Automatically resync if slave data is stale

--oplogSize <MB>  Custom size for replication operation log

**Replica Set Options**

--replSet <setname>  Use replica sets with the specified logical set name

--oplogSize <MB>  Custom size for replication operation log
File Based Configuration

In addition to accepting Command Line Parameters, MongoDB can also be configured using a configuration file. A configuration file to use can be specified using the `-f` or `--config` command line options. The following example configuration file demonstrates the syntax to use:

```
# This is an example config file for MongoDB.

dbpath = /var/lib/mongodb
bind_ip = 127.0.0.1
noauth = true # use 'true' for options that don't take an argument
verbose = true # to disable, comment out.
```

Notes

- Lines starting with octothorpes (#) are comments
- Options are case sensitive
- The syntax is assignment of a value to an option name
- All command line options are accepted

GridFS Tools

File Tools

`mongofiles` is a tool for manipulating GridFS from the command line.

Example:

```
$ ./mongofiles list
connected to: 127.0.0.1

$ ./mongofiles put libmongoclient.a
connected to: 127.0.0.1
done!

$ ./mongofiles list
connected to: 127.0.0.1
libmongoclient.a 12000964

$ cd /tmp/

$ ~/work/mon/mongofiles get libmongoclient.a

$ ~/work/mongo/mongofiles get libmongoclient.a
connected to: 127.0.0.1
done write to: libmongoclient.a

$ md5 libmongoclient.a
MD5 (libmongoclient.a) = 23a52d361cfa7bad98099c5bad50dc41

$ md5 ~/work/erh/work/mongo/libmongoclient.a
MD5 (/Users/erh/work/mongo/libmongoclient.a) = 23a52d361cfa7bad98099c5bad50dc41
```

DBA Operations from the Shell

This page lists common DBA-class operations that one might perform from the MongoDB shell.

Note one may also create .js scripts to run in the shell for administrative purposes.
Commands for manipulating and inspecting a collection:
db.foo.drop() drop the collection
db.foo.dropIndex(name)
db.foo.dropIndexes()
db.foo.getIndexes()
db.foo.ensureIndex(keypattern,options) - options object has these possible fields: name, unique, dropDups

db.foo.findIndex(query)   - first parameter is an optional query filter. second parameter is optional set of fields to return. 
e.g. db.foo.findIndex( 
  { x: 77 },
  { name: 1, x: 1 } 
)
db.foo.findIndex(...).count()
db.foo.findIndex(...).limit(n)
db.foo.findIndex(...).skip(n)
db.foo.findIndex(...).sort(...)
db.foo.findOne(query)
db.foo.getDB() get DB object associated with collection
db.foo.count()
db.foo.group( { key : ..., initial: ..., reduce : ...[, cond: ...] } )
db.foo.renameCollection(newName ) renames the collection
db.foo.stats()
db.foo.dataSize()
db.foo.size() - includes free space allocated to this collection
db.foo.totalIndexSize() - size in bytes of all the indexes
db.foo.totalSize() - storage allocated for all data and indexes
db.foo.validate() (slow)
db.foo.insert(obj)
db.foo.update(query, object[, upsert_bool])
db.foo.save(obj)
db.foo.remove(query) - remove objects matching query remove({}) will remove all

Architecture and Components

MongoDB has two primary components to the database server. The first is the mongod process which is the core database server. In many cases, mongod may be used as a self-contained system similar to how one would use mysqld on a server. Separate mongod instances on different machines (and data centers) can replicate from one to another.

Another MongoDB process, mongos, facilitates auto-sharding. mongos can be thought of as a "database router" to make a cluster of mongod processes appear as a single database. See the sharding documentation for more information.

Database Caching

With relational databases, object caching is usually a separate facility (such as memcached), which makes sense as even a RAM page cache hit is a fairly expensive operation with a relational database (joins may be required, and the data must be transformed into an object representation). Further, memcached type solutions are more scaleable than a relational database.

Mongo eliminates the need (in some cases) for a separate object caching layer. Queries that result in file system RAM cache hits are very fast as the object's representation in the database is very close to its representation in application memory. Also, the MongoDB can scale to any level and provides an object cache and database integrated together, which is very helpful as there is no risk of retrieving stale data from the cache. In addition, the complex queries a full DBMS provides are also possible.

Troubleshooting

- Excessive Disk Space
- Too Many Open Files
mongod process "disappeared"

Scenario here is the log ending suddenly with no error or shutdown messages logged.

On Unix, check /var/log/messages:

```
$ grep mongod /var/log/messages
$ grep score /var/log/messages
```

See Also

- Diagnostic Tools

### Excessive Disk Space

You may notice that for a given set of data the MongoDB datafiles in /data/db are larger than the data set inserted into the database. There are several reasons for this.

#### Preallocation

Each datafile is preallocated to a given size. (This is done to prevent file system fragmentation, among other reasons.) The first file for a database is `<dbname>.0`, then `<dbname>.1`, etc. `<dbname>.0` will be 64MB, `<dbname>.1` 128MB, etc., up to 2GB. Once the files reach 2GB in size, each successive file is also 2GB.

Thus if the last datafile present is say, 1GB, that file might be 90% empty if it was recently reached.

Additionally, on Unix, mongod will preallocate an additional datafile in the background and do background initialization of this file. These files are prefilled with zero bytes. This initialization can take up to a minute (less on a fast disk subsystem) for larger datafiles; without prefilling in the background this could result in significant delays when a new file must be prepopulated.

You can disable preallocation with the --noprealloc option to the server. This flag is nice for tests with small datasets where you drop the db after each test. It shouldn't be used on production servers.

For large databases (hundreds of GB or more) this is of no significant consequence as the unallocated space is small.

#### Deleted Space

MongoDB maintains deleted lists of space within the datafiles when objects or collections are deleted. This space is reused but never freed to the operating system.

To compact this space, run `db.repairDatabase()` from the mongo shell (note this operation will block and is slow).

When testing and investigating the size of datafiles, if your data is just test data, use `db.dropDatabase()` to clear all datafiles and start fresh.

#### Checking Size of a Collection

Use the validate command to check the size of a collection -- that is from the shell run:

```
> db.<collectionname>.validate();
```

> // these are faster:
> db.<collectionname>.dataSize(); // just data size for collection
> db.<collectionname>.storageSize(); // allocation size including unused space
> db.<collectionname>.totalSize(); // data + index
> db.<collectionname>.totalIndexSize(); // index data size

This command returns info on the collection data but note there is also data allocated for associated indexes. These can be checked with validate too, if one looks up the index's namespace name in the system.namespaces collection. For example:
Too Many Open Files

If you receive the error "too many open files" or "too many open connections" in the mongod log, there are a couple of possible reasons for this.

First, to check what file descriptors are in use, run lsof (some variations shown below):

```
lsotr | grep mongod
lsotr | grep mongod | grep TCP
lsotr | grep mongod | grep data | wc
```

If most lines include "TCP", there are many open connections from client sockets. If most lines include the name of your data directory, the open files are mostly datafiles.

**ulimit**

If the numbers from lsof look reasonable, check your ulimit settings. The default for file handles (often 1024) might be too low for production usage. Run `ulimit -a` (or `limit -a` depending on shell) to check.

Use `ulimit -n X` to change the max number of file handles to X. If your OS is configured to not allow modifications to that setting you might need to reconfigure first. On ubuntu you'll need to edit `/etc/security/limits.conf` and add a line something like the following (where `user` is the username and `X` is the desired limit):

```
user  hard  nofile  X
```

Upstart uses a different mechanism for setting file descriptor limits - add something like this to your job file:

```
limit nofile X
```

**High TCP Connection Count**

If lsof shows a large number of open TCP sockets, it could be that one or more clients is opening too many connections to the database. Check that your client apps are using connection pooling.
C++ Coding Style

- constructors
- inheritance
- case
- strings
- brackets
- class members
- templates
- namespaces
- start of file
- assertions

**constructors**

*use* `explicit` *when it makes sense*

**inheritance**

- No multiple inheritance.
- Be careful about adding a virtual function as you then have a vtable entry for every object.
- Use `boost::noncopyable` *when it makes sense*.

**case**

Use camelCase for

- most var names
- `--commandLineOptions`
- `{commandNames:1}`

**strings**

See

- `util/mongoutils/str.h`
- `bson/stringdata.h`

Use `startsWith()`, `endsWith()`, not `strstr()`.

Use `<< 'c'` not `<< "c"`.

**brackets**

```c
if ( 0 ) { }
```

**class members**

```c
class Foo {
    int _bar;
};
```
assertions

There are several different types of assertions used in the MongoDB code. In brief:

- `assert` should be used for internal assertions.
- `massert` is an internal assertion with a message.
- `uassert` is used for a user error

Both `massert` and `uassert` take error codes, so that all errors have codes associated with them. These error codes are assigned randomly, so there aren’t segments that have meaning. `scons` checks for duplicates, but if you want the next available code you can run:

```python
python buildscripts/errorcodes.py
```

Project Ideas

If you’re interested in getting involved in the MongoDB community (or the open source community in general) a great way to do so is by starting or contributing to a MongoDB related project. Here we’ve listed some project ideas for you to get started on. For some of these ideas projects are already underway, and for others nothing (that we know of) has been started yet.

A GUI

One feature that is often requested for MongoDB is a GUI, much like CouchDB’s futon or phpMyAdmin. There are a couple of projects working on this sort of thing that are worth checking out:

- [http://github.com/sbellity/futon4mongo](http://github.com/sbellity/futon4mongo)
- [http://www.mongodb.org/display/DOCS/Http+Interface](http://www.mongodb.org/display/DOCS/Http+Interface)
- [http://www.mongohq.com](http://www.mongohq.com)

We've also started to spec out the features that a tool like this should provide.

Try Mongo!

It would be neat to have a web version of the MongoDB Shell that allowed users to interact with a real MongoDB instance (for doing the tutorial, etc). A project that does something similar (using a basic MongoDB emulator) is here:

- [http://github.com/banker/mongulator](http://github.com/banker/mongulator)

Real-time Full Text Search Integration

It would be interesting to try to nicely integrate a search backend like Xapian, Lucene or Sphinx with MongoDB. One idea would be to use MongoDB's oplog (which is used for master-slave replication) to keep the search engine up to date.

GridFS FUSE
There is a project working towards creating a FUSE filesystem on top of GridFS - something like this would create a bunch of interesting potential uses for MongoDB and GridFS:

http://github.com/mikejs/gridfs-fuse

**GridFS Web Server Modules**

There are a couple of modules for different web servers designed to allow serving content directly from GridFS:

Nginx: http://github.com/mdirolf/nginx-gridfs

Lighttpd: http://bitbucket.org/bwmcadams/lighttpd-gridfs

**Framework Adaptors**

Working towards adding MongoDB support to major web frameworks is a great project, and work has been started on this for a variety of different frameworks (please use google to find out if work has already been started for your favorite framework).

**Logging and Session Adaptors**

MongoDB works great for storing logs and session information. There are a couple of projects working on supporting this use case directly.

Logging:
- Python: http://github.com/andreisavu/mongodb-log
- Rails: http://github.com/peburrows/mongo_db_logger

Sessions:
- web.py: http://github.com/whilefalse/webpy-mongodb-sessions
- Beaker: http://pypi.python.org/pypi/mongodb_beaker

**Package Managers**

Add support for installing MongoDB with your favorite package manager and let us know!

**Locale-aware collation / sorting**

MongoDB doesn't yet know how to sort query results in a locale-sensitive way. If you can think up a good way to do it and implement it, we'd like to know!

**Drivers**

If you use an esoteric/new/awesome programming language write a driver to support MongoDB! Again, check google to see what people have started for various languages.

Some that might be nice:

- Scheme (probably starting with PLT)
- GNU R
- Visual Basic
- Lisp (e.g. Common Lisp)
- Delphi
- Falcon

**Write a killer app that uses MongoDB as the persistance layer!**

**UI**

Spec/requirements for a future MongoDB admin UI.

- list databases
  - repair, drop, clone?
- collections
  - validate(), datasize, indexsize, clone/copy
- indexes
- queries - explain() output
- security: view users, adjust
- see replication status of slave and master
- sharding
- system.profile viewer ; enable disable profiling
curop / killop support

## Source Code

All source for MongoDB, its drivers, and tools is open source and hosted at [Github](https://github.com).  

- **Mongo Database** (includes C++ driver)  
- **Python Driver**  
- **PHP Driver**  
- **Ruby Driver**  
- **Java Driver**  
- **Perl Driver**  

(Additionally, community drivers and tools also exist and will be found in other places.)

### See Also

- Building  
- License

## Building

This section provides instructions on setting up your environment to write Mongo drivers or other infrastructure code. For specific instructions, go to the document that corresponds to your setup.

Note: see the [Downloads](https://github.com) page for prebuilt binaries!

Sub-sections of this section:

- Building Boost  
- Building for FreeBSD  
- Building for Linux  
- Building for OS X  
- Building for Solaris  
- Building for Windows  
- Building Spider Monkey  
- scons

### See Also

- The main [Database Internals](https://github.com) page  
- Building with V8

### Building Boost

- **Windows**

MongoDB uses the [www.boost.org](http://www.boost.org) C++ libraries.

#### Windows

See also the [prebuilt libraries](https://github.com) page.

By default `c:\boost\` is checked for the boost files. Include files should be under `\boost\boost`, and libraries in `\boost\lib`.

First download the [boost source](https://github.com). Then use the 7 Zip utility to extra the files. Place the extracted files in `C:\boost`.

Then we will compile the required libraries.

See buildscripts/buildboost.bat and buildscripts/buildboost64.bat for some helpers.
> rem set PATH for compiler:
> "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0\VC\vcvarsall.bat"
> rem build the bjam make tool:
> cd \boost\tools\jam\src\build.bat
> cd \boost
tools\jam\src\bin.ntx86\bjam --help
> rem see also mongo/buildscripts/buildboost*.bat
> rem build DEBUG libraries:
> tools\jam\src\bin.ntx86\bjam variant=debug threading=multi --with-program_options --with-filesystem
> --with-date_time --with-thread
> mkdir lib
> move stage\lib\* lib\

Building for FreeBSD

On FreeBSD 8.0 and later, there is a mongodb port you can use.

For FreeBSD <= 7.2:
2. Update your ports tree:

   $ sudo portsnap fetch && portsnap extract

   The packages that come by default on 7.2 and older are too old, you'll get weird errors when you try to run the database)
3. Install SpiderMonkey:

   $ cd /usr/ports/lang/spidermonkey && make && make install

4. Install scons:

   $ cd /usr/ports/devel/scons && make && make install

5. Install boost: (it will pop up an X "GUI", select PYTHON)

   $ cd /usr/ports/devel/boost-all && make && make install

6. Install libexecinfo:

   $ cd /usr/ports/devel/libexecinfo && make && make install

7. Change to the database source directory
8. scons

See Also

- Building for Linux - many of the details there including how to clone from git apply here too.

Building for Linux

- General Instructions
- Special Notes about Spider Monkey
- Package Requirements
  - Fedora
    - Fedora 8 or 10
    - Ubuntu
  - Ubuntu 8.04
General Instructions

1. Install Dependencies - see platform specific below
2. Get source

```bash
# git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo.git
# pick a stable version unless doing true dev
# Switch to a stable branch (unless doing development) --
# an even second number indicates "stable". (Although with
# stharding you will want the latest if the latest is less
# than 1.6.0.) For example:
git checkout r1.4.1
```

3. Build

```bash
scons all
```

4. Install

```bash
scons --prefix=/opt/mongo install
```

Special Notes about Spider Monkey

Most pre-built spider monkey binaries don’t have UTF8 compiled in. Additionally, ubuntu has a weird version of spider monkey that doesn’t support everything we use. If you get any warnings during compile time or runtime, we highly recommend building spider monkey from source.

We currently support spider monkey 1.6 and 1.7, although there is some degradation with 1.6, so we recommend using 1.7. We have not yet tested 1.8, but will once it is officially released.

Package Requirements

**Fedora**

**Fedora 8 or 10**

```bash
sudo yum -y install git tcs h scons gcc-c++ glibc-devel
sudo yum -y install boost-devel pcre-devel js-devel readline-devel
# for release builds:
sudo yum -y install boost-devel-static readline-static ncurses-static
```

**Ubuntu**

See spider monkey note above.

**Ubuntu 8.04**

```bash
apt-get -y install tcs h git-core scons g++
apt-get -y install libpcre++-dev libboost-dev libreadline-dev xulrunner-1.9-dev
apt-get -y install libboost-program-options-dev libboost-thread-dev libboost-filesystem-dev
libboost-date-time-dev
```

**Ubuntu 9.04 and 9.10**

See Also

- Ubuntu 9.04 and 9.10

Install Dependencies - see platform specific below

- get source

```bash
# git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo.git
# pick a stable version unless doing true dev
# Switch to a stable branch (unless doing development) --
# an even second number indicates "stable". (Although with
# stharding you will want the latest if the latest is less
# than 1.6.0.) For example:
git checkout r1.4.1
```

Build

```bash
scons all
```

Install

```bash
scons --prefix=/opt/mongo install
```
apt-get -y install tcsh git-core scons g++
apt-get -y install libpcre++-dev libboost-dev libreadline-dev xulrunner-1.9.1-dev
apt-get -y install libboost-program-options-dev libboost-thread-dev libboost-filesystem-dev
libboost-date-time-dev

See Also

- The Building page for setup information for other operating systems
- The main Database Internals page

Building for OS X

- Upgrading to Snow Leopard
- Setup
  - Package Manager Setup (32bit)
  - Manual Setup
    - Install Apple developer tools
    - Install libraries (32bit option)
    - Install libraries (64bit option)
- Compiling
- XCode
- Troubleshooting

To set up your OS X computer for MongoDB development:

Upgrading to Snow Leopard

If you have installed Snow Leopard, the builds will be 64 bit -- so if moving from a previous OS release, a bit more setup may be required than one might first expect.

1. Install XCode tools for Snow Leopard.
2. Install MacPorts (snow leopard version). If you have MacPorts installed previously, we've had the most success by running `rm -rf /opt/local first`.
4. Update/install SpiderMonkey with `sudo port install spidermonkey`. (If this fails, see the note on #2 above.)

Setup

1. Install git. If not already installed, download the source and run `./configure; make; sudo make install`
   - Then: `git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo.git (more info)`
   - Then: `git tag -l to see tagged version numbers`
   - Switch to a stable branch (unless doing development) -- an even second number indicates "stable". (Although with shardng you will want the latest if the latest is less than 1.6.0.) For example:
     - `git checkout r1.4.1`
     - If you do not wish to install git you can instead get the source code from the Downloads page.

1. Install gcc.
   gcc version 4.0.1 (from XCode Tools install) works, but you will receive compiler warnings. The easiest way to upgrade gcc is to install the iPhone SDK.

Package Manager Setup (32bit)

1. Install libraries (using macports)

   ```
   port install boost pcre++ spidermonkey
   ```

Manual Setup

Install Apple developer tools

Install libraries (32bit option)

1. Download boost [{{boost 1.37.0 http://downloads.sourceforge.net/boost/boost_1_37_0.tar.gz}}]Apply the following patch:
diff -u -r a/configure b/configure
--- a/configure 2009-01-26 14:10:42.000000000 -0500
+++ b/configure 2009-01-26 10:21:29.000000000 -0500
@@ -9,9 +9,9 @@
BJAM=""
TOOLSET=""
-BJAM_CONFIG=""--layout=system"
+BJAM_CONFIG=
BUILD=""
PREFIX=/usr/local
EPREFIX=

diff -u -r a/tools/build/v2/tools/darwin.jam b/tools/build/v2/tools/darwin.jam
@@ -367,5 +367,5 @@
        $\$(<:B)$\$(<:S)$
    -dynamiclib -Wl,-single_module -install_name "$\$(<:B)$\$(<:S)$" -L
    "$\$(LINKPATH)$" -o "$\$(<)" "$\$(>)" "$\$(LIBRARIES)$" -l\$(FINDLIBS-SA)$ -l\$(FINDLIBS-ST)$
    $(FRAMEWORK_PATH)$ -framework\$(_)$(FRAMEWORK:D=:S=) $(OPTIONS)$ $(USER_OPTIONS)$
    + $\$(CONFIG_COMMAND)$" -dynamiclib -Wl,-single_module -install_name
    "/usr/local/lib/$\$(<)$(<:S)$" -L"$\$(LINKPATH)$" -o "$\$(<)" "$\$(>)" "$\$(LIBRARIES)$" -l\$(FINDLIBS-SA)$
    -l\$(FINDLIBS-ST)$ $(FRAMEWORK_PATH)$ -framework\$(_)$(FRAMEWORK:D=:S=) $(OPTIONS)$ $(USER_OPTIONS)$
"

then,

./configure; make; sudo make install

2. Install pcre http://www.pcre.org/ (must enable UTF8)

./configure --enable-utf8 --enable-unicode-properties --with-match-limit=200000
--with-match-limit-recursion=4000; make; sudo make install

3. Install c++ unit test framework http://unittest.red-bean.com/ (optional)

./configure; make; sudo make install

Install libraries (64bit option)
(The 64bit libraries will be installed in /usr/64/{include,lib}.)


Apply the following patch:
diff -u -r js/src/config/Darwin.mk js-1.7.0/src/config/Darwin.mk
--- js/src/config/Darwin.mk 2007-02-05 11:24:49.000000000 -0500
+++ js-1.7.0/src/config/Darwin.mk 2009-05-11 10:18:37.000000000 -0400
@@ -43,7 +43,7 @@
    # Just ripped from Linux config
    
-    CC = cc
+    CC = cc -m64
    CCC = g++
    CFLAGS += -Wall -Wno-format
    OS_CFLAGS = -DXP_UNIX -DSVR4 -DSYSV -D_BSD_SOURCE -DPOSIX_SOURCE -DDARWIN
@@ -56,9 +56,9 @@
    #.c.o:
    
-    $(CC) -c -MD $*.d $(CFLAGS) $<
+    $(CC) -c -MD $*.d $(CFLAGS) $<

-    CPU_ARCH = $(shell uname -m)
+    CPU_ARCH = "X86_64"
    ifdef (x86,$(findstring 86,$(CPU_ARCH)))
-    CPU_ARCH = x86
+    CPU_ARCH = x86_64
    OS_CFLAGS += -DX86_LINUX
    endif
    GFX_ARCH = x
@@ -81,3 +81,14 @@
    # Don't allow Makefile.ref to use libmath
    NO_LIBM = 1
+    ifdef ($(CPU_ARCH),x86_64)
+        # Use VA_COPY() standard macro on x86-64
+        # FIXME: better use it everywhere
+        OS_CFLAGS += -DHAVE_VA_COPY -DVA_COPY=va_copy
+    endif
+    +
+    ifdef ($(CPU_ARCH),x86_64)
+        # We need PIC code for shared libraries
+        # FIXME: better patch rules.mk & fdlibm/Makefile*
+        OS_CFLAGS += -DPIC -fPIC
+    endif

compile and install

cd src
make -f Makefile.ref
sudo JS_DIST=/usr/64 make -f Makefile.ref export

remove the dynamic library

sudo rm /usr/64/lib64/libjs.dylib

# Download boost {{boost 1.37.0 http://downloads.sourceforge.net/boost/boost_1_37_0.tar.gz}}Apply the following patch:
diff -u -r a/configure b/configure
--- a/configure 2009-01-26 14:10:42.000000000 -0500
+++ b/configure 2009-01-26 10:21:29.000000000 -0500
@@ -9,9 +9,9 @@
BJAM=""
TOOLSET=""
-BJAM_CONFIG=""
+BJAM_CONFIG="architecture=x86 address-model=64 --layout(system"
BUILD=""
-PREFIX="/usr/local"
+PREFIX="/usr/64"
EPREFIX=""
LIBDIR=""
INCLUDEDIR=""
diff -u -r a/tools/build/v2/tools/darwin.jam b/tools/build/v2/tools/darwin.jam
@@ -367,5 +367,5 @@
-"$(CONFIG_COMMAND)" -dynamiclib -Wl,-single_module -install_name "$<:B>$<:S:" -L"$(LINKPATH)"
}

then,

./configure; make; sudo make install

# Install pcre http://www.pcre.org/ (must enable UTF8)

CFLAGS="-m64" CXXFLAGS="-m64" LDFLAGS="-m64" ./configure --enable-utf8 --with-match-limit=200000 --with-match-limit-recursion=4000 --enable-unicode-properties --prefix /usr/64; make; sudo make install

# Install unit test framework http://unittest.red-bean.com/ (optional)

CFLAGS="-m64" CXXFLAGS="-m64" LDFLAGS="-m64" ./configure --prefix /usr/64; make; sudo make install

Compiling

To compile 32bit, just run

scons

To compile 64bit on 10.5 (64 is default on 10.6), run

scons --64

XCode

You can open the project with:
You need to add an executable target:

1. In the mongo project window, go to the Executables, right click and choose Add->NewCustomExecutable.
2. Name it db. Path is ./db/db.
   It will appear under Executables*.
3. Double-click on it.
4. Under general, set the working directory to the project directory.
5. Under arguments, add run.
6. Go to general prefs (cmd .), go to debugging and turn off lazy load.
   (Seems to be an issue that prevents breakpoints from working in debugger?)

Troubleshooting

- Undefined symbols: "_PR_NewLock", referenced from: _JS_Init in libjs.a.
  - Try not using the scons --release option (if you are using it). That option attempts to use static libraries.

Building for Solaris

MongoDB server currently supports little endian Solaris operation. (Although most drivers – not the database server – work on both.)

Community: Help us make this rough page better please! (And help us add support for big endian please...)

Prerequisites:

- g++ 4.x (SUNWgcc)
- scons (need to install from source)
- spider monkey Building Spider Monkey
- pcre (SUNWpcre)
- boost (need to install from source)

See Also

- Joyent
- Building for Linux - many of the details there including how to clone from git apply here too

Building for Windows

MongoDB can be compiled for Windows (32 and 64 bit) using Visual C++. SCons is the make mechanism, although a .vcproj/.sln is also included in the project for convenience when using the Visual Studio IDE.

There are several dependencies exist which are listed below; you may find it easier to simply download a pre-built binary.

- Building with Visual Studio 2008
- Building with Visual Studio 2010
- Building the Shell

See Also

- Prebuilt Boost Libraries
- Prebuilt SpiderMonkey for VS2010
- Building Boost
- Building SpiderMonkey
- Windows Quick Links
- scons

Boost 1.41.0 Visual Studio 2010 Binary

⚠️ This is OLD and was for the VS2010 BETA. See the new Boost and Windows page instead.

The following is a prebuilt boost binary (libraries) for Visual Studio 2010 beta 2.

The MongoDB vcxproj files assume this package is unzipped under c:\Program Files\boost\boost_1_41_0\.
Note: we're not boost build gurus please let us know if there are things wrong with the build.

See also the prebuilt boost binaries at http://www.boostpro.com/download.

Boost and Windows

- Visual Studio 2010
  - Prebuilt from mongodb.org
  - Building Yourself
- Visual Studio 2008
  - Prebuilt from mongodb.org
  - Prebuilt from boostpro.com
  - Building Yourself
- Additional Notes

Visual Studio 2010

Prebuilt from mongodb.org

Click here for a prebuilt boost library for Visual Studio 2010. 7zip format.

Building Yourself

- Download the boost source from boost.org. Move it to C:\boost\.
- Run C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 10.0\vc\vcvarsall.bat.
- From the MongoDB source project, run buildscripts\buildboost.bat. Or, buildboost64.bat for the 64 bit version.
- We have successfully compiled version 1.42 – you might want to try that version or higher. See additional notes section at end of this page too.

Visual Studio 2008

Prebuilt from mongodb.org

Click here for a prebuilt boost library for Visual Studio 2008. 7zip format. This file has what you need to build MongoDB, but not some other boost libs, so it's partial.

Prebuilt from boostpro.com

Or, you can download a complete prebuilt boost library for 32 bit VS2008 at http://www.boostpro.com/products/free. Install the prebuilt libraries for Boost version 1.35.0 (or higher - generally newer is better). During installation, for release builds choose static multithread libraries for installation. The Debug version of the project uses the DLL libraries; choose all multithread libraries if you plan to do development. From the BoostPro installer, be sure to select all relevant libraries that mongodb uses -- for example, you need Filesystem, Regex, Threads, and ProgramOptions (and perhaps others).

Building Yourself

- Download the boost source from boost.org. Move it to C:\boost\.
- From the Visual Studio 2008 IDE, choose Tools:Visual Studio Command Prompt to get a command prompt with all PATH variables set nicely for the C++ compiler.
- From the MongoDB source project, run buildscripts\buildboost.bat. Or, buildboost64.bat for the 64 bit version.

Additional Notes

When using bjam, MongoDB expects

- variant=debug for debug builds, and variant=release for release builds
- threading=multi
- link=static runtime-link=static for release builds
- address-model=64 for 64 bit

Building the Mongo Shell on Windows

You can build the mongo shell with either scons or a Visual Studio 2010 project file.

Scons
Visual Studio 2010 Project File

A VS2010 vcxproj file is available for building the shell. From the mongo directory open shell/msvc/mongo.vcxproj.

The project file assumes that GNU readline is installed in ../readline/ relative to the mongo project. If you would prefer to build without having to install readline, remove the definition of USE_READLINE in the preprocessor definitions section of the project file, and exclude readline.lib from the project.

The project file currently only supports 32 bit builds of the shell (scons can do 32 and 64 bit). However this seems sufficient given there is no real need for a 64 bit version of the shell.

Readline Library

The shell uses the GNU readline library to facilitate command line editing and history. You can build the shell without readline but would then lose that functionality. USE_READLINE is defined when building with readline. SCons will look for readline and if not found build without it.

See Also

- Prebuilt readline for Windows 32 bit at SourceForge (DLL version)

Building with Visual Studio 2008

- Get the MongoDB Source Code
- Get Boost Libraries
- Get SpiderMonkey
- Building MongoDB from the IDE
- Install SCons
- Building MongoDB with SCons
- Troubleshooting

MongoDB can be compiled for Windows (32 and 64 bit) using Visual C++. SCons is the make mechanism, although a solution file is also included in the project for convenience when using the Visual Studio IDE.

There are several dependencies exist which are listed below; you may find it easier to simply download a pre-built binary.

Get the MongoDB Source Code

Download the source code from Downloads.

Or install Git. Then:

- git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo.git (more info)
- git tag -l to see tagged version numbers
- Switch to a stable branch (unless doing development) -- an even second number indicates "stable". (Although with sharding you will want the latest if the latest is less than 1.6.0.) For example:
  - git checkout r1.4.1

Get Boost Libraries

- Click here for a prebuilt boost library for Visual Studio. 7zip format. This file has what you need to build MongoDB, but not some other boost libs, so it's partial.
- See the Boost and Windows page for other options.

The Visual Studio project files are setup to look for boost in the following locations:

- c:\program files\boost\latest
- c:\boost
- \boost

You can unzip boost to c:\boost, or use an NTFS junction point to create a junction point to one of the above locations. Some versions of windows come with linkd.exe, but others require you to download Sysinternals's junction.exe to accomplish this task. For example, if you installed boost 1.42 via the installer to the default location of c:\Program Files\boost\boost_1_42, You can create a junction point with the following command:
Junction v1.05 - Windows junction creator and reparse point viewer
Copyright (C) 2000-2007 Mark Russinovich
Systems Internals - http://www.sysinternals.com
Created: c:\Program Files\boost\latest
Targetted at: c:\Program Files\boost\boost_1_42

Get SpiderMonkey
Build a SpiderMonkey js engine library (js.lib) – details here.

Building MongoDB from the IDE
Open the db/db.sln solution file.
Note: currently the mongo shell and C++ client libraries must be built from scons. Also, for the VS2008 project files, 64 bit must be built from scons (although you can do 64 bit with db_10.sln in vs2010).

Install SCons
If building with scons, install SCons:
• First install Python: http://www.python.org/download/releases/2.6.4/.
• Then SCons itself: http://sourceforge.net/projects/scons/files/scons/1.2.0/scons-1.2.0.win32.exe/download.
• Add the python scripts directory (e.g., C:\Python26\Scripts) to your PATH.

Building MongoDB with SCons
The SConstruct file from the MongoDB project is the preferred way to perform production builds. Run scons in the mongo project directory to build.
If scons does not automatically find Visual Studio, preset your path for it by running the VS2010 vcvars*.bat file.
To build:

scons // build mongod
scons mngoclient.lib // build C++ client driver library
scons all // build all end user components
scons . // build all including unit test

Troubleshooting
If you are using scons, check the file config.log which is generated.

• Can't find jstypes.h when compiling. This file is generated when building SpiderMonkey. See the Building SpiderMonkey page for more info.
• Can't find / run cl.exe when building with scons. See troubleshooting note on the Building SpiderMonkey page.

Building with Visual Studio 2010
• Get the MongoDB Source Code
• Get Boost Libraries
• Get SpiderMonkey
• Building MongoDB from the IDE
• Install SCons
Building MongoDB with SCons

MongoDB can be compiled for Windows (32 and 64 bit) using Visual C++. SCons is the make mechanism, although a solution file is also included in the project for convenience when using the Visual Studio IDE.

There are several dependencies exist which are listed below; you may find it easier to simply download a pre-built binary.

Get the MongoDB Source Code

Download the source code from Downloads.

Or install Git. Then:

- git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo.git (more info)
- git tag -l to see tagged version numbers
- Switch to a stable branch (unless doing development) -- an even second number indicates “stable”. (Although with sharding you will want the latest if the latest is less than 1.6.0.) For example:
  * git checkout r1.4.1

Get Boost Libraries

- Click here for a prebuilt boost library for Visual Studio. 7zip format. This file has what you need to build MongoDB, but not some other boost libs, so it’s partial.
- See the Boost and Windows page for other options. Use v1.42 or higher with VS2010.

Get SpiderMonkey

- Download prebuilt libraries and headers here for VS2010. Place these files in ..\js/ relative to your mongo project directory.
- Or (more work) build SpiderMonkey js.lib yourself – details here.

Building MongoDB from the IDE

Open the db\db_10.sln solution file.

Note: a separate project file exists for the mongo shell. Currently the C++ client libraries must be built from scons (this obviously needs to be fixed...)

Install SCons

If building with scons, install SCons:

- First install Python: http://www.python.org/download/releases/2.6.4/.
- Then SCons itself: http://sourceforge.net/projects/scons/files/scons/1.2.0/scons-1.2.0.win32.exe/download.
- Add the python scripts directory (e.g., C:\Python26\Scripts) to your PATH.

Building MongoDB with SCons

The SConstruct file from the MongoDB project is the preferred way to perform production builds. Run scons in the mongo project directory to build.

