Getting data from a database

Most applications use databases today. Be it a small website or a social network, at least some parts are powered by databases.

Yii introduces three ways to allow you to work with databases. They are as follows:

* Active Record
* Query Builder
* SQL via DAO

We will use all these methods to get data from the film, film\_actor, and actor tables and show it in a list. Also, we will compare the execution time and memory usage to determine in which cases we should use these methods.

Getting ready

1. Create a new application using the Composer package manager, as described in the official guide at <http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-installation.html>.
2. Download the Sakila database from [http://dev.mysql.com/doc/inHey-other.html](http://dev.mysql.com/doc/index-other.html).
3. Execute the downloaded SQLs; first schema, then data.
4. Configure the DB connection in config/main. php to use the Sakila database.
5. Use Gii to create models for the actor and film tables.

How to do it...

1. Create app/controllers/DbController.php as follows:

<?php

namespace app\controllers;

use app\models\Actor; use Yii;

use yii\db\Query; use yii\helpers\ArrayHelper; use yii\helpers\Html; use yii\web\Controller;

/[[1]](#footnote-2) [[2]](#footnote-3)

* Class DbController
* @package app\controllers \*/

class DbController extends Controller {

/\*\*

1. Example of Active Record usage.

   \*

   \* @return string \*/

   public function actionAr() [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. {

   $records = Actor::find() [↑](#footnote-ref-3)