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# PHP and MongoDB Web Development

Combine the power of PHP and MongoDB to build  
dynamic web 2.0 applications

## *Beginner's Guide*

Rubayeet Islam

[PACKT] open source\*  
PUBLISHING community experience distilled

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BIRMINGHAM - MUMBAI

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## **Beginner's Guide**

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---

I thank the Almighty for giving me such a blessed life and my parents for letting me follow my passion. My friend and colleague, Nurul Ferdous, for inspiring me to be an author in the first place. Finally, the amazing people at Packt – Usha Iyer, Kushal Bhardwaj, Priya Mukherji, and Susmita Panda, without your help and guidance this book would not have been possible to write.

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I would like to thank Packt publishing for asking me to review this book, it has been a pleasure!

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---

I would like to thank my parents, Mr. N Srinivasa Rao and Mrs.Latha Rao, and my family who supported and backed me throughout my life. My friends for being friends, and all those people willing to donate their time, effort, and expertise by participating in open source software projects. Thank you Packt Publishing for selecting me as one of the technical reviewers on this wonderful book. It is my honor to be a part of this book. You can contact me at [vidyasagar1729@gmail.com](mailto:vidyasagar1729@gmail.com).

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# Table of Contents

<b>Preface</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Chapter 1: Getting Started with MongoDB</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The NoSQL movement</b>	<b>8</b>
Types of NoSQL databases	8
<b>MongoDB – A document-based NoSQL database</b>	<b>9</b>
Why MongoDB?	9
Who is using MongoDB?	9
MongoDB concepts—Databases, collections, and documents	10
Anatomy of document	10
BSON—The data exchange format for MongoDB	11
Similarity with relational databases	11
<b>Downloading, installing, and running MongoDB</b>	<b>12</b>
System requirements	12
<b>Time for action – downloading and running MongoDB on Windows</b>	<b>13</b>
Installing the 64-bit version	14
<b>Time for action – downloading and running MongoDB on Linux</b>	<b>15</b>
Installing MongoDB on OS X	17
Configuring MongoDB	17
Command-line parameters	17
File-based configuration	18
Stopping MongoDB	18
Hitting Control + C	18
From the mongo shell	19
Sending INT or TERM signal in UNIX	19
<b>Creating databases, collections, and documents</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Time for Action – creating databases, collections, and documents</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Installing the PHP driver for MongoDB</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Time for Action – installing PHP driver for MongoDB on Windows</b>	<b>21</b>
Installing the PHP-MongoDB driver on Unix	23

<b>Connecting to the MongoDB server from PHP</b>	<b>23</b>
Creating a PHP-Mongo connection	23
<b>Time for action – creating a connection to the MongoDB server from PHP</b>	<b>24</b>
Configuring the PHP-MongoDB connection	26
Specifying timeout for the connection attempt	26
<b>Summary</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Chapter 2: Building your First MongoDB Powered Web App</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>A MongoDB powered blog</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Have the MongoDB server running</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Inserting documents in MongoDB</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Time for action – building the Blog Post Creator</b>	<b>30</b>
Creating databases and collections implicitly	35
Performing 'safe' inserts	35
Benefits of safe inserts	36
Specifying a timeout on insert	36
Setting the user generated _id	37
The MongoDate object	37
<b>Querying documents in a collection</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Time for action – retrieving articles from a database</b>	<b>38</b>
The Mongo Query Language	42
The MongoClient object	42
Conditional Queries	44
<b>Doing advanced queries in MongoDB</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Time for action – building the Blog Dashboard</b>	<b>45</b>
Returning a subset of fields	49
Sorting the query results	49
Using count, skip, and limit	49
Performing range queries on dates	50
<b>Updating documents in MongoDB</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Time for action – building the Blog Editor</b>	<b>51</b>
Optional arguments to the update method	55
Performing 'upsert'	55
Using update versus using save	56
Using modifier operations	56
Setting with \$set	56
Incrementing with \$inc	57
Deleting fields with \$unset	57
Renaming fields with \$rename	57
<b>Deleting documents in MongoDB</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Time for action – deleting blog posts</b>	<b>58</b>
Optional arguments to remove	63