If scons does not automatically find Visual Studio, preset your path for it by running the VS2010 vcvars*.bat file.

To build:

```bash
scons     // build mongod
scons mongoclient.lib // build C++ client driver library
scons all  // build all end user components
scons .    // build all including unit test
```

Troubleshooting

- If you are using scons, check the file config.log which is generated.

- Can’t find jstypes.h when compiling.
  * This file is generated when building SpiderMonkey. See the Building SpiderMonkey page for more info.
Can't find / run cl.exe when building with scons.
- See troubleshooting note on the Building SpiderMonkey page.
- LINK : fatal error LNK1104: cannot open file js64d.lib js64r.lib js32d.lib js32r.lib
- Get the prebuilt spidermonkey libraries -- or copy your self-built js.lib to the above name.

**Building Spider Monkey**

- Building js.lib - Unix
  - Download
  - Build
  - Install
- Building js.lib - Windows
  - Prebuilt
  - Download
  - Build
  - Troubleshooting scons
- See Also

MongoDB uses SpiderMonkey for server-side Javascript execution. The mongod project requires a file js.lib when linking. This page details how to build js.lib.

Note: V8 Javascript support is under development.

**Building js.lib - Unix**

**Download**

```
curl -O ftp://ftp.mozilla.org/pub/mozilla.org/js/js-1.7.0.tar.gz
tar zxvf js-1.7.0.tar.gz
```

**Build**

```
cd js/src
export CFLAGS="-DJS_C_STRINGS_ARE_UTF8"
make -f Makefile.ref
```

SpiderMonkey does not use UTF-8 by default, so we enable before building.

An experimental SConstruct build file is available [here](https://example.com).

**Install**

```
JS_DIST=/usr make -f Makefile.ref export
```

By default, the mongo scons project expects spidermonkey to be located at ../../js/.

**Building js.lib - Windows**

**Prebuilt**

- VS2008: a prebuilt SpiderMonkey library and headers for Win32 is attached to this document (this file may or may not work depending on your compile settings and compiler version).
- VS2010 prebuilt libraries

Alternatively, follow the steps below to build yourself.

**Download**

From an msysgit or cygwin shell, run:

```
curl -O ftp://ftp.mozilla.org/pub/mozilla.org/js/js-1.7.0.tar.gz
tar zxvf js-1.7.0.tar.gz
```
Build

```
cd js/src
export CFLAGS="-DJS_C_STRINGS_ARE_UTF8"
make -f Makefile.ref
```

If cl.exe is not found, launch Tools...Visual Studio Command Prompt from inside Visual Studio -- your path should then be correct for make.

If you do not have a suitable make utility installed, you may prefer to build using scons. An experimental SConstruct file to build the js.lib is available in the mongodb/snippets project. For example:

```
cd
git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo-snippets.git
cp mongo-snippets/jslib-sconstruct js/src/SConstruct
cd js/src
scons
```

Troubleshooting scons

Note that scons does not use your PATH to find Visual Studio. If you get an error running cl.exe, try changing the following line in the msvc.py scons source file from:

```
MVSdir = os.getenv('ProgramFiles') + r'\Microsoft Visual Studio 8'
```

to

```
MVSdir = os.getenv('ProgramFiles') + r'\Microsoft Visual Studio ' + version
```

See Also

- Building MongoDB

**SCONS**

Use scons to build MongoDB, and related utilities and libraries. See the SConstruct file for details.

Run `scons --help` to see all options.

**Targets**

Run `scons <target>`.

- `scons`
- `scons all`
- `scons mongod build mongod`
- `scons mongo build the shell`
- `scons shell build just the generated shell .cpp files`
- `scons mongoclient build just the client lib`

**Options**

- `--debug` debug build
- `--dd debug build with _DEBUG defined (extra asserts etc.)`
- `--release`
- `--32 force 32 bit`
- `--64 force 64 bit`
- `--clean`

**Troubleshooting**

scons generates a config.log file. See this file when there are problems building.
See Also

Smoke Tests

Database Internals

This section provides information for developers who want to write drivers or tools for MongoDB, contribute code to the MongoDB codebase itself, and for those who are just curious how it works internally.

Sub-sections of this section:

- Caching
- Cursors
- Error Codes
- Internal Commands
- Replication Internals
- Smoke Tests
- Pairing Internals

Caching

Memory Mapped Storage Engine

This is the current storage engine for MongoDB, and it uses memory-mapped files for all disk I/O. Using this strategy, the operating system's virtual memory manager is in charge of caching. This has several implications:

- There is no redundancy between file system cache and database cache: they are one and the same.
- MongoDB can use all free memory on the server for cache space automatically without any configuration of a cache size.
- Virtual memory size and resident size will appear to be very large for the mongod process. This is benign: virtual memory space will just larger than the size of the datafiles open and mapped; resident size will vary depending on the amount of memory not used by other processes on the machine.
- Caching behavior (such as LRU'ing out of pages, and laziness of page writes) is controlled by the operating system: quality of the VMM implementation will vary by OS.

Cursors

Redirection Notice
This page should redirect to Internals.

Error Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E10003</td>
<td>failing update: objects in a capped ns cannot grow</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E11000</td>
<td>duplicate key error</td>
<td>_id values must be unique in a collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E11001</td>
<td>duplicate key on update</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E12000</td>
<td>idxNo fails</td>
<td>an internal error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E12001</td>
<td>can't sort with $snapshot</td>
<td>the $snapshot feature does not support sorting yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E12010 - E12012</td>
<td>can't $inc/$set an indexed field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Internal Commands

Most commands have helper functions and do not require the $cmd.findOne() syntax. These are primarily internal and administrative.
Replication Internals

On the master mongod instance, the local database will contain a collection, oplog.$main, which stores a high-level transaction log. The transaction log essentially describes all actions performed by the user, such as “insert this object into this collection.” Note that the oplog is not a low-level redo log, so it does not record operations on the byte/disk level.

The slave mongod instance polls the oplog.$main collection from master. The actual query looks like this:

```javascript
local.oplog.$main.find({ ts: { $gte: 'last_op_processed_time' } }).sort({$natural:1});
```

where 'local' is the master instance’s local database. oplog.$main collection is a capped collection, allowing the oldest data to be aged out automatically.

See the Replication section of the Mongo Developers' Guide for more information.

OpTime

An OpTime is a 64-bit timestamp that we use to timestamp operations. These are stored as Javascript Date datatypes but are not JavaScript Date objects. Implementation details can be found in the OpTime class in repl.h.

Applying OpTime Operations

Operations from the oplog are applied on the slave by reexecuting the operation. Naturally, the log includes write operations only.

Note that inserts are transformed into upserts to ensure consistency on repeated operations. For example, if the slave crashes, we won't know
exactly which operations have been applied. So if we're left with operations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, and if we then apply 1, 2, 3, 2, 3, 4, 5, we should achieve the same results. This repeatability property is also used for the initial cloning of the replica.

**Tailing**

After applying operations, we want to wait a moment and then poll again for new data with our $gte operation. We want this operation to be fast, quickly skipping past old data we have already processed. However, we do not want to build an index on $ts, as indexing can be somewhat expensive, and the oplog is write-heavy. Instead, we use a table scan in [natural] order, but use a tailable cursor to "remember" our position. Thus, we only scan once, and then when we poll again, we know where to begin.

**Initiation**

To create a new replica, we do the following:

```python
import datetime

start = datetime.datetime.now()
cloneDatabase()
end = datetime.datetime.now()
applyOperations(start..end)
```

cloneDatabase effectively exports/imports all the data in the database. Note the actual "image" we will get may or may not include data modifications in the time range $(start..end). Thus, we apply all logged operations from that range when the cloning is complete. Because of our repeatability property, this is safe.

See class Cloner for more information.

**Smoke Tests**

`smoke.py` lets you run a subsets of the tests in `jstests`. When it is running tests, it starts up an instance of mongod, runs the tests, and then shuts it down again. For the moment, `smoke.py` must be run from the top-level directory of a mongo source repository.

To see the possible options, run:

```
$ python buildscripts/smoke.py --help
```

Usage: smoke.py [OPTIONS] ARGS*

Options:

- `--help`: show this help message and exit
- `--mode=MODE`: If "files", ARGS are filenames; if "suite", ARGS are sets of tests. (default "suite")
- `--mongod=MONGODEXECUTABLE`: Path to mongod to run (default "/.mongod")
- `--port=MONGODPORT`: Port the mongod will bind to (default 32000)
- `--mongo=SHELLEXECUTABLE`: Path to mongo, `.js test files (default "/./mongo")
- `--continue-on-failure`: If supplied, continue testing even after a test fails
- `--one-mongod-per-test`: If supplied, run each test in a fresh mongod
- `--from-file=FILE`: Run tests/suites named in FILE, one test per line, `-` means stdin
- `--smoke-db-prefix=SMOKEDBPREFIX`: Prefix to use for the mongods' dbpaths.
- `--small-oplog`: Run tests with master/slave replication & use a small oplog

To run specific tests, use the `--mode=files` option:

```
python buildscripts/smoke.py --mode=files jstests/find1.js
```

You can specify as many files as you want.

You can also run a suite of tests. Suites are predefined and include:

- `smoke`
- `smokeAll`
To run a suite, specify the suite's name:

```
python buildscripts/smoke.py smokeJs
```

The old way to run tests is using `scons`, then the suite name:

```
// run basic c++ unit tests:
scons smoke

// run all unit tests (slow)
// NOTE This scons target starts a mongod instance needed by some tests.
scons smokeAll

// to run basic jstests
// first start mongod, then:
scons smokeJs
```

Full list of `scons` targets for running smoke tests: `smoke`, `smokePerf`, `smokeClient`, `mongosTest`, `smokeJs`, `smokeClone`, `smokeRepl`, `smokeDisk`, `smokeSharding`, `smokeJsPerf`, `smokeQuota`, `smokeTool`.

### Pairing Internals

**Policy for reconciling divergent oplogs**

In a paired environment, a situation may arise in which each member of a pair has logged operations as master that have not been applied to the other server. In such a situation, the following procedure will be used to ensure consistency between the two servers:

1. The new master will scan through its own oplog from the point at which it last applied an operation from it's peer's oplog to the end. It will create a set C of object ids for which changes were made. It will create a set M of object ids for which only modifier changes were made. The values of C and M will be updated as client operations are applied to the new master.
2. The new master will iterate through its peer's oplog, applying only operations that will not affect an object having an id in C.
3. For any operation in the peer's oplog that may not be applied due to the constraint in the previous step, if the id of the of the object in question is in M, the value of the whole object on the new master is logged to the new master's oplog.
4. The new slave applies all operations from the new master's oplog.

### Contributing to the Documentation

Qualified volunteers are welcome to assist in editing the wiki documentation. Contact us for more information.

### Emacs tips for MongoDB work

You can edit confluence directly from emacs:

First, follow the basic instructions on http://code.google.com/p/confluence-el/

Change the confluence-url in their sample setup to http://mongodb.onconfluence.com/rpc/xmlrpc

Might also want to change the default space to DOCS or DOCS-ES or whatever space you edit the most.
etags setup (suggested by mstearn)

First, install "exuberant ctags", which has nicer features than GNU etags.

http://ctags.sourceforge.net/

Then, run something like this in the top-level mongo directory to make an emacs-style TAGS file:

```
ctags -e --extra=qf --fields=iasnfSKtm --c++-kinds=p --recurse .
```

Then you can use M-x visit-tags-table, M-, M-* as normal.

Mongo Documentation Style Guide

This page provides information for everyone adding to the Mongo documentation on Confluence. It covers:

- General Notes on Writing Style
- Guide to Confluence markup for specific situations
- Some general notes about doc production

General Notes on Writing Style

Voice

Active voice is almost always preferred to passive voice.

To make this work, however, you may find yourself anthropomorphizing components of the system - that is, treating the driver or the database as an agent that actually does something. ("The dbms writes the new record to the collection" is better than "the new record is written to the database", but some purists may argue that the dbms doesn't do anything - it's just code that directs the actions of the processor - but then someone else says "yes, but does the processor really do anything?" and so on and on.) It is simpler and more economical to write as if these components are actually doing things, although you as the infrastructure developers might have to stop and think about which component is actually performing the action you are describing.

Tense

Technical writers in general prefer to keep descriptions of processes in the present tense: "The dbms writes the new collection to disk" rather than "the dbms will write the new collection to disk." You save a few words that way.

MongoDB Terminology

It would be good to spell out precise definitions of technical words and phrases you are likely to use often, like the following:

- MongoDB Terminology

  It would be good to spell out precise definitions of technical words and phrases you are likely to use often, like the following:

  - Object name (the type of "object" that "object-oriented programming" deals with)
  - Database (do you want "a MongoDB database"? Or a MongoDB database instance?)
  - dbms (I haven't seen this term often - is it correct to talk about "the MongoDB DBMS"?)
  - Document
  - Record
  - Transaction (I stopped myself from using this term because my understanding is the MongoDB doesn't support "transactions" in the sense of operations that are logged and can be rolled back - is this right?)

These are just a few I noted while I was editing. More should be added. It would be good to define these terms clearly among yourselves, and then post the definitions for outsiders.

Markup for terms

It's important to be consistent in the way you treat words that refer to certain types of objects. The following table lists the types you will deal with most often, describes how they should look, and (to cut to the chase) gives you the Confluence markup that will achieve that appearance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Appearance</th>
<th>Markup</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Object name (the type of &quot;object&quot; that &quot;object-oriented programming&quot; deals with)</td>
<td>monospace</td>
<td>{{ term }}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>short code fragment inline</td>
<td>monospace</td>
<td>{{ term }}</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>file path/name, extension</td>
<td>italic</td>
<td><em>term</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>programming command, statement or expression</td>
<td>monospace</td>
<td>{{ term }}</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In specifying these, I have relied on the O'Reilly Style Guide, which is at:

http://oreilly.com/oreilly/author/stylesheet.html

This guide is a good reference for situations not covered here.

I should mention that for the names of GUI objects I followed the specification in the Microsoft Guide to Technical Publications.

**Other Confluence markup**

If you are editing a page using Confluence's RTF editor, you don't have to worry about markup. Even if you are editing markup directly, Confluence displays a guide on the right that shows you most of the markup you will need.

**References and Links**

Confluence also provides you with a nice little utility that allows you to insert a link to another Confluence page by searching for the page by title or by text and choosing it from a list. Confluence handles the linking markup. You can even use it for external URLs.

The one thing this mechanism does NOT handle is links to specific locations within a wiki page. Here is what you have to know if you want to insert these kinds of links:

- Every heading you put in a Confluence page ("h2.Title", "h3.OtherTitle", etc.) becomes an accessible "anchor" for linking.
- You can also insert an anchor anywhere else in the page by inserting "{anchor:anchorname}" where _anchorname_ is the unique name you will use in the link.
- To insert a link to one of these anchors, you must go into wiki markup and add the anchor name preceded by a "#". Example: if the page MyPage contains a heading or an ad-hoc anchor named GoHere, the link to that anchor from within the same page would look like [MyPage#GoHere], and a link to that anchor from a different page would look like [MyPage#GoHere]. (See the sidebar for information about adding other text to the body of the link.)

**Special Characters**

- You will often need to insert code samples that contain curly braces. As Dwight has pointed out, Confluence gets confused by this unless you "escape" them by preceding them with a backslash, thusly:

  \{{  \}

  You must do the same for "[", "]", "_" and some others.

  Within a {code} block you don't have to worry about this. If you are inserting code fragments inline using {{ and }}, however, you still need to escape these characters. Further notes about this:

  - If you are enclosing a complex code expression with {{ and }}, do NOT leave a space between the last character of the expression and the }}. This confuses Confluence.
  - Confluence also gets confused (at least sometimes) if you use {{ and }}, to enclose a code sample that includes escaped curly brackets.

**About MongoDB's Confluence wiki**

Confluence has this idea of "spaces". Each person has a private space, and there are also group spaces as well.

The MongoDB Confluence wiki has three group spaces defined currently:

- Mongo Documentation - The publicly accessible area for most Mongo documentation
- Contributor - Looks like, the publicly accessible space for information for "Contributors"
- Private - a space open to MongoDB developers, but not to the public at large.

As I said in my email on Friday, all of the (relevant) info from the old wiki now lives in the "Mongo Documentation"
Standard elements of Wiki pages

You shouldn't have to spend a lot of time worrying about this kind of thing, but I do have just a few suggestions:

- Since these wiki pages are (or can be) arranged hierarchically, you may have "landing pages" that do little more than list their child pages. I think Confluence actually adds a list of children automatically, but it only goes down to the next hierarchical level. To insert a hierarchical list of a page's children, all you have to do is insert the following Confluence "macro":

  {children:all=true}

  See the Confluence documentation for more options and switches for this macro.

- For pages with actual text, I tried to follow these guidelines:
  - For top-level headings, I used "h2" not "h1"
  - I never began a page with a heading. I figured the title of the page served as one.
  - I always tried to include a "See Also" section that listed links to other Mongo docs.
  - I usually tried to include a link to the "Talk to us about Mongo" page.

Community

General Community Resources

- **User Mailing List**
  
The user list is for general questions about using, configuring, and running MongoDB and the associated tools and drivers. The list is open to everyone

- **IRC chat**
  
  irc://irc.freenode.net/#mongodb

- **Blog**
  
  http://blog.mongodb.org/

- **Bugtracker**
  
  File, track, and vote on bugs and feature requests. There is issue tracking for MongoDB and all supported drivers

- **Announcement Mailing List**
  
  http://groups.google.com/group/mongodb-announce - for release announcement and important bug fixes.

