

Python and Databases

Access, DAO Pattern, ORM, Identity Map, Pooling

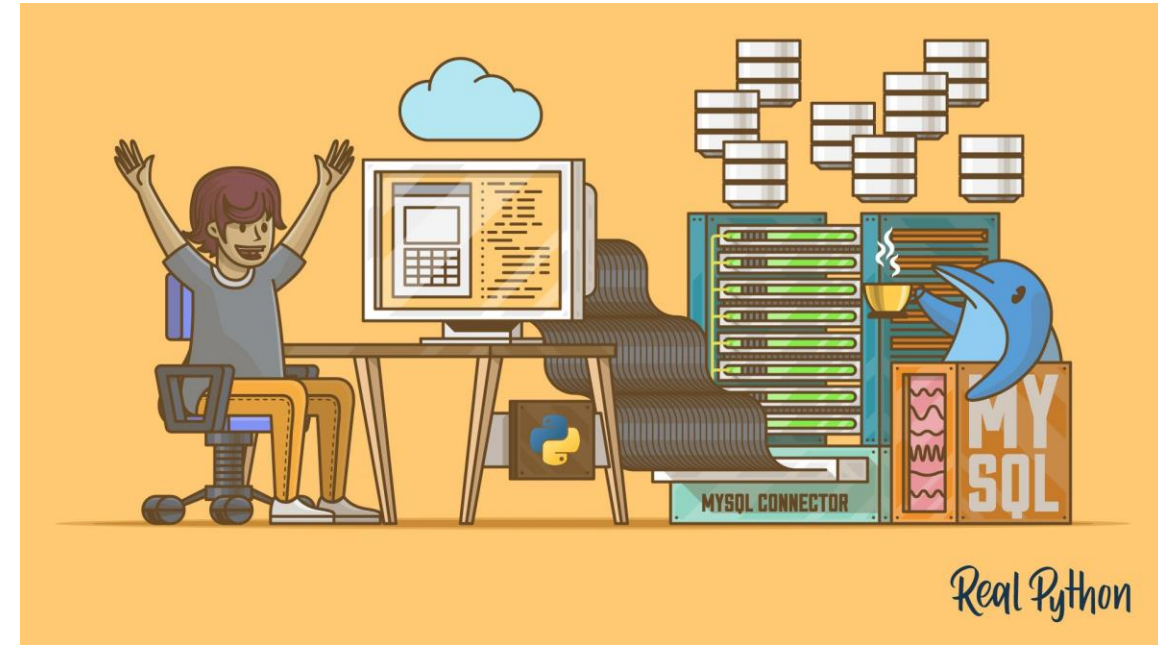
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<https://realpython.com/python-mysql/>
<https://realpython.com/python-sql-libraries/>
<https://realpython.com/python-pyqt-database/>



Outline

- Tools
 - MariaDB, MySQL, DBeaver
- Database access in Python
 - mysql-connector, Connection, Cursor, Statements
- Pattern DAO
- Object-Relational Mapping (ORM)
- Connection Pooling



Goal

- Enable Python applications to access data stored in Relational Databases
 - Query existing data
 - Modify existing data
 - Insert new data
- The data can be used by
 - The algorithms running in the application
 - The user, through the user interface

TOOLS



Tools: MariaDB / MySQL

Database Management Systems (DBMS) are software systems used to store, retrieve, and run queries on data, as well as administer the data. A DBMS allows end-users/applications to interact with a database.



