With actionSql, we do the same, except that we pass SQL directly instead of adding its parts one by one. It’s worth mentioning that we should escape parameter values manually using Yii: :app()->db- >quotevalue before using them in the query string:

The renderRows method renders the Query Builder.

The renderRecords method renders the active records.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Method | Active Record | Query Builder | SQL (DAO) |
| Syntax | This will do SQL for you.  Gii will generate models and relations for you.  Works with models, completely OO-style, and a very clean API.  Produces an array of properly nested models as the result. | Clean API, suitable for building query on the fly.  Produces raw data arrays as the result. | Good for complex SQL.  Manual values and keyword quoting.  Not very suitable for building a query on the fly.  Produces raw data arrays as the result. |
| Performance | Higher memory usage and execution time compared to SQL and Query Builder. | Okay. | Okay. |
| Extra  features | Quotes values and names automatically.  Behaviors. Before/after hooks. Validation. Prototyping selects. | Quotes values and names automatically. | None. |
| Best for | Update, delete, and create actions for single models (the model gives a huge benefit when using with forms). | Working with large amount of data and building queries on the fly. | Complex queries you want to complete with pure SQL and have maximum possible performance. |

There’s more...

In order to learn more about working with databases in Yii, refer to the following resources: