Automating timestamps

For instance, we have a simple blog application. As in any blog, it has posts, comments, and so on. We would like to populate the timestamps during the create/update events for posts. Let us assume that our post model is named Blogpost model.

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. Set up the database connection and create a table named blog\_post, as follows:

DROP TABLE IF EXISTS 'blog\_post';

CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS 'blog\_post' (

'id' INT(10) UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO\_INCREMENT,

'title' VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL,

'text' TEXT NOT NULL,

'created\_date' INTEGER,

' modified\_date'INTEGER,

PRIMARY KEY ('id')

);

3. Use Gii to create a model for the blog\_post table.

How to do it...

1. Add the following method to models/BlogPost. php:

/\*\*

\* @return array \*/

public function behaviors()

{

return [

'timestamp'=> [

'class' => 'yii\behaviors\TimestampBehavior', 'createdAtAttribute' => 'creation\_date', 'updatedAtAttribute' => 'modified\_date'

]

];

}

2. Create controllers/TestController.php as follows:

<?php

namespace app\controllers;

use app\models\BlogPost; use yii\helpers\Html; use yii\helpers\VarDumper; use yii\web\Controller;

/\*\*

\* Class TestController.

\* @package app\controllers \*/

class TestController extends Controller