- **Store**
  
  Visit our Cafepress store for Mongo-related swag.

Resources for Driver and Database Developers

- **Developer List**
  
  This mongodb-dev mailing list is for people developing drivers and tools, or who are contributing to the MongoDB codebase itself.

- **Source**
  
  The source code for the database and drivers is available at the http://github.com/mongodb

Job Board

- **Click Here** to access the Job Board. The Board is a community resource for all employers to post MongoDB-related jobs. Please feel free to post/investigate positions!
MongoDB Commercial Services Providers

Note: if you provide consultative or support services for MongoDB and wish to be listed here, just let us know.

- Support
  - 10gen
- Training
- Hosting
- Consulting
  - 10gen
  - Hashrocket
  - LightCube Solutions
  - Squeejee
  - Mijix

Support

10gen

10gen began the MongoDB project, and offers commercial MongoDB support services.

Training

10gen offers MongoDB training.

Hosting

See the MongoDB Hosting Center.

Consulting

10gen

10gen offers consulting services for MongoDB application design, development, and production operation. These services are typically advisory in nature with the goal of building higher in-house expertise on MongoDB for the client.

Hashrocket

Hashrocket is a full-service design and development firm that builds successful web businesses. Hashrocket continually creates and follows best practices and surround themselves with passionate and talented craftsmen to ensure the best results for you and your business.

LightCube Solutions

LightCube Solutions provides PHP development and consulting services, as well as a lightweight PHP framework designed for MongoDB called 'photon'

Squeejee


Mijix

Mijix, a software development studio based on Indonesia, provides consulting for MongoDB in Asia-Pacific area.

User Feedback

"I just have to get my head around that mongodb is really _this_ good"
- muckster, #mongodb

"Guys at Redmond should get a long course from you about what is the software development and support 😊."
- kunthar@gmail.com, mongodb-user list

"#mongodb keep me up all night. I think I have found the 'perfect' storage for my app 😊."
- elpargo, Twitter
“Maybe we can relax with couchdb but with mongodb we are completely in dreams”
-namlook, #mongodb

“Dude, you guys are legends!”
-Stii, mongodb-user list

“Times I’ve been wowed using MongoDB this week: 7.”
-tpitale, Twitter

**Community Blog Posts**

B is for Billion
-Wordnik (July 9, 2010)

[Reflections on MongoDB]
-Brandon Keepers, Collective Idea (June 15, 2010)

Building a Better Submission Form

Notes from a Production MongoDB Deployment
-Boxed Ice (February 28, 2010)

NoSQL in the Real World
-CNET (February 10, 2010)

Why I Think Mongo is to Databases what Rails was to Frameworks
-John Nunemaker, Ordered List (December 18, 2009)

MongoDB a Light in the Darkness...
-EngineYard (September 24, 2009)

Introducing MongoDB
-Linux Magazine (September 21, 2009)

Choosing a non-relational database; why we migrated from MySQL to MongoDB
-Boxed Ice (July 7, 2010)

The Other Blog - The Holy Grail of the Funky Data Model
-Tom Smith (June 6, 2009)

GIS Solved - Populating a MongoDb with POIs
-Samuel

**Community Presentations**

Scalable Event Analytics with MongoDb and Ruby on Rails
Jared Rosoff at RubyConfChina (June 2010)

How Python, TurboGears, and MongoDB are Transforming SourceForge.net
Rick Copeland at PyCon 2010

MongoDB
Adrian Madrid at Mountain West Ruby Conference 2009, video

MongoDB - Ruby friendly document storage that doesn't rhyme with ouch
Wynn Netherland at Dallas.rb Ruby Group, slides

MongoDB
jnunemaker at Grand Rapids RUG, slides

Developing Joomla! 1.5 Extensions, Explained (slide 37)
Mitch Pirtle at Joomla!Day New England 2009, slides

Drop Acid (slide 31) [video]
Bob Ippolito at Pycon 2009

Python and Non-SQL Databases (in French, slide 21)
Benoit Chesneau at Pycon France 2009, slides

Massimiliano Dessi at the Spring Framework Italian User Group

- MongoDB (in Italian)
- MongoDB and Scala (in Italian)
Presentations and Screencasts at Learnivore
Frequently-updated set of presentations and screencasts on MongoDB.

Benchmarking

We keep track of user benchmarks on the Benchmarks page.

Job Board

Redirecting...

⚠️ Redirection Notice
This page should redirect to http://jobs.mongodb.org/ in about 2 seconds.

About

- Philosophy
- Use Cases
- Production Deployments
- Mongo-Based Applications
- Events
- Slide Gallery
- Articles
- Benchmarks
- FAQ
- Product Comparisons
- Licensing

Philosophy

Design Philosophy

- Databases are specializing - the "one size fits all" approach no longer applies.
- By reducing transactional semantics the db provides, one can still solve an interesting set of problems where performance is very important, and horizontal scaling then becomes easier.
- The (JSON) document data model is easy to code to, easy to manage (schemaless), and yields excellent performance by grouping relevant data together internally.
- A non-relational approach is the best path to database solutions which scale horizontally to many machines.
- While there is an opportunity to relax certain capabilities for better performance, there is also a need for deeper functionality than that provided by pure key/value stores.
- Database technology should run anywhere, being available both for running on your own servers or VMs, and also as a cloud pay-for-what-you-use service.

Use Cases

See also the Production Deployments page for a discussion of how companies like Shutterfly, foursquare, bit.ly, Etsy, SourceForge, etc. use MongoDB.

Use Case Articles

- Using MongoDB for Real-time Analytics
- Using MongoDB for Logging
- Full Text Search in Mongo
Well Suited

- Operational data store of a web site. MongoDB is very good at real-time inserts, updates, and queries. Scalability and replication are provided which are necessary functions for large web sites' real-time data stores. Specific web use case examples:
  - content management
  - comment storage, management, voting
  - real time page view counters
  - user registration, profile, session data
- Caching. With its potential for high performance, MongoDB works well as a caching tier in an information infrastructure. The persistent backing of Mongo's cache assures that on a system restart the downstream data tier is not overwhelmed with cache population activity.
- High volume problems. Problems where a traditional DBMS might be too expensive for the data in question. In many cases developers would traditionally write custom code to a filesystem instead using flat files or other methodologies.
- Storage of program objects and JSON data (and equivalent). MongoDB's BSON data format makes it very easy to store and retrieve data in a document-style / "schemaless" format. Addition of new properties to existing objects is easy and does not require blocking "ALTER TABLE" style operations.
- Document and Content Management Systems - as a document-oriented (JSON) database, MongoDB's flexible schemas are a good fit for this.
- Electronic record keeping - similar to document management.

Less Well Suited

- Systems with a heavy emphasis on complex transactions such as banking systems and accounting. These systems typically require multi-object transactions, which MongoDB doesn't support. It's worth noting that, unlike many "NoSQL" solutions, MongoDB does support atomic operations on single documents. As documents can be fairly rich entities, for many use cases this is sufficient.
- Traditional Business Intelligence. Data warehouses are more suited to new, problem-specific BI databases. However note that MongoDB can work very well for several reporting and analytics problems where data is predistilled or aggregated in runtime -- but classic, nightly batch load business intelligence, while possible, is not necessarily a sweet spot.
- Problems requiring SQL.

Use Case - Session Objects

MongoDB is a good tool for storing HTTP session objects.

One implementation model is to have a sessions collection, and store the session object's _id value in a browser cookie.

With its update-in-place design and general optimization to make updates fast, the database is efficient at receiving an update to the session object on every single app server page view.

Aging Out Old Sessions

The best way to age out old sessions is to use the auto-LRU facility of capped collections. The one complication is that objects in capped collections may not grow beyond their initial allocation size. To handle this, we can "pre-pad" the objects to some maximum size on initial addition, and then on further updates we are fine if we do not go above the limit. The following mongo shell javascript example demonstrates padding.

(Note: a clean padding mechanism should be added to the db so the steps below are not necessary.)
Production Deployments

If you're using MongoDB in production, we'd love to list you here! Email meghan@10gen.com.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Use Case</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>shutterfly</strong></td>
<td>Shutterfly is an Internet-based social expression and personal publishing service. MongoDB is used for various persistent data storage requirements within Shutterfly. MongoDB helps Shutterfly build an unrivaled service that enables deeper, more personal relationships between customers and those who matter most in their lives. For more information, view Kenny Gorman's presentation Implementing MongoDB at Shutterfly from MongoSF (April 2010): Slides and Video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>foursquare</strong></td>
<td>Foursquare is a location based social network that incorporates gaming elements. - MongoDB at foursquare presentation: Slides and Video (May 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>sourceforge</strong></td>
<td>MongoDB is used for back-end storage on the SourceForge front pages, project pages, and download pages for all projects. - Scaling SourceForge with MongoDB - OSCON Presentation (July 2010) - How Python, TurboGears, and MongoDB are Transforming SourceForge.net - PyCon (February 2010) - SourceForge.net releases Ming - SourceForge blog (December 2009) - TurboGears on Sourceforge - Compound Thinking (July 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Etsy</strong></td>
<td>Etsy is a website that allows users to buy and sell handmade items. Read the MongoDB at Etsy blog series: - Part 1 - May 19, 2010 - Part 2 - July 3, 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **The New York Times** | The New York Times is using MongoDB in a form-building application for photo submissions. Mongo’s lack of schema gives producers the ability to define any combination of custom form fields. For more information:

- Building a Better Submission Form - NYTimes Open Blog (May 25, 2010)
| --- | --- |
| **Boxed Ice** | Boxedice’s server monitoring solution - Server Density - stores 600 million+ documents in MongoDB.

- Boxedice blog posts:
  - Automating partitioning, sharding and failover with MongoDB
  - Why we migrated from mysql to mongodb
  - Notes from a production deployment
  - Humongous Data at Server Density: Approaching 1 Billion Documents in MongoDB
- Presentations:
  - Humongous Data at Server Density - MongoUK Presentation (June 2010)
  - MongoDB in Production at Boxed Ice - Webinar (May 2010) |
| **Wordnik** | Wordnik stores its entire text corpus in MongoDB - 1.2TB of data in over 5 billion records. The speed to query the corpus was cut to 1/4 the time it took prior to migrating to MongoDB. More about MongoDB at Wordnik:

- B is for Billion - Wordnik Blog (July 2010)
- MongoDB: Migration from Mysql at Wordnik - Scalable Web Architectures (May 2010)
- Tony Tam's Presentation at MongoSF (April 2010)
- What has technology done for words lately? - Wordnik blog (February 2010) |
| **ShareThis** | ShareThis makes it easy to share ideas and get to the good stuff online. ShareThis is the world’s largest sharing network reaching over 400 million users across 150,000 sites and 785,000 domains across the web |
| **Business Insider** | Business Insider has been using MongoDB since the beginning of 2008. All of the site’s data, including posts, comments, and even the images, are stored on MongoDB. For more information:

- How This Web Site Uses MongoDB (November 2009 Article)
- How Business Insider Uses MongoDB (May 2010 Presentation) |
| **GitHub** | GitHub, the social coding site, is using MongoDB for an internal reporting application. |
| **Gilt Groupe** | Gilt Groupe is an invitation only luxury shopping site. Gilt uses MongoDB for real time ecommerce analytics.

- Gilt CTO Mike Bryzek’s presentation at MongoSF in April 2010.
- Hummingbird - a real-time web traffic visualization tool developed by Gilt and powered by MongoDB |
| **IGN Entertainment** | IGN Entertainment, a unit of News Corporation, is a leading Internet media and services provider focused on the videogame and entertainment enthusiast markets. IGN’s properties reached more than 37.3 million unique users worldwide February 2010, according to Internet audience measurement firm comScore Media Metrix. MongoDB powers IGN’s real-time traffic analytics and RESTful Content APIs. |
| **CollegeHumor** | CollegeHumor is a comedy website. MongoDB is used in CollegeHumor for internal analytics and link exchange application. |
| **Evite** | Evite uses MongoDB for analytics and quick reporting.

- Tracking and visualizing mail logs with MongoDB and gviz_api - Grig Gheorghiu’s blog (July 2010) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Disqus</strong></th>
<th>Disqus is an innovative blog-commenting system.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="MongoHQ Logo" /></td>
<td>MongoHQ provides a hosting platform for MongoDB and also uses MongoDB as the back-end for its service. Our hosting centers page provides more information about MongoHQ and other MongoDB hosting options.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Justin.tv Logo" /></td>
<td>Justin.tv is the easy, fun, and fast way to share live video online. MongoDB powers Justin.tv’s internal analytics tools for virality, user retention, and general usage stats that out-of-the-box solutions can’t provide. Read more about Justin.tv’s broadcasting architecture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ![Chartbeat Logo](image) | Chartbeat is a revolutionary real-time analytics service that enables people to understand emergent behaviour in real-time and exploit or mitigate it. Chartbeat stores all historical analytics data in MongoDB.  
- The Secret Weapons Behind Chartbeat - Kushal’s coding blog (April 2010)  
- Kushal Dave’s Presentation at MongoNYC (May 2010) |
| ![Hot Potato Logo](image) | Hot Potato is a social tool that organizes conversations around events. For more information:  
- Hot Potato’s presentation about using Scala and MongoDB at the New York Tech Talks Meetup (March 2010)  
- Hot Potato presentation at MongoSF (April 2010)  
- Hot Potato Infrastructure from Hot Potato blog (May 2010)  
- Hot Potato presentation at MongoNYC (May 2010) |
| ![Eventbrite Logo](image) | Eventbrite gives you all the online tools you need to bring people together for an event and sell tickets. EventBrite uses MongoDB to track page views.  
- Why you should track page views with MongoDB - EventBrite Blog (June 2010) |
| ![Flowdock Logo](image) | Flowdock is a modern web-based team messenger, that helps your team to become more organized simply by chatting. Flowdock backend uses MongoDB to store all messages.  
- Why Flowdock migrated from Cassandra to MongoDB - Flowdock Blog (July 2010) |
| ![Sugar CRM Logo](image) | Sugar CRM uses MongoDB to power the backend of its preview feedback mechanism. It captures users’ comments and whether they like or dislike portions of the application all from within beta versions of Sugar. |
| ![PhoneTag Logo](image) | PhoneTag is a service that automatically transcribes voicemail to text and delivers it in real-time via e-mail and SMS. PhoneTag stores the metadata and transcriptions for every voicemail it process in MongoDB. |
| ![Harmony Logo](image) | Harmony is a powerful web-based platform for creating and managing websites. It helps developers with content editors work together with unprecedented flexibility and simplicity. From stylesheets, images and templates, to pages, blogs, and comments, every piece of Harmony data is stored in MongoDB. Switching to MongoDB from MySQL drastically simplified Harmony’s data model and increased the speed at which we can deliver features.  
- Steve Smith’s presentation about Harmony at MongoSF (April 2010) |
**Hashrocket** is an expert web design and development group. Hashrocket built **PharmMD**, a fully-featured Medication Management application in Ruby on Rails. The system contains functionality for identifying and resolving drug-related problems for millions of patients.

**Yottaa** offers Performance Analytics, a cloud service that monitors, ranks and analyzes the performance of millions of web sites, providing an open database to answer questions such as “why performance matters” and “how fast is my site”. Yottaa is using Ruby on Rails and MongoDB to build their scalable analytics engine.

- **Scalable Event Analytics with MongoDB and Ruby** - Jared Rosoff's presentation at RubyConfChina (June 2010)

**BuzzFeed** is a trends aggregator that uses a web crawler and human editors to find and link to popular stories around the web. BuzzFeed moved an analytics system tracking over 400 million monthly events from MySQL to MongoDB.

**Codaset** is an open system where you can browse and search through open source projects, and check out what your friends are coding.

- **The awesomeness that is MongoDB and NoSQL, is taking over Codaset** - Codaset Blog (May 2010)
- **Handling Dates in MongoDB** - Codaset Blog (July 2010)

**Shopwiki** uses Mongo as a data store for its shopping search engine, where they commit all the data generated, such as custom analytics. Mongo's performance is such that ShopWiki uses it in cases where MySQL would just not be practical. ShopWiki is also using it as a storage engine for all R&D and data-mining efforts where MongoDB’s document oriented architecture offers maximum flexibility.

- **Avery's Talk at MongoNYC** - ShopWiki Dev Blog (June 2010)

**MyPunchbowl.com** is a start to finish party planning site that uses MongoDB for tracking user behavior and data mining.

- **Ryan Angilly on Replacing MySQL with MongoDB (Zero to Mongo)** on The Bitsource
- **MongoDB for Dummies: How MyPunchbowl went from 0 to production in under 3 days** - Presentation at MongoNYC (May 2010)

**Sunlight Labs** is a community of open source developers and designers dedicated to opening up our government to make it more transparent, accountable and responsible. MongoDB powers the **National Data Catalog**, and the **Drumbone API**, which is an aggregator of data about members of Congress.

- **Civic Hacking** - Video from Luigi Montanez's presentation at MongoNYC (May 2010)
- **How We Use MongoDB at Sunlight** blog post (May 2010)

**photostre.am** streams image data from flickr and uses MongoDB as its only database.

- **MongoDB in Production at photostre.am** - photostre.am blog (June 2010)

**Fotopedia** uses MongoDB as storage backend for its copy of wikipedia data, storage for users and albums timelines, a feature that is currently under heavy refactoring, and as the “metacache”, an index of every tiny html fragment in its varnish cache for proactive invalidation of stale content.

