Faker fixture data generator

The fzaninotto/faker is a PHP library that generates fake data of many kinds: names, phones,  
addresses, random strings and numbers, and so on. It can help you to generate many randomized records  
for performance and logic testing. You can extend your supported types collection by writing your own  
formatters and generators.

In the Yii2 application skeletons, the yiisoft/yii2-faker wrapper is included in the require-dev section  
of the composer. j son file and is used for testing code (Chapter 11, Testing). This wrapper provides the  
FixtureController console for use in your console application and test environment.

Getting ready

Create a new application by using composer as described in the official guide at  
<http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-installation.html>.

How to do it...

1. Open the directory tests/codeception/templates and add the fixture template file, users. txt:

<?php

/\*\*

* @var $faker \Faker\Generator
* @var $index integer  
  \*/

return [

'name' => $faker->firstName,

'phone' => $faker->phoneNumber,

'city' => $faker->city,

'about' => $faker->sentence(7, true),

'password' => Yii::$app->getSecurity()

->generatePasswordHash('password\_' . $index),

'auth\_key' => Yii::$app->getSecurity()

->generateRandomString(),

];

1. Run the test console yii command:

php tests/codeception/bin/yii fixture/generate users --count=2

1. Confirm migration generation.
2. Check that the tests/codeception/fixtures directory contains the new users.php file, with  
   autogenerated data like this:

return [

[

'name' => 'Isadore ',

'phone' => '952.877.8545x190',

'city' => 'New Marvinburgh',

'about' => 'Ut quidem voluptatem itaque veniam voluptas dolores.',

'password' =>

'$2y$13$Fi3LOl/sKlomUH.DLgqBkOB/uCLmgCoPPL1KXiW0hffnkrdkjCzAC',

'auth\_key' => '1m05hlgaAG8zfm0cyDyoRGMkbQ9W6hj1',

],

[

'name' => 'Raleigh',

'phone' => '1-655-488-3585x699',

'city' => 'Reedstad',

'about' => 'Dolorem quae impedit tempore libero doloribus nobis dicta  
tempora facere.',

'password' =>

'$2y$13$U7Qte5Y1jVLrx/pnhwdwt.1uXDegGXuNVzEQyUsb65WkBtjyjUuYm',

'auth\_key' => 'uWWJDgy5jNRk6KjqpxS5JuPv0OHearqE',

],

],

Working with your own data types

1. Create your own provider with your custom value generating logic:

<?php

namespace tests\codeception\faker\providers;

use Faker\Provider\Base;

class UserStatus extends Base  
{

public function userStatus()

{

return $this->randomElement([0, 10, 20, 30]);

}

}

1. Add the provider into the providers list in the /tests/codeception/config/config. php file:  
   return [

'controllerMap' => [

'fixture' => [

'class' => 'yii\faker\FixtureController',

'fixtureDataPath' => '@tests/codeception/fixtures',

'templatePath' => '@tests/codeception/templates',

'namespace' => 'tests\codeception\fixtures',

'providers' => [

'tests\codeception\faker\providers\UserStatus',

],

],

],

// ...

];

1. Add the status field into your fixture template file:

<?php

/\*\*

* @var $faker \Faker\Generator
* @var $index integer  
  \*/

return [

'name' => $faker->firstName,

'status' => $faker->userStatus,

];

1. Regenerate fixtures with the console command:

php tests/codeception/bin/yii fixture/generate users --count=2

1. Check that the generated code in the fixtures/users.php file contains your custom values:

return [

[

'name' => 'Christelle',

'status' => 30,

],

[

'name' => 'Theo',

'status' => 10,

],

];

How it works...

The yii2-faker extension contains a console generator (which uses your templates for generating fixture  
data files) and gives you a prepared instance of the original Faker object. You can generate all or specific  
fixtures and can pass custom counts or language in console arguments.

Note

Note: Be careful with the existing test files if your tests use these fixtures, because autogenerating totally  
rewrites old data.

See also

* For the source code and more information about the extension, see:

° <https://github.com/yiisoft/yii2-faker/tree/master/docs/guide>  
o [http://www.viiframework.com/doc-2.0/ext-faker-index.html](http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/ext-faker-index.html)

* And to learn more about the original library, refer to:

° [https ://github. c om/fzaninotto/Faker](https://github.com/fzaninotto/Faker)  
° Chapter 11, Testing