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Java MongoDB : Delete document

By mkyong (<http://www.mkyong.com/author/mkyong/>) | May 9, 2011 | Updated : April 3, 2013 | Viewed : 62,172 times +78 pv/w

In this tutorial, we show you how to use `collection.remove()` to delete documents from the collection.

1. Test Data

Insert 10 documents from number 1 to 10 for testing.

```
for (int i=1; i <= 10; i++) {  
    collection.insert(new BasicDBObject().append("number", i));  
}
```



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2. DBCollection.remove()

See below code snippets to delete documents.

Example 1

Get first document and delete it. In this case, number = 1 is deleted.

```
DBObject doc = collection.findOne(); //get first document  
collection.remove(doc);
```

Example 2

Puts query in a `BasicDBObject`. In this case, number = 2 is deleted.

```
BasicDBObject document = new BasicDBObject();  
document.put("number", 2);  
collection.remove(document);
```

And Operator?

Two common mistakes :

1. A query like this only delete number = 3.

```
BasicDBObject document = new BasicDBObject();  
document.put("number", 2);  
document.put("number", 3); //override above value 2  
collection.remove(document);
```

2. Nice try below, but query like this will not work, it will delete NOTHING.

```
BasicDBObject document = new BasicDBObject();
List<Integer> list = new ArrayList<Integer>();
list.add(7);
list.add(8);
document.put("number", list);
collection.remove(document);
```

For "AND" query, you need to use "\$in" or "\$and" operator, see example 5.

Example 3

Use BasicDBObject directly. In this case, number = 3 is deleted.

```
collection.remove(new BasicDBObject().append("number", 3));
```

Example 4

Puts a \$gt operator in a BasicDBObject object. In this case, number = 10 is deleted.

```
BasicDBObject query = new BasicDBObject();
query.put("number", new BasicDBObject("$gt", 9));
collection.remove(query);
```

Example 5

Puts a \$in operator in a BasicDBObject object, constructs the query in ArrayList. In this case, number = 4 and number = 5 are deleted.

```
BasicDBObject query2 = new BasicDBObject();
List<Integer> list = new ArrayList<Integer>();
list.add(4);
list.add(5);
query2.put("number", new BasicDBObject("$in", list));
collection.remove(query2);
```

More MongoDB Operators

For more operators, read this MongoDB operators quick reference (<http://docs.mongodb.org/manual/reference/operators/#comparison>).

Example 6

Use cursor to delete all available documents. (Not recommended, prefer example 7)

```
DBCursor cursor = collection.find();
while (cursor.hasNext()) {
    collection.remove(cursor.next());
}
```

Example 7

Pass an empty BasicDBObject, and the entire documents will be deleted.

```
collection.remove(new BasicDBObject());
```

Example 8

It deletes the entire documents and drop the collection.

```
collection.drop();
```

Example 9

The remove() will returns a WriteResult object, it contains useful information about the remove operation. And you can uses getN() to get the number of documents affected.

```
WriteResult result = collection.remove(query2);
System.out.println("Number of documents are deleted : " + result.getN());
```



3. Full Example

Full example to show the different ways to delete documents.

```
package com.mkyong.core;

import java.net.UnknownHostException;
import java.util.ArrayList;
import java.util.List;

import com.mongodb.BasicDBObject;
import com.mongodb.DB;
import com.mongodb.DBCollection;
import com.mongodb.DBCursor;
import com.mongodb.DBObject;
import com.mongodb.Mongo;
import com.mongodb.MongoException;

/**
 * Java MongoDB : Delete document
 * @author mkyong
 */

public class App {
    public static void main(String[] args) {

        try {

            Mongo mongo = new Mongo("localhost", 27017);
            DB db = mongo.getDB("yourdb");

            // get a single collection
            DBCollection collection = db.getCollection("dummyColl");

            //insert number 1 to 10 for testing
            for (int i=1; i <= 10; i++) {
                collection.insert(new BasicDBObject().append("number", i));
            }

            //remove number = 1
            DBObject doc = collection.findOne(); //get first document
            collection.remove(doc);

            //remove number = 2
            BasicDBObject document = new BasicDBObject();
            document.put("number", 2);
            collection.remove(document);

            //remove number = 3
            collection.remove(new BasicDBObject().append("number", 3));

            //remove number > 9 , means delete number = 10
            BasicDBObject query = new BasicDBObject();
            query.put("number", new BasicDBObject("$gt", 9));
            collection.remove(query);

            //remove number = 4 and 5
            BasicDBObject query2 = new BasicDBObject();
            List<Integer> list = new ArrayList<Integer>();
            list.add(4);
            list.add(5);
            query2.put("number", new BasicDBObject("$in", list));
            collection.remove(query2);

            //print out the document
            DBCursor cursor = collection.find();
            while(cursor.hasNext()) {
                System.out.println(cursor.next());
            }

            collection.drop();

            System.out.println("Done");

        } catch (UnknownHostException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
        } catch (MongoException e) {
            e.printStackTrace();
        }
    }
}
```

```
}
}
```

Output...

```
{ "_id" : { "$oid" : "4dc7a6989e3a66c5faeee757" } , "number" : 6}
{ "_id" : { "$oid" : "4dc7a6989e3a66c5faeee758" } , "number" : 7}
{ "_id" : { "$oid" : "4dc7a6989e3a66c5faeee759" } , "number" : 8}
{ "_id" : { "$oid" : "4dc7a6989e3a66c5faeee75a" } , "number" : 9}
Done
```

References

1. MongoDB operators quick reference (<http://docs.mongodb.org/manual/reference/operators/>)
2. MongoDB WriteResult JavaDoc (<http://api.mongodb.org/java/2.6.5/com/mongodb/WriteResult.html>)

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mkyong

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Drashti Pandya

MongoCollection col = db.getCollection("CategoryDetail");

Guest

There is no method like col.remove().



🕒 2 years 5 months ago



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(<http://www.mkyong.com/tutorials/java-mongodb-tutorials/>)

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En Ba

For example 7, better way to delete is collection.drop(). It also deletes the collection itself.

Guest



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mkyong (<http://www.mkyong.com>)

Thanks, updated in example 8

(<http://www.mkyong.com/author/mkyong/>)

Author



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Eugeny

Great manual! Thank you very much!

Guest



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Juan Toro Marty

How to check if your query object didn't fetch anything?. The remove method do not throws any error as i think it should do.

Guest



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mkyong (<http://www.mkyong.com>)

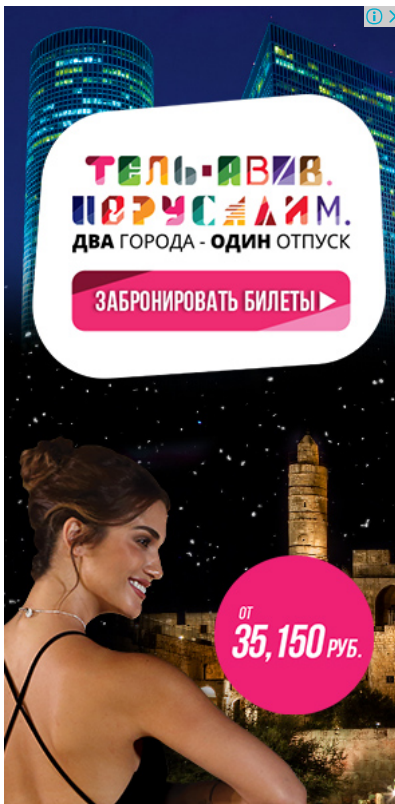
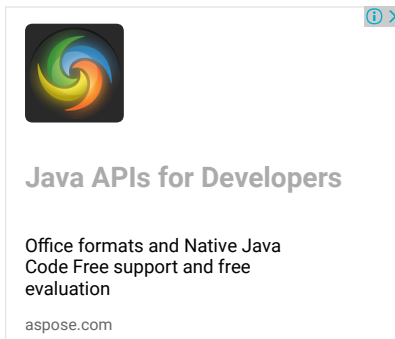
Article is updated, refer to example 9, `writeResult` is what you want.

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