Creating a REST server

In the following recipe, we use an example that illustrates how you can build and set up RESTful APIs with minimal coding effort. This recipe will be reused in other recipes in this chapter.

Getting ready

1. Create a new application by using the Composer package manager, as described in the official guide at [http://www. yiiframework. c om/doc-2.0/guide -start-installation .html](http://www.yiiframework.com/doc-2.0/guide-start-installation.html).

2. Create a migration for creating an article table with the following command:

./yii migrate/create create\_film\_table

3. Then, update the just-created migration method, up, with the following code:

public function up()

{

$tableOptions = null;

if ($this->db->driverName === 'mysql') {

$tableOptions = 'CHARACTER SET utf8 COLLATE utf8\_general\_ci ENGINE=InnoDB';

}

$this->createTable('{{%film}}', [

'id' => $this->primaryKey(),

'title' => $this->string(64)->notNull(),

'release\_year' => $this->integer(4)->notNull(),

], $tableOptions);

$this->batchInsert('{{%film}}', ['id','title','release\_year'], [

[1, 'Interstellar', 2014],

[2, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone",2001],

[3, 'Back to the Future', 1985],

[4, 'Blade Runner', 1982],

[5, 'Dallas Buyers Club', 2013],

]);

}

Update the down method with the following code:

public function down()

{

$this->dropTable('film');

}

4. Run the created create\_film\_table migration.

5. Generate the Film model with the Gii module.

6. Configure your application server to use clean URLs. If you are using Apache with mod\_rewrite and AllowOverride turned on, then you should add the following lines to the . htaccess file under your @web directory:

Options +FollowSymLinks IndexIgnore \*/\*

RewriteEngine on

# if a directory or a file exists, use it directly RewriteCond %{REQUEST\_FILENAME} !-f RewriteCond %{REQUEST\_FILENAME} !-d

# otherwise forward it to index.php