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Collections

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Overview

A collection is a group of documents. Collections in MongoDB enforce no schema - this means that the documents in a collection do **not** have to follow the same structure and can, in fact, be wildly different. Generally, documents in a schema will be related - they just don't have to follow a set structure.

Create

To create a new collection in the current database simply use the `createCollection()` function, passing in the name of new collection.

```
db.createCollection('COLLECTION_NAME')
```

It is also possible to insert a document into a collection (or even a database) that does not exist yet. Doing this will create the collection if it does not already exist.

It is possible to pass in an options object as an optional second argument. This allows for the setting of a maximum memory amount or enforcing validation on documents added to the collection.

Read

It is possible to display all collections in the current database using the `show collections` command.

```
show collections
```

Update

If you want to rename a collection this can be accomplished using the `renameCollection()` function - simply call it on the collection you want to change and pass in the the new name.

```
db.COLLECTION_NAME.renameCollection('NEW_NAME')
```

Delete

Deleting a collection can be done by calling the `drop()` function on the collection you no longer want.

```
db.COLLECTION_NAME.drop()
```

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Tutorial

1. Create a new database.

use collections_tutorial
2. List the current collections - this should be blank right now.

show collections
3. Create a new collection.

db.createCollection('firstcollection')
4. Check the collection has been created.

show collections
5. Change the name of our new collection.

db.firstcollection.renameCollection('first_collection')
6. View the changed name.

show collections
7. Delete the new collection

db.first_collection.drop()
8. Check the collection has been deleted.

show collections

Exercises

1. Create a new collection called 'collectionpractice'.

► Show solution
2. Rename it to 'collection_practice'.

► Show solution
3. Delete the collection.

► Show solution