- **MongoDB: Our Swiss Army Datastore** - Presentation at MongoFR in June 2010: Slides and Video
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stickybits</td>
<td>is a fun and social way to attach digital content to real world objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EA</td>
<td>MongoDB is being used for the game feeds component. It caches game data from different sources which gets served to ea.com, rupture.com and the EA download manager.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struq</td>
<td>develops technology that personalises the contents and design of online display advertising in real time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pitchfork</td>
<td>is using MongoDB for their year-end readers survey and internal analytics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Struq</td>
<td>develops technology that personalises the contents and design of online display advertising in real time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floxee</td>
<td>a web toolkit for creating Twitter directories, leverages MongoDB for back-end storage. The award-winning TweetCongress is powered by Floxee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailthru</td>
<td>is an email service provider that uses MongoDB for click-stream analysis and reporting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silentale</td>
<td>keeps track of your contacts and conversations from multiple platforms and allows you to search and access them from anywhere. Silentale is using MongoDB as the back-end for indexing and searching on millions of stored messages of different types. More details on Silentale can be found in this TechCrunch article.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TeachStreet</td>
<td>helps people find local and online classes by empowering teachers with robust tools to manage their teaching businesses. MongoDB powers our real-time analytics system which provide teachers with insight into the performance and effectiveness of their listings on TeachStreet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defensio</td>
<td>is a comment-spam blocker that uses MongoDB for back-end storage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TweetSaver</td>
<td>is a web service for backing up, searching, and tagging your tweets. TweetSaver uses MongoDB for back-end storage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom Digital</td>
<td>'s AdGear platform is a next-generation ad platform. MongoDB is used for back-end reporting storage for AdGear.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KLATU Networks</td>
<td>designs, develops and markets asset monitoring solutions which helps companies manage risk, reduce operating costs and streamline operations through proactive management of the status, condition, and location of cold storage assets and other mission critical equipment. KLATU uses MongoDB to store temperature, location, and other measurement data for large wireless sensor networks. KLATU chose MongoDB over competitors for scalability and query capabilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Songkick</td>
<td>lets you track your favorite artists so you never miss a gig again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Detexify</td>
<td>is a cool application to find LaTeX symbols easily. It uses MongoDB for back-end storage. Check out the blog post for more on why Detexify is using MongoDB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado, MongoDB, and the Realtime Web</td>
<td>Kiril Savino's presentation at MongoNYC (May 2010)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sifino</td>
<td>Enables students to help each other with their studies. Students can share notes, course summaries, and old exams, and can also ask and respond to questions about particular courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shapado</td>
<td>A multi-topic question and answer site in the style of Stack Overflow. Shapado is written in Rails and uses MongoDB for back-end storage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BillMonitor</td>
<td>Uses MongoDB to store all user data, including large amounts of billing information. This is used by the live site and also by BillMonitor's internal data analysis tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tubricator</td>
<td>Allows you to create easy to remember links to YouTube videos. It's built on MongoDB and Django.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mu.ly</td>
<td>Uses MongoDB for user registration and as a backend server for its iPhone Push notification service. MongoDB is Mu.ly's main backend database and absolute mission critical for Mu.ly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avinu</td>
<td>A Content Management System (CMS) built on the Vork enterprise framework and powered by MongoDB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>edelight</td>
<td>A social shopping portal for product recommendations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topsy</td>
<td>A search engine powered by Tweets that uses Mongo for realtime log processing and analysis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="89x691.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><strong>Codepeek</strong> is using MongoDB and GridFS for storing pastes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="74x636.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><strong>Similaria.pl</strong> is an online platform, created to connect users with people and products that match them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="74x576.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><strong>ToTuTam</strong> uses Mongo to store information about events in its portal and also to store and organise information about users preferences.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="99x512.png" alt="Image" /></td>
<td><strong>themoviedb.org</strong> is a free, user driven movie database that uses MongoDB as its primary database.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ![Image](78x481.png) | **OCW Search** is a search engine for OpenCourseWare. It stores all the course materials in MongoDB and uses Sphinx to index these courses.  
- [Full Text Search with Sphinx - Presentation from MongoUK (June 2010)](http://example.com) |
<p>| <img src="70x409.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>Mixero</strong> is the new generation Twitter client for people who value their time and are tired of information noise. Mixero uses Mongo to store users' preferences and data. |
| <img src="81x334.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>Biggo</strong> is an advanced site constructor with e-commerce modules. Biggo uses MongoDB for stats collection. |
| <img src="52x277.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>Kabisa</strong> is a web development firm specializing in Ruby on Rails and Java / J2EE. Kabisa uses MongoDB for many of its client projects, including a mobile news application for iPhone and Android. |
| <img src="70x231.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>DokDok</strong> makes it easy and automatic for users to find, work on and share the latest version of any document - right from their inbox. DokDok migrated to a Mongo backend in August 2009. See Bruno Morency's presentation <a href="http://example.com">Migrating to MongoDB for more information</a>. |
| <img src="78x184.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>Enbil</strong> is a swedish website for finding, and comparing, rental cars. MongoDB is used for storing and querying data about geographical locations and car rental stations. |
| <img src="89x136.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>Websko</strong> is a content management system designed for individual Web developers and cooperative teams. MongoDB’s lack of schema gives unlimited possibilities for defining manageable document oriented architecture and is used for back-end storage for all manageable structure and data content. Websko is written in Rails, uses MongoMapper gem and in-house crafted libraries for dealing with Mongo internals. |
| <img src="86x101.png" alt="Image" /> | <strong>markitfor.me</strong> is a bookmarking service that makes your bookmarks available via full-text search so you don't have to remember tags or folders. You can just search for what you're looking for and the complete text of all of your bookmarked pages will be searched. MongoDB is used as the datastore for the marked pages. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Use of MongoDB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backpage Pics</td>
<td>Displays backpage.com adult classified listings as an image gallery. MongoDB is used to store listing data. <em>Please note that this website is NSFW.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joomla Ads</td>
<td>Uses MongoDB for its back-end reporting services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>musweet</td>
<td>Keeps track of what artists and bands publish on the social web.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eiwa System Management, Inc.</td>
<td>Has been using MongoDB for various projects since January 2010.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Morango                  | Is an internet strategy consultancy based in London, which uses MongoDB in production on several client projects.  
  - Building a Content Management System with MongoDB - Presentation from MongoDBUK (June 2010) |
<p>| PeerPong                 | Discovers everyone's expertise and connects you to the best person to answer any question. We index users across the entire web, looking at public profiles, real-time streams, and other publicly available information to discover expertise and to find the best person to answer any question. |
| ibibo                    | Is a social network using MongoDB for its dashboard feeds. Each feed is represented as a single document containing an average of 1000 entries; the site currently stores over two million of these documents in MongoDB. |
| MediaMath                | Is the leader in the new and rapidly growing world of digital media trading.  |
| Zoofs                    | Is a new way to discover YouTube videos that people are talking about on Twitter. Zoofs camps in Twitter searching for tweets with YouTube video links, and then ranks them based on popularity. |
| Oodle                    | Is an online classifieds marketplace that serves up more than 15 million visits a month and is the company behind the popular Facebook Marketplace. Oodle is using MongoDB for storing user profile data for its millions of users and has also open sourced its Mongo ORM layer. |
| Funadvice                | Relaunched using the MongoDB and MongoMapper. Read the Funadvice CTO's post to MongoDB User Forum from May 2010 for more details. |
| Ya Sabe                  | Is using MongoDB for the backend storage of business listings. Yasabe.com is the first local search engine built for Hispanics in the US with advanced search functionality. You can find and discover more than 14 million businesses via the web or your mobile phone. All the information is in both Spanish and in English. |
| LoteriaFutbol.com        | Is a Fantasy Soccer Portal recently launched for the World Soccer Cup: South Africa 2010. MongoDB has been used entirely to store data about users, groups, news, tournaments and picks. It uses the PHP driver with a Mongo module for Kohana v3 (Mango). |
| <strong>Kehalim</strong> | Kehalim switched over to MongoDB 1 year ago after exhausting other cloud and relational options. As a contextual affiliate network, Kehalim stores all of its advertisers, ads and even impressions on top of MongoDB. MongoDB has outed both MySQL and memcached completely and also provides great hadoop-like alternative with its own map-reduce. |
| <strong>Squarespace</strong> | Squarespace is an innovative web publishing platform that consists of a fully hosted and managed GUI environment for creating and maintaining websites. Squarespace's new social modules utilize Mongo to store large amounts of social data that is pulled in from around the Internet and displayed in native widgets that are fully integrated with the platform. |
| <strong>Givemebeats.net</strong> | Givemebeats.net is an e-commerce music site that allows people to buy beats (music instrumentals) produced by some of the best producers in the world. Now we entirely use MongoDB to store users profile, beats information, and transaction statistics. |
| <strong>Cheméo</strong> | Cheméo, a search engine for chemical properties, is built on top of MongoDB. For a fairly extensive explanation of the tools and software used and some MongoDB tips, please go to chemeo.com/doc/technology. |
| <strong>Planetaki</strong> | Planetaki is a place were you can read all your favourite websites in one place. MongoDB has replaced MySQL for the storage backend that does all the heavy lifting and caching of each website’s news feed. |
| | • Planetaki Powered by MongoDB - SamLown.com (June 2010) |
| <strong>ChinaVisual.com</strong> | [ChinaVisual.com] is the leading and largest vertical portal and community for creative people in China. ChinaVisual.com moved from mysql to mongodb in early 2009. Currently MongoDB powers its most major production and service, like file storage, session server, and user tracking. |
| <strong>RowFeeder</strong> | RowFeeder is an easy social media monitoring solution that allows people to track tweets and Facebook posts in a spreadsheet. RowFeeder uses MongoDB to keep up with the high volume of status updates across multiple social networks as well as generate basic stats. |
| | • MongoDB for Real Time Data Collection and Stats Generation - Presentation at Mongo Seattle (July 2010) |
| <strong>Mini Medical Record</strong> | Mini Medical Record is designed to facilitate medical care for all members of the public. While useful for everyone, it is especially useful for travelers, professional road warriors, homeless, substance dependent, and other members of the public who receive care through multiple medical systems. |
| <strong>Open Dining Network</strong> | Open Dining Network is a restaurant data and food ordering platform that provides a RESTful API to take web and mobile orders. MongoDB is used to manage all restaurant, customer, and order information. |
| <strong>URLi.st</strong> | URLi.st is a small web application to create and share list of links. The web application is coded in Python (using the pylons framework) and uses MongoDB (with pymongo 1.6) in production to power its data layer. |
| <strong>Pinterest</strong> | Pinterest is a community to share collections of things you love. Pinterest is built in Python and uses MongoDB for its internal analytics tools and huge data sets like contacts imported from gmail and yahoo. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Website/Project</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LearnBoost</td>
<td>A free and amazing gradebook web app that leverages MongoDB for its data storage needs. LearnBoost is the creator of Mongoose, a JavaScript async ORM for MongoDB that is flexible, extensible and simple to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kidiso</td>
<td>A safe online playground for children up to 13, with advanced parental controls. In the current setup, we are using MongoDB for logging, analysis tasks, and background jobs that aggregate data for performance (ie search results and allowed content).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Calculated</td>
<td>Provides an open platform that aggregates carbon and green house gas emissions for everything in the world, from passenger transport, raw materials, through to consumer goods. Built on top of this platform, Carbon Calculated offers a suite of products that make carbon calculation accessible and intuitive.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vowch</td>
<td>A simple platform for telling the world about all the people, places and things that matter most to you. It is a platform for making positive, public endorsements for anyone or anything from a Twitter account. View a vowch for MongoDB: <a href="http://vow.ch/2ij">http://vow.ch/2ij</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HolaDoctor.com</td>
<td>The most comprehensive health and wellness portal available in Spanish for the global online Hispanic community. MongoDB is being used to store all the content for the site, including GridFS to store article images. Session data is also being persisted on our MongoDB cluster using a custom PHP save handler.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ros Spending</td>
<td>The first Russian public spending monitoring project. It includes information about 1,400,000 federal government and 210,000 regional government contracts, as well as information about more than 260,000 suppliers and 26,000 customers. MongoDB stores all reports, customer and supplier information, stats and pre-cached queries. The project was initiated by the Institute of Contemporary Development and launched publicly in July 2010 during the Tver economic forum.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BlueSpark</td>
<td>Designs and develops iPhone and iPad applications and specializes in Adobe Flash development, we have a passion for creating great user experiences and products that feel simple to use.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Aghora]</td>
<td>A time attendance application specially designed for the requirements of the Brazilian governmental requirements. Our whole application is based on PHP and MongoDB. <a href="http://vow.ch/2ij">Click here</a> for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Man of the House</td>
<td>A guide for the jack of all trades trying to be better – at work and at home, as a father and as a husband. The entire backend of the site depends on MongoDB.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PeerIndex</td>
<td>An algorithmic authority ranking web service that uses MongoDB to scale processing of the firehose of social media, as a distributed data store and middle cache for fast site performance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sahibinden.com</td>
<td>An online classifieds marketplace that serves more than 14.5 million unique visitors and over 1.5 billion pageviews a month. sahibinden.com is using MongoDB for storing classifieds data and caching.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Remembersaurus is a flashcard website targeted at language learners which helps the learners focus on the cards that they are having the hardest time remembering. We're using MongoDB for all of our backend storage, but it's been particularly useful for helping log how well each user knows each of the cards they are studying.

See also

- MongoDB Apps
- Use Cases
- User Feedback

Mongo-Based Applications

Please list applications that leverage MongoDB here. If you're using MongoDB for your application, we'd love to list you here! Email meghan@10gen.com.

See Also

- Production Deployments - Companies and Sites using MongoDB
- Hosting Center

Applications Using MongoDB

CMS

*HarmonyApp*

Harmony is a powerful web-based platform for creating and managing websites. It helps connect developers with content editors, for unprecedented flexibility and simplicity. For more information, view Steve Smith's presentation on Harmony at MongoSF (April 2010).

*c5t*

Content-management using TurboGears and Mongo

*Websko*

Websko is a content management system designed for individual Web developers and cooperative teams.

*Graylog2*

Graylog2 is an open source syslog server implementation that stores logs in MongoDB and provides a Rails frontend.

Analytics

*Hummingbird*

Hummingbird is a real-time web traffic visualization tool developed by Gilt Groupe

Events

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to get all of the latest updates!

Mongo Conferences

10gen Weekly "Office Hours"

- *Mongo Boston September 20*
  One day conference in Cambridge, MA. Click here for conference agenda and registration.
• **Mongo Berlin October 4**

One day conference in Berlin, Germany.
Click here for conference agenda and registration.

• **Mongo Chicago October 20**

One day conference in Chicago, IL.
Click here for conference agenda and registration.

**MongoDB Webinars**

• **Introduction to MongoDB**

  August 24 at 1pm ET / 10am PT  
  Register

• **Deployment Best Practices**

  September 14 at 12:30pm ET / 9:30am PT  
  Register

• **Data Migration: Importing your Data into MongoDB**

  October 12 at 12:30pm ET / 9:30am PT  
  Register

10gen holds weekly open "office hours" with whiteboarding, hack sessions, etc., in NYC. Come over to 10gen headquarters to meet the MongoDB team.

• **Mountain View**

  MongoDB Office Hours with 10gen CTO Eliot Horowitz, Roger Bodamer, and Alvin Richards  
  Thursday, August 12, 5:30pm - 7:30pm PT  
  Red Rock Cafe  
  201 Castro Street  
  Mountain View, CA  
  Register

• **New York**

  Wednesdays, 4pm - 6:30pm ET  
  17 West 18th Street - 8th Floor  
  Between 5th & 6th Ave  
  New York, NY  
  * Please note that the doorbell says "ShopWiki"

• **San Francisco**

  On the west coast? Stop by the Epicenter Cafe in San Francisco on Mondays to meet 10gen Software Engineer Aaron Staple. Ask questions, hack, have some coffee. Look for a laptop with a "Powered by MongoDB" sticker.

  Mondays 5pm - 7pm PT  
  Epicenter Cafe  
  764 Harrison St  
  Between 4th St & Lapu St  
  San Francisco, CA

**Check out the MongoDB Meetup groups:**

![Meetup Logo](image-url)
Conferences and Meetups

United States

Europe

Asia

Northeast

Mongo DB v1.6 Release Party
New York
August 17

MongoDB Replica Sets
Dwight Merriman
NoSQL NYC
New York
August 18

Schema Design with MongoDB
Kyle Banker, Software Engineer, 10gen
New York MongoDB User Group
September 21

Midwest

Mongo Chicago October 20
One day conference in Chicago, IL.
Click here for conference agenda and registration.

Inside MongoDB: The Internals of an Open Source Database
Eliot Horowitz, CTO, 10gen
ChicagoDB
October 18

West Coast

MongoDB: Object Storage Strategies (Designing and Mapping)
San Francisco MongoDB User Group
August 10

Southwest

MongoDB
Clayton Lengel-Zigich
phxRails
Arizona
August 24

South

Introduction to MongoDB
Mohammad Azum, Sogeti
Houston Tech Fest
October 9
MongoDB: A new M for your LAMP stack
Richard Kreuter, Software Engineer, 10gen
FrOSCON
Bonn, Germany
August 21-22

Dinner in the sky with MongoDB
Marc Boeker, ONchestra
NoSQL Frankfurt
Frankfurt, Germany
September 28

Mongo - one year later
Marcin Szajek (Programa.pl) and Mciej Dziardziel (Adwertaizing)
PyCon Ukraine
October 23-24

Practical Ruby Projects with MongoDB
Alex Sharp
RubyKaigi 2010
Tsukuba, Japan
August 29

Media from Recent Events and Conferences

Slide Gallery | More Presentations and Video

MongoMap

View listed events on the MongoMap! Visit the MongoMap to save the map, or subscribe to the events RSS feed.