<https://mariadb.org/>



<https://www.mysql.com/>

Tools: DBeaver

Graphical frontend to work with a database:

- Data Editor
- SQL Editor
- Task management
- Database maintenance tools



<https://dbeaver.io/>



mySQL-connector



DATABASE ACCESS IN PYTHON

Resources

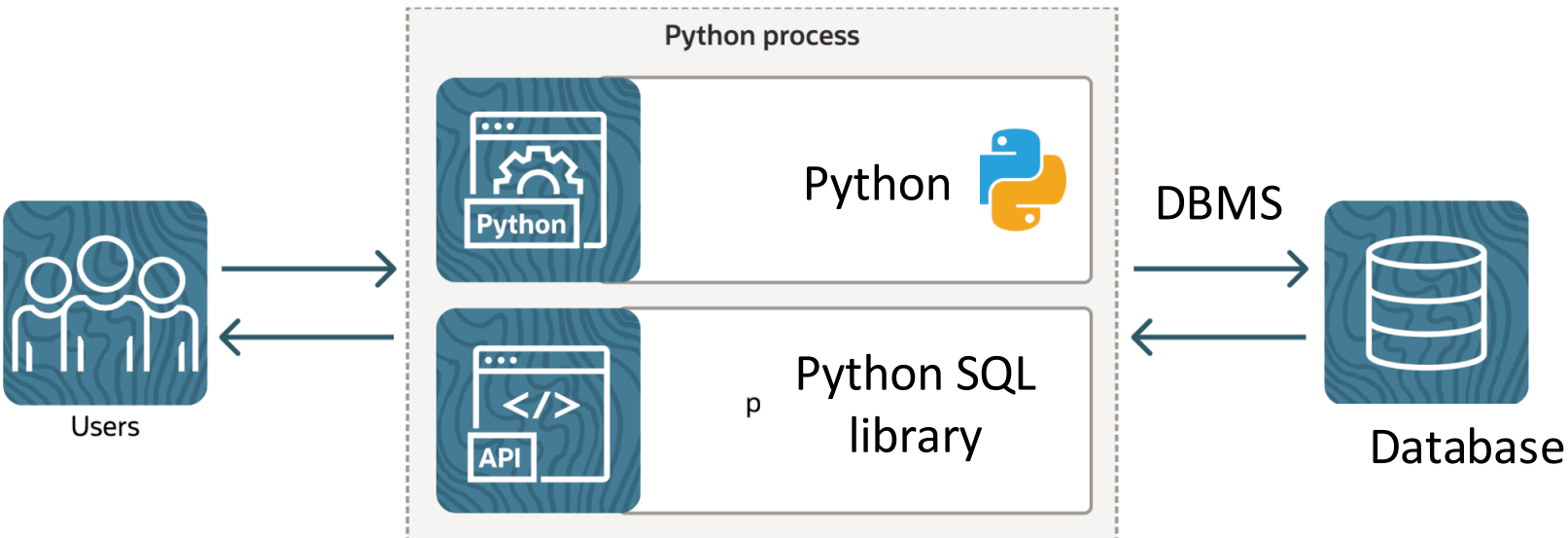
- Official **mySQL-connector** guide: <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/>
- Useful tutorials: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/how-to-connect-python-with-sql-database/>

Connecting and interacting with DBMS

- **Database management system (DBMS)**: software system that enables users to define, create, maintain and control access to the database
- Different flavours of SQL-based DBMSs: MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQLite, and SQL Server, ...
 - All of these databases are compliant with the SQL standards but with varying degrees of compliance

<https://troels.arvin.dk/db/rdbms/>

Interacting with DBMS in Python



Many different Python libraries (**connectors**) that implement modules for interacting with different DBMS

- `mysql-connector-python`
- `SQLite`
- `Psycopg2`
- `mariadb-connector-python`
- ...

<https://realpython.com/python-sql-libraries>

Python Database API Specification

The Python Database API (DB-API) defines a standard interface for Python database access modules, e.g., using **Connection** and **Cursor** objects.