---

<b>Managing relationships between documents</b>	<b>63</b>
Embedded documents	64
Referenced documents	64
<b>Time for action – posting comments to blog posts</b>	<b>64</b>
Embedded versus referenced – Which one to use?	69
Querying embedded objects	69
<b>Summary</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Chapter 3: Building a Session Manager</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>Understanding HTTP sessions</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Understanding PHP native session handling</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Time for action – testing native PHP session handling</b>	<b>74</b>
Limitations of native PHP session handling	78
<b>Implementing session handling with MongoDB</b>	<b>78</b>
Extending session handling with session_set_save_handler	78
The SessionManager class	79
<b>Time for action – building the SessionManager class</b>	<b>79</b>
How the SessionManager works	83
The constructor	83
The open and close methods	84
The read method	84
The write method	84
The destroy method	84
The gc method	85
<b>Putting the SessionManager in action</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>Time for action – putting SessionManager into action</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>Building the user authentication module</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Time for action – building the User class</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Creating the login, logout, and user profile page</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>Time for action – creating the login, logout, and profile page</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Using good session practices</b>	<b>99</b>
Setting low expiry times of session cookies	99
Using session timeouts	100
Setting proper domains for session cookies	100
Checking for browser consistency	100
<b>Summary</b>	<b>101</b>
<b>Chapter 4: Aggregation Queries</b>	<b>103</b>
<b>Generating sample data</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Time for action – generating sample data</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Understanding MapReduce</b>	<b>107</b>
Visualizing MapReduce	108
<b>Performing MapReduce in MongoDB</b>	<b>109</b>

---

<b>Time for action – counting the number of articles for each author</b>	<b>110</b>
Defining the Map function	111
Defining the Reduce function	112
Applying the Map and Reduce	112
Viewing the results	113
Performing MapReduce on a subset of the collection	114
Concurrency	114
<b>Performing MongoDB MapReduce within PHP</b>	<b>114</b>
<b>Time for action – creating a tag cloud</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Performing aggregation using group()</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Time for action – calculating the average rating per author</b>	<b>121</b>
Grouping by custom keys	124
MapReduce versus group()	124
<b>Listing distinct values for a field</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>Time for action – listing distinct categories of articles</b>	<b>125</b>
Using distinct() in mongo shell	127
<b>Counting documents with count()</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>Chapter 5: Web Analytics using MongoDB</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>Why MongoDB is a good choice as a web analytics backend</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Logging with MongoDB</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Time for action – logging page visits with MongoDB</b>	<b>131</b>
Capped collections	134
Sorting in natural order	135
Updating and deleting documents in a capped collection	135
Specifying the size of a regular collection	135
Convert a regular collection to a capped one	136
<b>Extracting analytics data with MapReduce</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Time for action – finding total views and average response time per blog post</b>	<b>137</b>
The map, reduce, and finalize functions	140
Displaying the result	140
Running MapReduce in real time versus running it in the background	141
<b>Real-time analytics using MongoDB</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Time for action – building a real-time page visit counter</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>146</b>
<b>Chapter 6: Using MongoDB with Relational Databases</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>The motivation behind using MongoDB and an RDBMS together</b>	<b>148</b>
Potential use cases	148
<b>Defining the relational model</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Time for action – creating the database in MySQL</b>	<b>150</b>

<b>Caching aggregation results in MongoDB</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Time for action – storing the daily sales history of products in MongoDB</b>	<b>153</b>
<b>Benefits of caching queries in MongoDB</b>	<b>160</b>
Storing results of expensive JOINS	160
<b>Using MongoDB for data archiving</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Time for action – archiving old sales records in MongoDB</b>	<b>161</b>
Challenges in archiving and migration	163
Dealing with foreign key constraints	163
Preserving data types	163
<b>Storing metadata in MongoDB</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Time for action – using MongoDB to store customer metadata</b>	<b>164</b>
<b>Problems with using MongoDB and RDBMS together</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Chapter 7: Handling Large Files with GridFS</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>What is GridFS?</b>	<b>175</b>
The rationale of GridFS	176
The specification	176
Advantages over the filesystem	177
<b>Storing files in GridFS</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>Time for action – uploading images to GridFS</b>	<b>178</b>
Looking under the hood	181
<b>Serving files from GridFS</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Time for action – serving images from GridFS</b>	<b>183</b>
Updating metadata of a file	186
Deleting files	186
<b>Reading files in chunks</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>Time for action – reading images in chunks</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>When should you not use GridFS</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>190</b>
<b>Chapter 8: Building Location-aware Web Applications with MongoDB and PHP</b>	<b>191</b>
<b>A geolocation primer</b>	<b>192</b>
Methods to determine location	192
<b>Detecting the location of a web page visitor</b>	<b>193</b>
The W3C Geolocation API	193
Browsers that support geolocation	194
<b>Time for action – detecting location with W3C API</b>	<b>194</b>
The Geolocation object	198
The <code>getCurrentPosition()</code> method	198
Drawing the map using the Google Maps API	199