View MongoMap for MongoDB in a larger map

If you're interested in having someone present MongoDB at your conference or meetup, or if you would like to list your MongoDB event on this page, contact meghan at 10gen dot com.

Video & Slides from Recent Events and Presentations

Table of Contents:

[ MongoDB Conferences ] [ Ruby/Rails ] [ Python ] [ Alt.NET ] [ User Experiences ] [ More about MongoDB ]

MongoDB Conferences

One-day conferences hosted by 10gen. 10gen develops and supports MongoDB.

MongoUK Video (June 2010)
MongoFR Video (June 2010)
MongoNYC (May 2010) and MongoSF (April 2010) Video
MongoSF (April 2010) Slides & Video

Ruby/Rails

Practical Ruby Projects with MongoDB
Alex Sharp, OptimisCorp
Ruby Midwest - June 2010

Scalable Event Analytics with MongoDB and Ruby
Jared Rosoff, Yottaa
RubyConfChina - June 26, 2010

The MongoDB Metamorphosis (Kyle Banker, 10gen)
Million Dollar Mongo (Obie Fernandez & Durran Jordan, Hashrocket)
Analyze This! (Blythe Dunham)
RailsConf
Baltimore, MD
June 7-10

MongoDB
Seth Edwards
London Ruby Users Group
London, UK
Wednesday April 14
Video & Slides

MongoDB: The Way and its Power
Kyle Banker, Software Engineer, 10gen
RubyNation
Friday April 9 & Saturday April 10
Reston, VA
Slides | Video

MongoDB Rules
Kyle Banker, Software Engineer, 10gen
Mountain West Ruby Conference
Salt Lake City, UT
Thursday March 11 & Friday March 12
Slides

MongoDB & Mongoid
Durran Jordan, Hashrocket
RubyJax
February 23, 2010
Video

MongoDB Isn't Water
Kyle Banker, Software Engineer, 10gen
Chicago Ruby
February 2, 2010
Video | Slides | Photos

Introduction to MongoDB
Joon Yu, RubyHead
teachmetocode.com
Nov-Dec, 2009
Screeencasts

Python

How Python, TurboGears, and MongoDB are Transforming SourceForge.net
Rick Copeland, SourceForge.net
PyCon - Atlanta, GA
February 21, 2010
Slides

Alt.NET

.NET and MongoDB - Building Applications with NoRM and MongoDB
Alex Hung
July 28, 2010

User Experiences

The Future of Content Technologies
Scaling Web Applications with NonSQL Databases: Business Insider Case Study
Ian White, Lead Developer, Business Insider
Gilbane Conference
San Francisco, CA
Thursday, May 20
Slides

Chartbeat and MongoDB - a perfect marriage
Kushal Dave, CTO, Chartbeat & Mike Dirolf, Software Engineer, 10gen
New York City Cloud Computing Meetup
New York, NY
May 18
Slides

Why MongoDB is Awesome
John Nunemaker, CTO, Ordered List
DevNation Chicago
May 15
Slides

Humongous Data at Server Density: Approaching 1 Billion Documents in MongoDB
David Mytton, Founder, Boxed Ice
Webinar
Wednesday May 5
Recording & Slides

Humongous Drupal
DrupalCon San Francisco
Karoly Negyesi, Examiner.com
Saturday April 17
Slides | Video

MongoDB: huMONGOus Data at SourceForge
Mark Ramm, Web Developer, SourceForge
QCon London
Thursday March 11
Slides

Migrating to MongoDB
Bruno Morency, DokDok
Confoo.ca
March 10 - 12
Slides

More about MongoDB

Recording of Michael Dirolf on MongoDB @ E-VAN 07 June 2010

NoSQL-Channeling the Data Explosion
Dwight Merriman, CEO, 10gen
Inside MongoDB: the Internals of an Open-Source
Mike Dirolf, Software Engineer, 10gen
Gluecon
Denver, CO
Wednesday May 26 & Thursday May 27

Schema Design with MongoDB
Kyle Banker, Software Engineer, 10gen
Webinar
Tuesday April 27
Recording and Slides

Dropping ACID with MongoDB
Kristina Chodorow, Software Engineer, 10gen
San Francisco MySQL Meetup
San Francisco, CA
Monday, April 12
Video

Introduction to MongoDB
Mike Dirolf, Software Engineer, 10gen
Emerging Technologies for the Enterprise Conference
Philadelphia, PA
Friday, April 9
Slides

Indexing with MongoDB
Aaron Staple, Software Engineer, 10gen
Webinar
Tuesday April 6, 2010
Video | Slides

TechZing Interview with Mike Dirolf, Software Engineer, 10gen
Monday, April 5
Podcast
Hot Potato and MongoDB
New York Tech Talks Meetup
Justin Shaffer and Lincoln Hochberg
New York, NY
Tuesday March 30
Video

MongoDB Day
Geek Austin Data Series
Austin, TX
Saturday March 27
Photo

Mongo Scale!
Kristina Chodorow, Software Engineer, 10gen
Webcast
Friday March 26
Webcast

NoSQL Live Boston
Boston, MA
Thursday March 11
Recap with slides and MP3

MongoDB: How it Works
Mike Dirolf, Software Engineer, 10gen
Monday March 8, 12:30 PM Eastern Time
Slides

Intro to MongoDB
Alex Sharp, Founder / Lead Software Architect, FrothLogic
LA WebDev Meetup
February 23, 2010
Slides

Introduction to MongoDB
Kristina Chodorow, Software Engineer, 10gen
FOSDEM - Brussels, Belgium
February 7, 2010
Video | Slides | Photos

If you're interested in having someone present MongoDB at your conference or meetup, or if you would like to list your MongoDB event on this page, contact meghan at 10gen dot com.

Slide Gallery

Click here to visit our full listing of videos & slides from recent events and presentations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Introduction to MongoDB</th>
<th>User Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://www.slideshare.net" alt="slideshare" /></td>
<td>Get your SlideShare Playlist</td>
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<tr>
<td><img src="https://www.slideshare.net" alt="slideshare" /></td>
<td>Get your SlideShare Playlist</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<th>Ruby/Rails</th>
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<td>Get your SlideShare Playlist</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Java</th>
<th>PHP</th>
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<tbody>
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<td><img src="https://www.slideshare.net" alt="slideshare" /></td>
<td>Get your SlideShare Playlist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="https://www.slideshare.net" alt="slideshare" /></td>
<td>Get your SlideShare Playlist</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

More About MongoDB
Articles

See also the User Feedback page for community presentations, blog posts, and more.

Best of the MongoDB Blog

- What is the Right Data Model? - (for non-relational databases)
- Why Schemaless is Good
- The Importance of Predictability of Performance
- Capped Collections - one of MongoDB's coolest features
- Using MongoDB for Real-time Analytics
- Using MongoDB for Logging
- http://blog.mongodb.org/tagged/best+of

Articles / Key Doc Pages

- On Atomic Operations
- Reaching into Objects - how to do sophisticated query operations on nested JSON-style objects
- Schema Design
- Full Text Search in Mongo
- MongoDB Production Deployments

Videos

- MongoDB Blip.tv Channel
- MongoDB for Rubyists (February 2010 Chicago Ruby Meetup)
- Introduction to MongoDB (FOSDEM February 2010)
- NY MySql Meetup - NoSQL, Scaling, MongoDB
- Teach Me To Code - Introduction to MongoDB
- DCVIE

Benchmarks

If you've done a benchmark, we'd love to hear about it! Let us know at kristina at 10gen dot com.

March 9, 2010 - Speed test between django_mongokit and psycopg2 benchmarks creating, editing, and deleting.

February 15, 2010 - Benchmarking Tornado's Sessions flatfile, Memcached, MySQL, Redis, and MongoDB compared.

January 23, 2010 - Inserts and queries against MySQL, CouchDB, and Memcached.

May 10, 2009 - MongoDB vs. CouchDB vs. Tokyo Cabinet

July 2, 2009 - MongoDB vs. MySQL

September 25, 2009 - MongoDB inserts using Java.

August 11, 2009 - MySQL vs. MongoDB vs. Tokyo Tyrant vs. CouchDB inserts and queries using PHP.

August 23, 2009 - MySQL vs. MongoDB in PHP: Part 1 (inserts), Part 2 (queries), aginst InnoDB with and without the query log and MyISAM.

November 9, 2009 - MySQL vs. MongoDB in PHP and Ruby inserts (original Russian, English translation)

Disclaimer: these benchmarks were created by third parties not affiliated with MongoDB. MongoDB does not guarantee in any way the correctness, thoroughness, or repeatability of these benchmarks.

See Also

- http://blog.mongodb.org/post/472834501/mongodb-1-4-performance

FAQ

This FAQ answers basic questions for new evaluators of MongoDB. See also:
What kind of database is the Mongo database?

MongoDB is an document-oriented DBMS. Think of it as MySQL but JSON (actually, BSON) as the data model, not relational. There are no joins. If you have used object-relational mapping layers before in your programs, you will find the Mongo interface similar to use, but faster, more powerful, and less work to set up.

What languages can I use to work with the Mongo database?

Lots! See the drivers page.

Does it support SQL?

No, but MongoDB does support ad hoc queries via a JSON-style query language. See the Tour and Advanced Queries pages for more information on how one performs operations.

Is caching handled by the database?

For simple queries (with an index) Mongo should be fast enough that you can query the database directly without needing the equivalent of memcached. The goal is for Mongo to be an alternative to an ORM/memcached/mysql stack. Some MongoDB users do like to mix it with memcached though.

What language is MongoDB written in?

The database is written in C++. Drivers are usually written in their respective languages, although some use C extensions for speed.

What are the 32-bit limitations?

MongoDB uses memory-mapped files. When running on a 32-bit operating system, the total storage size for the server (data, indexes, everything) is 2gb. If you are running on a 64-bit os, there is virtually no limit to storage size. See the blog post for more information.

Product Comparisons

Interop Demo (Product Comparisons)

Interop 2009 MongoDB Demo

Code: http://github.com/mdirolf/simple-messaging-service/tree/master

MongoDB, CouchDB, MySQL Compare Grid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Model</th>
<th>CouchDB</th>
<th>MongoDB</th>
<th>MySQL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Document-Oriented (JSON)</td>
<td>Document-Oriented (BSON)</td>
<td>Relational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Types</td>
<td>string, number, boolean, array, object</td>
<td>string, int, double, boolean, date, bytearray, object, array, others</td>
<td>link</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
See Also

- Comparing Mongo DB and Couch DB

Comparing Mongo DB and Couch DB

We are getting a lot of questions "how are mongo db and couch different?" It's a good question: both are document-oriented databases with schemaless JSON-style object data storage. Both products have their place -- we are big believers that databases are specializing and "one size fits all" no longer applies.

We are not CouchDB gurus so please let us know in the forums if we have something wrong.

MVCC

One big difference is that CouchDB is MVCC based, and MongoDB is more of a traditional update-in-place store. MVCC is very good for certain classes of problems: problems which need intense versioning; problems with offline databases that resync later; problems where you want a large amount of master-master replication happening. Along with MVCC comes some work too: first, the database must be compacted periodically, if there are many updates. Second, when conflicts occur on transactions, they must be handled by the programmer manually (unless the db also does conventional locking -- although then master-master replication is likely lost).

MongoDB updates an object in-place when possible. Problems require high update rates of objects are a great fit; compaction is not necessary. Mongo's replication works great but, without the MVCC model, it is more oriented towards master/slave and auto failover configurations than to complex master-master setups. With MongoDB you should see high write performance, especially for updates.

Horizontal Scalability

One fundamental difference is that a number of Couch users use replication as a way to scale. With Mongo, we tend to think of replication as a way to gain reliability/failover rather than scalability. Mongo uses (auto) sharding as our path to scalability (sharding is GA as of 1.6). In this sense MongoDB is more like Google BigTable. (We hear that Couch might one day add partitioning too.)

Query Expression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large Objects (Files)</th>
<th>Yes (attachments)</th>
<th>Yes (GridFS)</th>
<th>blobs?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horizontal partitioning scheme</td>
<td>CouchDB Lounge</td>
<td>Auto-sharding (v1.6)</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replication</td>
<td>Master-master (with developer supplied conflict resolution)</td>
<td>Master-slave (and &quot;replica sets&quot;)</td>
<td>Master-slave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Object(row) Storage</td>
<td>One large repository</td>
<td>Collection based</td>
<td>Table based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Query Method</td>
<td>Map/reduce of javascript functions to lazily build an index per query</td>
<td>Dynamic; object-based query language</td>
<td>Dynamic; SQL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Indexes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atomicity</td>
<td>Single document</td>
<td>Single document</td>
<td>Yes - advanced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interface</td>
<td>REST</td>
<td>Native drivers ; REST add-on</td>
<td>Native drivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Server-side batch data manipulation</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Map/Reduce, server-side javascript</td>
<td>Yes (SQL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written in</td>
<td>Erlang</td>
<td>C++</td>
<td>C++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concurrency Control</td>
<td>MVCC</td>
<td>Update in Place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geospatial Indexes</td>
<td>GeoCouch</td>
<td>Yes. (As of June 2010, coordinate system is cartesian. Spherical coming soon.)</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributed Consistency Model</td>
<td>Eventually consistent (master-master replication with versioning and version reconciliation)</td>
<td>Strong consistency. Eventually consistent reads from secondaries are available.</td>
<td>Strong consistency. Eventually consistent reads from secondaries are available.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Couch uses a clever index building scheme to generate indexes which support particular queries. There is an elegance to the approach, although one must predeclare these structures for each query one wants to execute. One can think of them as materialized views.

Mongo uses traditional dynamic queries. As with, say, MySQL, we can do queries where an index does not exist, or where an index is helpful but only partially so. Mongo includes a query optimizer which makes these determinations. We find this is very nice for inspecting the data administratively, and this method is also good when we don’t want an index: such as insert-intensive collections. When an index corresponds perfectly to the query, the Couch and Mongo approaches are then conceptually similar. We find expressing queries as JSON-style objects in MongoDB to be quick and painless though.

**Atomicity**

Both MongoDB and CouchDB support **concurrent modifications of single documents**. Both forego complex transactions involving large numbers of objects.

**Durability**

The products take different approaches to durability. CouchDB is a "crash-only" design where the db can terminate at any time and remain consistent. MongoDB take a different approach to durability. On a machine crash, one then would run a `repairDatabase()` operation when starting up again (similar to MyISAM). MongoDB recommends using replication -- either LAN or WAN -- for true durability as a given server could permanently be dead. To summarize: CouchDB is better at durability when using a single server with no replication.

**Map Reduce**

Both CouchDB and MongoDB support map/reduce operations. For CouchDB map/reduce is inherent to the building of all views. With MongoDB, map/reduce is only for data processing jobs but not for traditional queries.

**Javascript**

Both CouchDB and MongoDB make use of Javascript. CouchDB uses Javascript extensively including in the building of views.

MongoDB supports the use of Javascript but more as an adjunct. In MongoDB, query expressions are typically expressed as JSON-style query objects; however one may also specify a javascript expression as part of the query. MongoDB also supports running arbitrary javascript functions server-side and uses javascript for map/reduce operations.

**REST**

Couch uses REST as its interface to the database. With its focus on performance, MongoDB relies on language-specific database drivers for access to the database over a proprietary binary protocol. Of course, one could add a REST interface atop an existing MongoDB driver at any time -- that would be a very nice community project. Some early stage REST implementations exist for MongoDB.

**Performance**

Philosophically, Mongo is very oriented toward performance, at the expense of features that would impede performance. We see MongoDB being useful for many problems where databases have not been used in the past because databases are too “heavy”. Features that give MongoDB good performance are:

- client driver per language: native socket protocol for client/server interface (not REST)
- use of memory mapped files for data storage
- collection-oriented storage (objects from the same collection are stored contiguously)
- update-in-place (not MVCC)
- written in C++

**Use Cases**

It may be helpful to look at some particular problems and consider how we could solve them.

- if we were building Lotus Notes, we would use Couch as its programmer versioning reconciliation/MVCC model fits perfectly. Any problem where data is offline for hours then back online would fit this. In general, if we need several eventually consistent master-master replica databases, geographically distributed, often offline, we would use Couch.
- if we had very high performance requirements we would use Mongo. For example, web site user profile object storage and caching of data from other sources.
- if we were building a system with very critical transactions, such as bond trading, we would not use MongoDB for those transactions -- although we might in hybrid for other data elements of the system. For something like this we would likely choose a traditional RDBMS.
- for a problem with very high update rates, we would use Mongo as it is good at that. For example, updating real time analytics counters for a web sites (pages views, visits, etc.)

Generally, we find MongoDB to be a very good fit for building web infrastructure.

**Licensing**
If you are using a vanilla MongoDB server from either source or binary packages you have NO obligations. You can ignore the rest of this page.