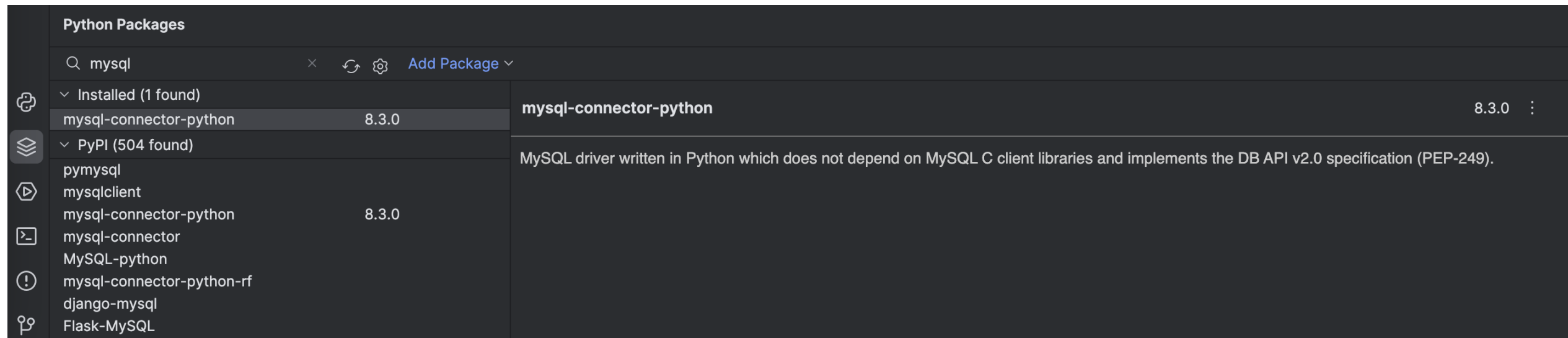
Goals:

- Encourage similarity between the Python modules that are used to access databases.
- Achieve a consistency leading to more easily understood modules.
- Code that is generally more portable across databases.

<https://peps.python.org/pep-0249/>

mysql-connector-python

- It is a self-contained Python driver for communicating with MySQL servers, using an API that is compliant with the [Python Database API Specification v2.0 \(PEP 249\)](https://peps.python.org/pep-249/)
- Documentation: <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/>
- Install via pip (`pip install mysql-connector-python`), or directly in PyCharm in the virtual environment of the project



The screenshot shows the 'Python Packages' tool window in PyCharm. The search bar at the top contains 'mysql'. Below the search bar, there are two sections: 'Installed (1 found)' and 'PyPI (504 found)'. In the 'Installed' section, 'mysql-connector-python' is listed with version '8.3.0'. In the 'PyPI' section, several packages are listed, including 'pymysql', 'mysqlclient', 'mysql-connector-python' (version 8.3.0), 'mysql-connector', 'MySQL-python', 'mysql-connector-python-rf', 'django-mysql', and 'Flask-MySQL'. The package 'mysql-connector-python' is selected, and its details are shown on the right: 'mysql-connector-python' version '8.3.0' with a description: 'MySQL driver written in Python which does not depend on MySQL C client libraries and implements the DB API v2.0 specification (PEP-249)'.

Python Packages	
Q mysql × ↺ ⚙ Add Package ▾	
▼ Installed (1 found)	
mysql-connector-python	8.3.0
▼ PyPI (504 found)	
pymysql	
mysqlclient	
mysql-connector-python	8.3.0
mysql-connector	
MySQL-python	
mysql-connector-python-rf	
django-mysql	
Flask-MySQL	

mysql-connector-python 8.3.0 ⋮
MySQL driver written in Python which does not depend on MySQL C client libraries and implements the DB API v2.0 specification (PEP-249).

Connection

- The first step in interfacing a Python application with a MySQL/MariaDB server is to establish a connection
- mysql-connector provides a `connect()` function that is used to establish connections to the MySQL server

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='scott',
                              password='password',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='employees')

cnx.close()
```

<https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-example-connecting.html>

Connection

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='scott',
                              password='password',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='employees')

cnx.close()
```

It is a **MySQLConnection** object.

The **MySQLConnection** class is used to open and manage a connection to a MySQL server. It also used to send commands and SQL statements and read the results.

The arguments of the **connect()** identify the database we want to connect, and the credentials of the user

There are many more arguments...

<https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-connectargs.html>

Connection

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='scott',
                              password='password',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='employees')

cnx.close()
```

The `close()` function closes the connection, when we don't need it anymore.

- The connection to the database is a resource!!!

Connection

- The `connect()` function may raise exceptions (for example if the connection fails due to wrong authentication)

```
import mysql.connector
from mysql.connector import errorcode

try:
    cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='scott',
                                  database='employ')
except mysql.connector.Error as err:
    if err.errno == errorcode.ER_ACCESS_DENIED_ERROR:
        print("Something is wrong with your user name or password")
    elif err.errno == errorcode.ER_BAD_DB_ERROR:
        print("Database does not exist")
    else:
        print(err)
else:
    cnx.close()
```

We can handle these exceptions with a **try** – **except** – **else** - **finally** clause:

- 1. Try to connect
- 2. Handle exceptions
- 3. If there was no exception, close the connection

This may also be rewritten using a with statement

https://docs.python.org/3/reference/compound_stmts.html#with

Connection

- Writing the configuration of the database and authentication information in the code is not ideal, especially if the file is worked collaboratively (git)
- It is possible to use a separate config file.

```
cnx = mysql.connector.connect(option_files='/etc/mysql/connectors.cnf')
```

Example config file

```
[client]
user=John
password=Wick
host=127.0.0.1
database=tests
raise_on_warnings=True
```

Using the connection

- When connected to the DBMS and we have the `MySQLConnection` object, we can interact in different ways
 - Create tables
 - Create/Update/Delete data
 - Read data
- This is achieved through the execution of **SQL statements**, using a handle structure known as **cursor**

Tables creation: <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-example-ddl.html>

Cursor

Cursor default position (before first record)

100	S N Rao	5500.50	1 st Record
101	Jyostna	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	Jyothi	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor on first record

100	S N Rao	5500.50	1 st Record
101	Jyostna	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	Jyothi	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor position after last record

100	S N Rao	5500.50	1 st Record
101	Jyostna	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	Jyothi	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor

- The `MySQLCursor` class instantiates objects that can execute operations such as SQL statements. A cursor is created from a `MySQLConnection` using the `cursor()` function
- There are several cursor classes that inherit from the `MySQLCursor`, and can be created by passing an appropriate argument to the `cursor()` function

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(database='world')
cursor = cnx.cursor()
cursor_dict = cnx.cursor(dictionary=True)
cursor_tuple = cnx.cursor(named_tuple=True)
cursor_prepared = cnx.cursor(prepared=True)
```

`MySQLCursorDict` cursor returns rows as dictionaries

`MySQLCursorNamedTuple` cursor returns rows as named tuples

`MySQLCursorPrepared` cursor is used for executing prepared statements

Cursor documentation: <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-api-mysqldcursor.html>

Statement execution

- A cursor object has a method `execute()` that allows to execute a SQL statement, expressed as a `string`

```
query = """Select id, name from user"""  
cursor.execute(query)
```

Parametric queries

- SQL queries may depend on user input data
- Example: find item whose code is specified by the user
- Method 1: string interpolation (with concatenation or as an f-string)
 - query =
"SELECT * FROM items
WHERE code='"+user_code+"'" ;

Parametric queries

- SQL queries may depend on user input data
- Example: find item whose code is specified by the user
- Method 1: string interpolation (with concatenation or as an f-string)
 - query =
 "SELECT * FROM items
 WHERE code='"+user_code+"'" ;
- Method 2: use parametric Statements
 - Always preferable
 - Always



What's wrong with method 1?

- query =
"SELECT * FROM items
WHERE code='"+user_code+"'" ;