<b>Geospatial indexing</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Time for action – creating geospatial indexes</b>	<b>201</b>
Geospatial indexing – Important things to know	202
<b>Performing location queries</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Time for action – finding restaurants near your location</b>	<b>203</b>
The geoNear() command	208
Bounded queries	210
<b>Geospatial haystack indexing</b>	<b>210</b>
<b>Time for action – finding nearby restaurants that serve burgers</b>	<b>211</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>215</b>
<b>Chapter 9: Improving Security and Performance</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Enhancing query performance using indexes</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Time for action – creating an index on a MongoDB collection</b>	<b>218</b>
The _id index	221
Unique indexes	221
Compound keys indexes	222
Indexing embedded document fields	223
Indexing array fields	224
Deleting indexes	224
When indexing cannot be used	224
Indexing guidelines	225
Choose the keys wisely	225
Keep an eye on the index size	225
Avoid using low-selectivity single key indexes	225
Be aware of indexing costs	226
On a live database, run indexing in the background	226
<b>Optimizing queries</b>	<b>227</b>
Explaining queries using explain()	227
Optimization rules	228
Using hint()	228
Profiling queries	229
Understanding the output	229
Optimization rules	230
<b>Securing MongoDB</b>	<b>230</b>
<b>Time for action – adding user authentication in MongoDB</b>	<b>230</b>
Creating an admin user	232
Creating regular user	233
Viewing, changing, and deleting user accounts	233
User authentication through PHP driver	234
Filtering user input	235
Running MongoDB server in a secure environment	235

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<b>Ensuring data durability</b>	<b>236</b>
Journaling	236
Performance	237
Using fsync	237
Replication	238
<b>Summary</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Chapter 10: Easy MongoDB Administration with RockMongo and phpMoAdmin</b>	<b>241</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Administering MongoDB with RockMongo</b>	<b>242</b>
<b>Time for action – installing RockMongo on your computer</b>	<b>242</b>
Exploring data with RockMongo	244
Querying	245
Updating, deleting, and creating documents	245
Importing and exporting data	247
Viewing stats	248
Miscellaneous	248
<b>Using phpMoAdmin to administer MongoDB</b>	<b>249</b>
<b>Time for action – installing phpMoAdmin on your computer</b>	<b>249</b>
Viewing databases and collections	250
Querying documents	251
Saving and deleting objects	252
Importing and exporting data	252
Viewing stats	253
Other features	253
<b>RockMongo versus phpMoAdmin</b>	<b>254</b>
The verdict	255
<b>Summary</b>	<b>256</b>
<b>Pop Quiz Answers</b>	<b>257</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 1, Getting Started with MongoDB</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Chapter 2, Building your First MongoDB Powered Web App</b>	<b>257</b>
<b>Chapter 3, Building a Session Manager</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>Chapter 4, Aggregation Queries</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>Chapter 5, Web Analytics using MongoDB</b>	<b>258</b>
<b>Chapter 7, Handling Large Files with GridFS</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Chapter 8, Building Location-aware Web Applications with MongoDB and PHP</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Chapter 9, Improving Security and Performance</b>	<b>259</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>237</b>

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# Preface

MongoDB is an open source, non-relational database system designed to meet the needs of modern Web 2.0 applications. It is currently being used by some of the most popular websites in the world. This book introduces MongoDB to the web developer who has some background building web applications using PHP. This book teaches what MongoDB is, how it is different from relational database management systems, and when and why developers should use it instead of a relational database for storing data.

You will learn how to build PHP applications that use MongoDB as the data backend; solve common problems, such as HTTP session handling, user authentication, and so on.

You will also learn to solve interesting problems with MongoDB, such as web analytics with MapReduce, storing large files in GridFS, and building location-aware applications using Geospatial indexing.

Finally, you will learn how to optimize MongoDB to boost performance, improve security, and ensure data durability. The book will demonstrate the use of some handy GUI tools that makes database management easier.

## What this book covers

*Chapter 1, Getting Started with MongoDB* introduces the underlying concepts of MongoDB, provides a step-by-step guide on how to install and run a MongoDB server on a computer, and make PHP and MongoDB talk to each other.

*Chapter 2, Building your First MongoDB Powered Web App* shows you how to build a simple blogging web application using PHP and MongoDB. Through the examples in this chapter, you will learn how to create/read/update/delete data in MongoDB using PHP.

*Chapter 3, Building a Session Manager* shows you how PHP and MongoDB can be used to handle HTTP sessions. You will build a stand-alone session manager module and learn how to perform user authentication/authorization using the module.

*Chapter 4, Aggregation Queries* introduces MapReduce, a powerful functional programming paradigm and shows you how it can be used to perform aggregation queries in MongoDB.

*Chapter 5, Web Analytics using MongoDB* shows you how you can store website traffic data in MongoDB in real time and use MapReduce to extract important analytics.

*Chapter 6, Using MongoDB with Relational Databases* explores use cases where MongoDB can be used alongside a relational database. You will learn how to archive data in MongoDB, use it for caching expensive query results, and store non-structured metadata about different objects in the domain.

*Chapter 7, Handling Large Files with GridFS* introduces GridFS, a specification in MongoDB that allows us to store large files in the database.