- MongoDB Database
  - Free Software Foundation's GNU AGPL v3.0.
  - Commercial licenses are also available from 10gen.
- Drivers:
  - mongodb.org "Supported Drivers": Apache License v2.0.
  - Third parties have created drivers too; licenses will vary there.
- Documentation: Creative Commons.

From our blog post on the AGPL:

Our goal with using AGPL is to preserve the concept of copyleft with MongoDB. With traditional GPL, copyleft was associated with the concept of distribution of software. The problem is that nowadays, distribution of software is rare: things tend to run in the cloud. AGPL fixes this “loophole” in GPL by saying that if you use the software over a network, you are bound by the copyleft. Other than that, the license is virtually the same as GPL v3.

Note however that it is never required that applications using mongo be published. The copyleft applies only to the mongod and mongos database programs. This is why MongoDB drivers are all licensed under an Apache license. Your application, even though it talks to the database, is a separate program and "work".

If you intend to modify the server and distribute or provide access to your modified version you are required to release the full source code for the modified MongoDB server. To reiterate, you only need to provide the source for the MongoDB server and not your application (assuming you use the provided interfaces rather than linking directly against the server).

A few example cases of when you'd be required to provide your changes to MongoDB to external users:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hosting company providing access MongoDB servers</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public-facing website using MongoDB for content</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal use website using MongoDB</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal analysis of log files from a web site</td>
<td>no</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regardless of whether you are required to release your changes we request that you do. The preferred way to do this is via a github fork. Then we are likely to include your changes so everyone can benefit.

## Windows

### Windows Quick Links and Reference Center

#### Running MongoDB on Windows

See the Quickstart page for info on how to install and run the database for the first time.

#### Running as a Service

See the Windows Service page.

### The MongoDB Server

Get pre-built binaries on the Downloads page. Binaries are available for both 32 bit and 64 bit Windows. MongoDB uses memory-mapped files for data storage, so for servers managing more than 2GB of data you will definitely need the 64 bit version (and a 64 bit version of Windows).

### Writing Apps

You can write apps in almost any programming language – see the Drivers page. In particular C#, .NET, PHP, C and C++ work just fine.

- C Sharp Language Center
Building

We recommend using the pre-built binaries, but Mongo builds fine with Visual Studio 2008 and 2010. See the Building for Windows page.

Versions of Windows

We have successfully ran MongoDB (mongod etc.) on:

- Windows Server 2008 R2 64 bit
- Windows 7 (32 bit and 64 bit)
- Windows XP
- Vista

International Docs

Most documentation for MongoDB is currently written in English. We are looking for volunteers to contribute documentation in other languages. If you're interested in contributing to documentation in another language please email roger at 10gen dot com.

Language Homepages

- Deutsch
- Español
- Français
- Italiano
- Português

Books

Available for Pre-Order

The Definitive Guide to MongoDB: The NoSQL Database for Cloud and Desktop Computing
By Peter Membrey

MongoDB for Web Development
By Mitch Pirtle

MongoDB: The Definitive Guide
By Kristina Chodorow and Mike Dirolf

Coming Soon

MongoDB in Action
A Sample Configuration Session

Following example uses two shared mongos processes, all running on a single machine...

About

About the local database

mongod) reserves the database (local) for system functionality. The (local) database is special in that its contents are never replicated. Replica Sets

Replica sets use the following collections in (local):

   - `local.system.replset`: the replica set’s configuration object is stored here. (View via ...

Adding a New Set Member

Adding a new node to an existing replica set is easy. The new node should either have an empty data directory or a recent copy of the data from another set member. When we start the new node, we ...

Adding an Arbiter

Arbiters are nodes in a replica set that only participate in elections: they don’t have a copy of the data and will never become the primary node (or even a readable secondary). They are mainly useful for breaking ties during elections (e.g. if a set only has two members...

Admin UIs

Several administrative user interfaces (GUIs) are available for MongoDB. Tim Gourley’s blog

http://blog.timgourley.com/post/453680012/tuesdaynighttechmongodbuiedition

has a good summary of the tools. #Fang of Mongo Futon4Mongo

http://github.com/sbellity/futon4mongo

Mongo3

http://github.com/derailed/mongo

#MongoHub

#MongoVUE

Mongui...

Admin Zone

Community Admin Related Articles

boxedice.com notes from a production deployment

http://blog.boxedice.com/2010/02/28/notesfromaproductionmongodbdeployment/

Survey of Admin UIs for MongoDB

http://blog.timgourley.com/post/453680012/tuesdaynighttechmongodbuiedition

MongoDB Nagios Check

http://tag1consulting.com/blog/mongodbnagioscheck

MongoDB Cacti Graphs

http://tag1consulting.com ...

Advanced Queries

Introduction

MongoDB offers a rich query environment with lots of features. This page lists some of those features. Queries in MongoDB are represented as JSON style objects, very much like the documents we actually store in the database. For example: // i.e., select ...

Aggregation

Mongo includes utility functions like `count`, `distinct`, `group by` operations. For example:

   - `count()`: returns the number of objects in a collection.
   - `distinct()`: returns an array of unique values from a field.
   - `group by`: performs a group by operation on a specific field, aggregating documents by the field and performing operations on the grouped results.

Amazon EC2

MongoDB runs well on Amazon EC2 instances. This page includes some notes on this most EC2 types including Linux 

Backups
Several strategies exist for backing up MongoDB databases. A word of warning: it's not safe to back up the mongod data files (by default in /data/db/) while the database is running and writes are occurring; such a backup may turn out to be corrupt.

Benchmarks
you've done a benchmark, we'd love to hear about it! Let us know at kristina at 10gen dot com.

Books
Available for PreOrder By Peter Membrey By Mitch Pirtle By Kristyna Chodorow and Mike Diroll Coming Soon !bankercover.jpg! MongoDB in Action http://manning.com/banker/ by Kyle Banker First two chapters available through Manning Early Access Program

Boost 1.41.0 Visual Studio 2010 Binary
OLD and was for the VS2010 BETA. See the new Boost and Windows page instead. The following is a prebuilt boost http://www.boost.org/ binary (libraries) for Visual Studio 2010 beta 2. The MongoDB .vcxproj files assume this package is unzipped under c:\Program ...

Boost and Windows
Visual Studio 2010 Prebuilt from mongodb.org Click here http://www.mongodb.org/pages/viewpageattachments.action?pageid=12157032 for a prebuilt boost library for Visual Studio 2010.&nbsp; 7zip http://www.7zip.org/ format. Building Yourself Download the boost source ...

BSON
bsontools.org http://www.bsontools.org/ BSON is a bin-ary-coding seri-al-iz-a-tion of JSONlike doc-u-ments. BSON is designed to be lightweight, traversable, and efficient. BSON, like JSON, supports the embedding of objects and arrays within other objects ...

bsontools.org

Building section provides instructions on setting up your environment to write MongoDB drivers or other infrastructure code. For specific instructions, go to the document that corresponds to your setup. Note: see the Downloads DOCS:Downloads page for prebuilt binaries! Subsections of this section ...

Building Boost
MongoDB uses the www.boost.org Boost C++ libraries. Windows See also the prebuilt libraries http://www.mongodb.org/pages/viewpageattachments.action?pageid=12157032 page. By default c:\boost is checked for the boost files. Include files should be under \boost\boost ...

Building for FreeBSD
FreeBSD 8.0 and later, there is a mongodb port you can use. For FreeBSD <= 7.2: # Get the database source: http://www.github.com/mongodb/mongo. # Update your ports tree: $ sudo portnap fetch && portnap extract The packages that come by default on 7.2 ...

Building for Linux
General Instructions # Install Dependencies see platform specific below # get source git clone git://github.com/mongodb/mongo.git # pick a stable version unless doing true dev git tag # Switch to a stable branch (unless ...

Building for OS X
set up your OS X computer for MongoDB development: Upgrading to Snow Leopard If you have installed Snow Leopard, the builds will be 64 bit \ so if moving from a previous OS release, a bit more setup may be required ...

Architecture and Components
MongoDB has two primary comp is the mongod process which is the mongod can be used as a selfco mysqld on a server ...

Articles
See also the User Feedback DOIs presentations, blog posts, and m-

Atomic Operations
MongoDB supports atomic opera does not support traditional lockir reasons: First, in sharded enviror and slow.&nbsp; MongoDB DB's go:
MongoDB can be compiled for Windows (32 and 64 bit) using Visual C. SCons http://www.scons.org/ is the make mechanism, although a .vcproj/.sln is also included in the project for convenience when using the Visual Studio IDE. There are several dependencies exist ...

MongoDB uses SpiderMonkey http://www.mozilla.org/js/spidermonkey/ for serverside Javascript execution. The mongod project requires a file js.lib when linking. This page details how to build js.lib. Note: V8 http://code.google.com/p/v8/ Javascript support is under ...

You can build the mongo shell with either scons or a Visual Studio 2010 project file. Scons scons mongo Visual Studio 2010 Project File A VS2010 vcxproj file is available for building the shell. From the mongo directory open ...

MongoDB can be configured via command line parameters in addition to file based configuration. You can see options by running the database -h \

mongod help Information on using command line parameters.

MongoDB includes commands for another. // copy an entire database name on another server. omit <fr another on the same ...

MongoDB collections are essenti think of them as roughly equivelate MongoDB collection is a collectio documents are usually have the ; since MongoDB ...

MongoDB server currently supports little endian Solaris operation. (Although most drivers not the database server work on both.) Community: Help us make this rough page better please!!&nbsp; (And help us add support for big ...
Data Processing Manual

DRAFT TO BE COMPLETED. This guide provides instructions for using MongoDB batch data processing oriented features including map/reduce DOCS:MapReduce. By “data processing”, we generally mean operations performed on large sets of data, rather than small ...

Data Types and Conventions

MongoDB (BSON) Data Types Mango uses special data types in addition to the basic JSON types of string, integer, boolean, double, null, array, and object. These types include date, object id Object IDs, binary data, regular ...

Database Internals

section provides information for developers who want to write drivers or tools for MongoDB, \ contribute code to the MongoDB codebase itself, and for those who are just curious how it works internally. Subsections of this section

Database Profiler

Mongo includes a profiling tool to analyze the performance of database operations. See also the currentOp DOCS:Viewing and Terminating Current Operation command. Enabling Profiling
To enable profiling, from the {{mongo}} shell invoke: > db.setProfilingLevel(2); >
> db.getProfilingLevel() 2 Profiling ...

Database References

MongoDB is nonrelational (no joins), references (“foreign keys”) between documents are generally resolved clientside by additional queries to the server. Two conventions are common for references in MongoDB: first simple manual references, and second, the DBRef standard, which many drivers support ...

Databases

Each MongoDB server can support multiple databases. Each database is independent, and the data for each database is stored separately, for security and ease of management. A database consists of one or more collections, the documents (objects) in those collections, and an optional set ...

DBA Operations from the Shell

page lists common DBAclass operations that one might perform from the MongoDB shell DOCS:mongo The Interactive Shell. Note one may also create .js scripts to run in the shell for administrative purposes. help show help show ...

dbshell Reference

Command Line (\help) Show command line options (\nodb) Start without a db, you can connect later with (\newMongo()) or (\connect()) (\shell) After running a .js file from the command line, stay in the shell rather than ...

Design Overview

Developer FAQ

Also check out Markus Gatto's excellent FAQ on his website http://sunoano.name/ws/publicxhtml/mongodb.html. What's a “namespace”? MongoDB stores BSON objects in collections. The concatenation of the database name and the collection name (with a period in between) is called a namespace ...

Developer Zone

Tutorial Shell mongo The Interactive Shell Manual Databases Collections Indexes Data Types and Conventions GridFS Inserting Updating Querying Removing Optimization Developer FAQ
If you have a question or comment about anything, please contact us through ...

Diagnostic Tools

Django and MongoDB
Do I Have to Worry About SQL Injection

Generally, with MongoDB we are not building queries from strings, so traditional SQL Injection attacks are not a problem. More details and some nuances are covered below. MongoDB queries are represented as BSON objects. Typically the programming ...

Doc Index

Document-Oriented Datastore

Documentation

Dot Notation

Dot Notation (Reaching into Objects)

MongoDB is designed for store JSONstyle objects. The database understands the structure of these objects and can reach into them to evaluate query expressions. Let's suppose we have some objects of the form: > db.persons.findOne() { name: "Joe", address: , likes: 'scuba', 'math' ... 

Downloads

See also #Packages. Version OS X 32 bit OS X 64 bit Linux 32 bit Linux 64 bit Windows 32 bit Windows 64bit Solaris i86pc Solaris 64 Source Date Change ...

Driver and Integration Center

Driver Syntax Table

wiki generally gives examples in JavaScript, so this chart can be used to convert those examples to any language. JavaScript Python PHP Ruby Java C| Perl \{ {{array}}\} \{ {{BasicDBList}}\} BSONObj \{ } \{ {{new stdClass}}\} \{ {{BasicDBObject}}\} BSONObj \{ } \{ {{array}}\}'x ...

Driver Testing Tools

Object IDs driverOIDTest for testing toString > db.runCommand

Drivers

MongoDB currently has client support for the following programming languages: mongodb.org Supported C C Language Center C Language Center Java Java Language Center Javascript Javascript Language Center Perl Perl Language Center ...

Durability and Repair

Single Server Durability The v1.8 release of MongoDB will have single server durability. You can follow the Jira here : http://jira.mongodb.org/browse/SERVER980. We recommend using replication to keep copies of data for now and likely forever as a single server ...

FAQ

FAQ answers basic questions for new evaluators of MongoDB. See also: Developer FAQ DOCS:Sharding FAQ MongoDB Intro FAQ What kind of database is the Mongo database? MongoDB is an documentoriented DBMS. Think of it as MySQL but JSON (actually ...

Feature Checklist for Mongo Drivers

Functionality Checklist This section lists tasks the driver author might handle. Essential BSON serialization/deserialization Basic operations: {{query}}, {{save}}, {{update}}, {{remove}}, {{ensureIndex}}, {{findOne}}, {{limit}}, {{sort}} Fetch more data from a cursor when necessary ...

File Based Configuration

addition to accepting command line parameters, MongoDB can also be configured using a configuration file. A configuration file to use can be specified using the {{config}} command line options. The following example configuration file demonstrates the syntax to use ...

findandmodify Command

Find and Modify (or Remove) v1.3.0 and higher MongoDB 1.3 supports a "find, modify, and return" command.&nbsp; This command can be used to atomically modify a document (at most one) and return it. Note that, by default, the document returned will not include the modifications made on the update ...

Frequently Asked Questions - Ruby

list of frequently asked questions about using Ruby with MongoDB. If you have a question you'd like to have answered here, please add it in the comments. Can I run \insert command name here\ from the Ruby driver? Yes ...

fsync Command

Version 1.3.1 and higher The fsync command allows us to flush all pending writes to datatiles.&nbsp; More importantly, it also provides a lock option that makes backups easier. fsyncCommand The fsync command forces the database to flush all ...

Full Text Search in Mongo

Introduction Mongo provides some functionality that is useful for text search and tagging. Multikeys (Indexing Values in an Array) The Mongo multikey feature can automatically index ...
arrays of values. Tagging is a good example of where this feature is useful. Suppose you ...

H

Halted Replication

instructions are for master/slave replication. For replica sets, see DOCS:Resyncing a Very
Stale Replica Set Member instead. If you're running mongod with master/slave replication
DOCS:Master Slave, there are certain scenarios where the slave will halt replication because ...

Home

and slides http://www.10gen.com/eventmongosf10apr30 MongoDBNYC videos and slides
http://www.10gen.com/eventmongony10may21 More events... Events Getting Started ...

Hosting Center

CloudStyle provides cloudstyle hosted MongoDB instances is currently in private beta
Dedicated Servers offers preconfigured, dedicated MongoDB servers supports MongoDB on
its private cloud. VPS 's is an excellent choice for . offers instant configuration and deployment
of MongoDB ...

How does concurrency work

mongos For sharded DOCS:Sharding environments, mongos can perform any number of
operations concurrently. This results in downstream operations to mongod instances.
Execution of operations at each mongod is independent; that is, one mongod does not block
another. mongod The original mongod ...

How to do Snapshotted Queries in the Mongo Database

document refers to query snapshots. For backup snapshots of the database's datafiles, see the
fsync lock page fsync Command. MongoDB does not support full pointintime snapshotting.
However, some functionality is available which is detailed below. Cursors A MongoDB query ...

HowTo

Http Interface

REST Interfaces Sleepy Mongoose (Python) Sleepy Mongoose
http://www.snailinaturtleneck.com/blog/2010/02/22/sleepymongooseamongodbrestinterface/ is
a full featured REST interface for MongoDB which is available as a separate project. MongoDB
Rest (Node.js) MongoDB Rest http://github.com/tdegrunt/mongodbrest is an alpha ...

I

Implementing Authentication in a Driver

current version of Mongo support authenticates a username and password database.&nbsp; Once authentic
the database in question. The (a

Import Export Tools

you just want to do DOCS:Clone need these tools. These tool just collection); they do not save, or k
(capped ...