*Chapter 8, Building Location-aware Web Applications with MongoDB and PHP*, uses PHP, HTML5, JavaScript, and the Geospatial Indexing feature of MongoDB to build a web application that helps you find restaurants close to your current location.

*Chapter 9, Improving Security and Performance* shows you how to boost query performance using indexes, use built-in tools for analyzing and fine-tuning queries, improve database security, and ensure data durability.

*Chapter 10, Easy MongoDB Administration with RockMongo and phpMoAdmin* demonstrates the use of a couple of PHP-based GUI tools for managing MongoDB server—RockMongo and phpMoAdmin.

## What you need for this book

Apache web server (or IIS if you are on Windows) running PHP 5.2.6 or higher.

A web browser that supports the W3C Geolocation API (Internet Explorer 9.0+, Google Chrome 5.0+, Firefox 3.5+ or Safari 5.0+).

*Chapter 6, Using MongoDB with Relational Databases* requires that you have MySQL installed on your machine.

## Who this book is for

This book assumes that you have some background in web application development using PHP, HTML, and CSS. Some of the chapters require that you know JavaScript and are familiar with AJAX. Having a working knowledge of using a relational database system, such as MySQL will help you grasp some of the concepts quicker, but it is not strictly mandatory. No prior knowledge of MongoDB is required.

---

## Conventions

In this book, you will find several headings appearing frequently.

To give clear instructions of how to complete a procedure or task, we use:

### Time for action – heading

1. Action 1
2. Action 2
3. Action 3

Instructions often need some extra explanation so that they make sense, so they are followed with:

### What just happened?

This heading explains the working of tasks or instructions that you have just completed.

You will also find some other learning aids in the book, including:

### Pop quiz – heading

These are short multiple choice questions intended to help you test your own understanding.

### Have a go hero – heading

These set practical challenges and give you ideas for experimenting with what you have learned.

You will also find a number of styles of text that distinguish between different kinds of information. Here are some examples of these styles, and an explanation of their meaning.

Code words in text are shown as follows: "The value for the first field, `_id`, is autogenerated."

A block of code is set as follows:

```
try {
    $mongo = new Mongo($options=array('timeout'=> 100))
} catch(MongoConnectionException $e) {
    die("Failed to connect to database ".$e->getMessage());
}
```

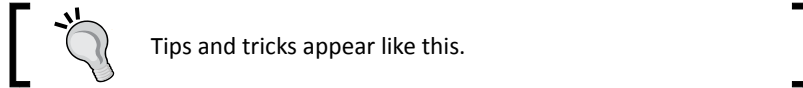
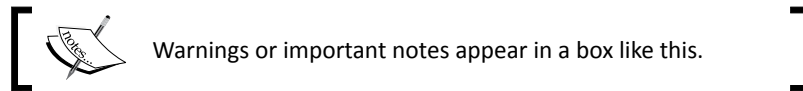
When we wish to draw your attention to a particular part of a code block, the relevant lines or items are set in bold:

```
{
  _id      : ObjectId("4dcd2abe5981aec801010000"),
  title    : "The only perfect site is hind-site",
  content  : "Loren ipsum dolor sit amet...",
  saved_at : ISODate('2011-05-16T18:42:57.949Z'),
  author_id : ObjectId("4dd491695072aefc456c9aca")
}
```

Any command-line input or output is written as follows:

```
>db.movies.find({"genre":"sci-fi"})
{ "_id" : ObjectId("4db439153ec7b6fd1c9093ec"), "name" : "Source Code",
  "genre" : "sci-fi", "year" : 2011 }
```

**New terms** and **important words** are shown in bold. Words that you see on the screen, in menus or dialog boxes for example, appear in the text like this: "Click on the **Delete** link on any one article."



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# 1

## Getting Started with MongoDB

*We are about to begin our journey in PHP and MongoDB web development. Since you picked up this book, I assume you have some background building web apps using PHP, and you are interested in learning to develop PHP applications with MongoDB as data backend. In case you have never heard of MongoDB before, it is an open source, document-oriented database that supports the concept of flexible schema. In this chapter, we will learn what MongoDB is, and what do we gain from using MongoDB instead of trusted old SQL databases. We will start by learning briefly about the NoSQL databases (a set of database technologies that are considered alternative to RDBM systems), the basics of MongoDB, and what distinguishes it from relational databases. Then we will move on to installing and running MongoDB and hooking it up with PHP.*

To sum it up, in this chapter we will:

- Learn about the NoSQL movement
- Learn the basic concepts behind MongoDB
- Learn how to download, install, and run MongoDB on a computer
- Learn to use the `mongo` Interactive Shell
- Learn how to make PHP and MongoDB talk to each other

So let's get on with it...



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