Index-Related Commands

Create Index {{ensureIndex()}} is creates an index by adding its inf
{db.myCollection.ensureIndex(\{\_id:1\})}; Note subsequent document inserts for

Indices

Indexes enhance query perfomna about the kienet of queries your a relevant indexes. Once that's dor
relatively easy. Indexes in Mongc

Indexes in a Mongo

Indexing Advice and FAQ

We get a lot of questions about ir of these. There are a couple of p
MongoDB work quite similarly to techniques for building efficient ir

Indexing as a Background Operation

default the {{ensureIndex()}} Inde operations on the database from
v1.3.2, a background indexing oq background, add {{background:tr

Inserting

When we insert data into Mongo! Documents are data structure an
Ruby hashes, to take just a few e documentorientation and descri

Installing the PHP Driver

Internal Commands

Most commands Commands hav {{cmd.findOne()}} syntax. These
\{\_id:1\} &gt; \{\_id:1\} &gt; admin$cmd.findC

Internals

Cursors Tailable Cursors See p/c
side, to support tailable cursors. ! {{queryOptions int]} field to indcs
results when ...

International Docs

Most documentation for MongoDB for volunteers to contribute docur
interested in contributing to docui


tattacks at 10gen dot com. Languaç

International Documentation

Internationalized Strings

MongoDB supports UTF8 for stri
(Specifically, BSON DOCS:BSO! programming language convert fr
UTF8 when serializing and deser
Java - Saving Objects Using DBObj

Java driver provides a DBObj interface to save custom objects to the database. For example, suppose one had a class called Tweet that they wanted to save: public class Tweet implements DBObj Then you can say: Tweet myTweet = new Tweet ...

Java Driver Concurrency

Java MongoDB driver is thread safe. If you are using in a web serving environment, for example, you should create a single Mongo instance, and you can use it in every request. The Mongo object maintains an internal pool of connections ...

Java Language Center

Basics Tutorial Java Tutorial API Documentation http://api.mongodb.org/java/index.html Downloads http://github.com/mongodb/mongojavadriver/downloads Specific Topics Concurrency Java Driver Concurrency Saving Objects Java Saving Objects Using DBObj Data ...

Java Types

Object Ids {{com.mongodb.ObjectId}} http://api.mongodb.org/java/0.11/com/mongodb/ObjectId.html is used to autogenerate unique ids. ObjectId id = new ObjectId(); ObjectId copy = new ObjectId(id); Regular Expressions The Java driver uses {{java.util.regex.Pattern}} http://java.sun.com ...

Javascript Language Center

MongoDB can be Used by clients written in Javascript; Uses Javascript internally serverside for certain options such as map/reduce; Has a shell DOCS:mongo The Interactive Shell that is based on Javascript for administrative purposes. node.JS and V8 See the node.JS page ...

Job Board

Redirecting

Joyent

prebuilt DOCS:Downloads MongoDB Solaris 64 binaries work with Joyent accelerators. Some newer gcc libraries are required to run \ see sample setup session below. $ # assuming a 64 bit accelerator $ /usr/bin/isainfo kv ...

JVM Languages

moved to Java Language Center

Language Support

Last Error Commands

Since MongoDB doesn't wait for a response by default when writing to the database, a couple commands exist for ensuring that these operations have succeeded. These commands can be invoked automatically with many of the drivers when saving and updating in "safe" mode. But what's really happening ...

Legal Key Names

Key names in inserted documents are limited as follows: The '$' character must not be the first character in the key name. The `.' character must not appear anywhere in the key name

Licensing

you are using a vanilla MongoDB server from either source or binary packages you have NO obligations. You can ignore the rest of this page. MongoDB Database Free Software Foundation's GNU AGPL v3.0 http://www.fsf.org/licensing/licenses/agpl3.0 ...

List of Database Commands

iframe src="http://api.mongodb.org/internal/current/commands.html" width="100%" height="1000px" frameborder="0"> <a href="http://api.mongodb.org/internal/current/commands.html">List of MongoDB Commands</a> &lt;/a&gt; &lt;/iframe&gt; See the Commands page for details on how to invoke a command ...

Locking

Locking in Mongo

Logging
MongoDB outputs some important information to stdout while its running. There are a number of things you can do to control this Command Line Options:\n\quiet less verbose output \v more verbose output. use more v's (such as vvvvvv ...

mongo - The Interactive Shell
Introduction The MongoDB distri
MongoDB interactive shell. This i
issue commands to MongoDB fr
extended SpiderMonkey
https://developer.mozilla.org/En/
...

Mongo Administration Guide
Mongo Concepts and Terminology
Mongo Database Administration
Mongo Developers’ Guide
Mongo Documentation Style Guide
page provides information for eve
Confluence. It covers: #General f
markup for specific situations So
Notes on Writing Style Voice Acti

Mongo Driver Requirements
highlevel list of features that a dri
group those features by priority. “
probably used more for inspiratio
way to learn about ...

Mongo Extended JSON
Mongo’s REST interface support:
Special representations are used
JSON mappings, and multiple req
The REST interface supports thr

Mongo Metadata
dbname>.system. namespaces irr
system information.&nbsp; Syste
lists all namespaces. (system.ind
/ index metadata exists in the dat
...

Mongo Query Language
Queries in MongoDB are express
object as the equivalent of a SQL
select from users where x=3 and
server ...

Mongo Usage Basics
Mongo Wire Protocol
Introduction The Mongo Wire Pr
requestresponse style protocol. C
through a regular TCP/IP socket. c
configurable and will vary. Clients
TCP/IP ...

Mongo-Based Applications
Please list applications that lever
for your application, we’d love to
meghan@10gen.com. See Also I
using MongoDB Hosting Center /

MongoDB - A Developer’s Tour
MongoDB Commercial Services Pro
Note: if you provide consultative \nbe listed here, just let us know. S
offers commercial MongoDB sup
See theMongoDB ...

MongoDB Data Modeling and Rails
tutorial discusses the developme
MongoDB.&nbsp; MongoMapper
goal is to provide some insight in
MongoDB.&nbsp; To that end, w
...

MongoDB Language Support
MongoDB, CouchDB, MySQL Comp
pending... CouchDB \ MongoDB
mongosniff

Unix releases of MongoDB include a utility called mongosniff. This utility is to MongoDB what tcpdump is to TCP/IP; that is, fairly low level and for complex situations. The tool is quite useful for authors of driver tools.

Usage: mongosniff help

mongoistat

Use the mongostat utility to quickly view statistics on a running mongod instance. Starting in 1.3.3; this output is from 1.5.5:

insert/s   query/s   update/s   delete/s   getmore/s   command/s   flushes/s   mapped vsize   res faults/s   locked   % idx miss   % q t r ...

Monitoring

Monitoring and Diagnostics

Admin UIs Query Profiler Use the Database Profiler to analyze slow queries. Http Console The mongod process includes a simple diagnostic screen at http://localhost:28017/. See the Http Interface docs for more information.

db.serverStatus() from mongo ...

Moving Chunks

Inc version try to set on from if se finish transfer commit result max this poses slight problem when ...

Multikeys

MongoDB provides an interesting "multikey" feature that can automatically index arrays of an object's values. A good example is tagging. Suppose you have an article tagged with some category names:

$ dbshell > db.articles.save() > db.articles.find() We can ...

N

node.js

Node.js is used to write event-driven, scalable network programs in serverside JavaScript. It is similar in purpose to Twisted, EventMachine, etc. It runs on Google's V8. Web Frameworks ExpressJS http://expressjs.com Mature web framework with MongoDB session support. 3rd Party ...

Notes on Pooling for Mongo Drivers

Note that with the db write operations can be sent asynchronously or synchronously (the latter indicating a getlasterror request after the write). When asynchronous, one must be careful to continue using the same connection (socket). This ensures that the next operation will not begin until after ...

O

Object IDs

Documents in MongoDB are required to have a key, _id, which uniquely identifies them. Document IDs: _id Every MongoDB document has an _id field as its first attribute. This value is usually a BSON ObjectId. Such an ...

Object Mappers for Ruby and MongoDB

Although it's possible to use the Ruby driver by itself, sometimes you want validations, associations, and many of the other conveniences provided by ActiveRecord. Here, then, is a list of the most popular object mappers available for working with Ruby and MongoDB. Recommendations First we advise ...

Older Downloads

One Slave Two Masters

mms.png align=center! This document shows an example session with one slave pulling data from two different masters. Despite the example shown here, it is better, simpler, and generally recommended to have multiple mongod slave processes on a single ...

Online API Documentation

MongoDB API and driver documentation is available online. It is updated daily.

Java Driver API Documentation http://api.mongodb.org/java C Driver API Documentation http://api.mongodb.org/cplusplus Python Driver API Documentation http://api.mongodb.org/python Ruby ...

Optimization

Optimizing A Simple Example This section describes proper techniques for optimizing database performance. Let's consider an example. Suppose our task is to display the front page of a blog we wish to display headlines of the 10 most recent posts. Let's ...

Optimizing Mongo Performance

Optimizing Storage of Small Objects

MongoDB records have a certain DOCS:BSON document) in a collection (there are ways to express such q
Rails - Getting Started
Using Rails 3? See Rails 3 Getting Started This tutorial describes how to set up a simple Rails application with MongoDB, using MongoMapper as an object mapper. We assume you're using Rails versions prior to 3.0 ...

Rails 3 - Getting Started
difficult to use MongoDB with Rails 3. Most of it comes down to making sure that you're not loading ActiveRecord and understanding how to use Bundler
http://github.com/carluhuda/bundler/blob/master/README.markdown, the new Ruby

Perf Language Center
Installing Start a MongoDB server instance ({{mongod}}) before installing so that the tests will pass. The {{mongod}} must be running as master for all tests to pass. Some tests may be skipped, depending on the version of the database you are running. CPAN $ sudo cpan ...

Perf Tutorial
Philosophy
Design Philosophy !featuresPerformance.png align=right! Databases are specializing the "one size fits all" approach no longer applies. By reducing transactional semantics the db provides, one can still solve an interesting set of problems where performance is very ...

PHP - Storing Files and Big Data
PHP Language Center
Using MongoDB in PHP To access MongoDB from PHP you will need: The MongoDB server running the server is the "mongo[d]" file, not the "mongo" client (note the "d" at the end) The MongoDB PHP driver installed Installing the PHP Driver 'NIX Run ...

PHP Libraries, Frameworks, and Tools
PHP community has created a huge number of libraries to make working with MongoDB easier and integrate it with existing frameworks. CakePHP MongoDB datasource http://github.com/ichikaway/mongoDBDatasource/downloads for CakePHP. There's also an introductory blog post http://markstory.com ...

Product Comparisons
Production Deployments
you're using MongoDB in production, we'd love to list you here!&nbsp; Email meghan@10gen.com. &lt;DIV mcestyle="textalign:center;margin:0" style="margin: 0pt; textalign: center;"&gt;Company&lt;/DIV&gt; Use Case &lt;shutterfly.jpg align=center&gt;...

Production Notes
Architecture Production Options Master Slave 1 master, N slaves failover is handled manually Version 1.6: Replica Sets N servers, 1 is always primary, autofailover, autorecovery Backups Import Export Tools Recommended Unix System ...

Project Ideas
you're interested in getting involved in the MongoDB community (or the open source community in general) a great way to do so is by starting or contributing to a MongoDB related project. Here we've listed some project ideas for you to get started on. For some of these ideas ...

PyMongo and mod_wsgi
Python Language Center
Python Tutorial

Queries and Cursors
Queries to MongoDB return a cursor. The exact way to query will vary from queries from the MongoDB shell ({{mongo}} process). The shell ...

Query Optimizer
MongoDB query optimizer generates plan. &amp;nbsp; These plans are ex supported ad hoc queries much lik interesting approach ...

Querying
One of MongoDB's best capabilities is its support for dynamic queries; users can find data using a: Quickstart Quickstart OS X Quickstart Unix go to http://try.mongodb.org/.

Quickstart OS X
Install MongoDB The easiest way to manager or the prebuilt binaries: http://mxcl.github.com/homebrew mongodb If you use MacPorts html Quickstart Unix
Install MongoDB Note: If you are database doesn't start, or gives a version on the Downloads page i managers Ubuntu and Debian ...

Quickstart Windows
Download The easiest (and recor prebuilt binaries. 32bit binaries D The "Production" build is recommeded and extract the 64bit .zip. Note: 6

R
Rails - Getting Started
Using Rails 3? See Rails 3 Getting Started This tutorial describes how to set up a simple Rails application with MongoDB, using MongoMapper as an object mapper. We assume you're using Rails versions prior to 3.0 ...

Rails 3 - Getting Started
difficult to use MongoDB with Rails 3. Most of it comes down to making sure that you're not loading ActiveRecord and understanding how to use Bundler http://github.com/carluhuda/bundler/blob/master/README.markdown, the new Ruby

S
Schema Design
Introduction With Mongo, you do designing a relational schema be Generally, you will want one data objects. You do not want ...
given time. With a single active master at any point in time, strong consistency semantics are
redundancy. Only one server (in the set/shard) is active for writes (the primary, or master) at a
moment. MongoDB supports a concept of replica ... to a set/shard. Because of this, for now it may only
be used in small, non-production environments, with no security or authentication (much like how one would use,
say, memcached). Of course, in such a configuration, one ...
Troubleshooting Trees in MongoDB

MongoDB writes operations to an oplog. For replica sets this data is stored in collection local.oplog.rs.

This is a capped collection and wraps when full "RRD"style. Thus, it is important that the oplog collection is large enough to buffer a good amount.

Resyncing a Very Stale Replica Set Member

MongoDB writes operations to an oplog.$main, which stores a high-level transaction log. The transaction log essentially describes all actions performed by the user, such as "insert this object into this collection." Note that the oplog is not a low-level redo log.

Retrieving a Subset of Fields

default on a find operation, the entire object is returned. However we may also request that only certain fields be returned. This is somewhat analogous to the list of column specifiers in a SQL SELECT statement (projection). Regardless of what field specifiers are included.

Ruby External Resources

A useful selection is listed below. If you know of others, do let us know. Screencasts Introduction to MongoDB Part I http://www.teachmetocode.com/screencasts...

Ruby Language Center

an overview of the available tools and suggested practices for using Ruby with MongoDB. Those wishing to skip to more detailed discussion should check out the Ruby Driver Tutorial Ruby Tutorial, Getting started with Rails Rails Getting Started Rails...

Ruby Tutorial

tutorial gives many common examples of using MongoDB with the Ruby driver. If you're looking for information on data modeling, see MongoDB Data Modeling and Rails. Links to the various object mappers are listed on our object mappers page http://www.mongodb.org/...

Sorting and Natural Order

"Natural order" is defined as the database's native ordering of objects in a collection. When executing a find() with no parameters, the database returns all documents ordered by their natural order.

SQL to Mongo Mapping Chart

page not done. Please help us finish it! MySQL Program Mongo Program

Ubuntu and Debian packages

Please read the notes on the Doc packages are updated daily, and try updating your apt package list 10gen...

UI

Spec requirements for a future M clone? collections validate(), datexplain() output security: view us master...

Updates

MongoDB supports atomic, inplace for replacing an entire document. matching criteria entirely with obj you should use...

Updating Data in Mongo

Updating a Document in the mongo Shell with save() As shown in the...

vs

Too Many Open Files

you receive the error "too many open files" or "too many open connections" in the mongod log, there are a couple of possible reasons for this. First, to check what file descriptors are in use, run lsof (some variations shown below): lsof grep ...
Getting the Database

First, run through the Quickstart guide for your platform to get up and running. Getting A Database Connection

Let's now try manipulating the database with the database shell DOCS:mongo The Interactive Shell . (We could perform similar ...}

Upgrading from a Non-Sharded Syst mongod) process can become p that process or downtime. If you i
the Sharding Introduction http://www.mongodb.org/display/ yourself ...

Upgrading to Replica Sets

Upgrading From a Single Server upgrading to replica sets is trivial replica set with a single node. Wt we're ...

Use Case - Session Objects

MongoDB is a good tool for storir model is to have a sessions colle a browser cookie. With its update make updates fast, the database

Use Cases

See also the Production Deployr a discussion of how companies li SourceForge, etc. use MongoDB Realtime Analytics http://blog.mongodb.org/post/171

User Feedback

I just have to get my head arounc 'muckster, #mongodb "Guys at R about what is the software devek 'kunthar@gmail.com, mongodbu:

Using a Large Number of Collections

technique one can use with Monõ collections to store information in this, certain repeating data no lor index on that key may be elimina

Using Mongoid

Mongoid is a mature ODM for MÇ and it sports an active user comm we've seen a few of Mongoid's di production. This page is an attter

Using Multikeys to Simulate a Large

One way to work with data that h use the multikey DOCS:Multikeys: objects.&nbsp; For example: &gt; x ... , &gt ... , &gt ... , &gt ... &gt ... ]); &gt; db.fo db.foo.find ...

What is the Compare Order for BSOI

MongoDB allows objects in the s: differ in type.&nbsp; When comp: is utilized as to which value is les arbitrary but well ...

Why are my datafiles so large?

Why so many "Connection Accepted" messages logged?

Windows

Windows Quick Links and Refere See the Quickstart page DOCS:< and run the database for the first Service page. The MongoDB Ser

Windows Service

windows mongod.exe has native service. Service Related Comma mongod install mongod service n options install and remove the mk

Working with Mongo Objects and Cï

Writing Drivers and Tools

See Also DOCS:Mongo Query Li parameter DOCS:Command Line
**Viewing and Terminating Current Operation**

View Current Operation(s) in Progress: `db.currentOp();` // same as:

```javascript
db.$cmd.sys.inprog.findOne() {
  inprog: {
    "opid": 18,
    "op": "query",
    "ns": "mydb.votes",
    "query": "",
    "inLock": 1
  }
} Fields:

- `opid`: an incrementing operation number. Use with `killOp()`.
- `op`: the operation type ...