For example, string written by the user in a textbox in the GUI

- This may cause security problems

SQL injection

- SQL injection – syntax errors or privilege escalation

- Example

- username : `' ; delete * from users ; --`



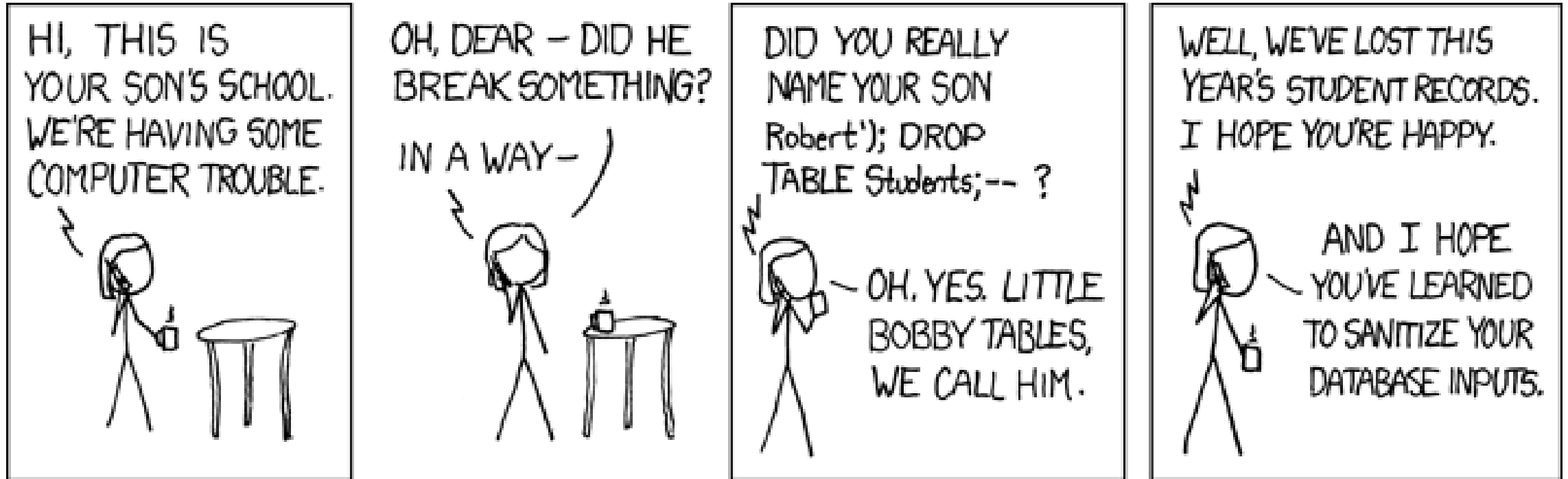
```
select * from users where  
username=''; delete * from  
users ; -- '
```

- **Must** detect or escape all dangerous characters!
 - Will **never** be perfect...
- **Never** trust user-entered data. Never. Not once. Really.

SQL injection attempt 😊



SQL injection attempt 😊



<http://xkcd.com/327/>

Parametric statements

- Separate statement **creation** from statement **execution**
 - At creation time: define SQL syntax (**template**), with placeholders for variable quantities (**parameters**)
 - At execution time: define actual quantities for placeholders (**parameter values**), and run the statement
- Parametric statements can be re-run many times
- Parameter values are automatically
 - Converted according to their primitive type
 - Escaped, if they contain dangerous characters
 - Handle non-character data (serialization)

Insert/Update/Delete data

- Using the cursor, we can execute **INSERT**, **UPDATE** and **DELETE** statements

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='John',
                              password='Wick',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='tests')

cursor = cnx.cursor()

add_test = """INSERT INTO tests
              (id, name, value)
              VALUES (%s, %s, %s)"""

cursor.execute(add_test, (1, "John Doe", 11.3))

cnx.commit()
cursor.close()
cnx.close()
```

- 1. Define the statement (using the Python multi-line block `""" """`). Values may be written in the statement, or left unspecified as `%s` (because it may depend on user data)
- 2. Execute the statement (setting all the unspecified values)
- 3. **Commit the changes to the database**
- 4. Close the cursor

Insert/Update/Delete data

- Using the cursor, we can execute **INSERT**, **UPDATE** and **DELETE** statements

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='John',
                              password='Wick',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='tests')

cursor = cnx.cursor()

update_test = """UPDATE tests
                  SET value = %s
                  WHERE id = %s"""

cursor.execute(update_test, (99.9, 3))

cnx.commit()
cursor.close()
cnx.close()
```

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='John',
                              password='Wick',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='tests')

cursor = cnx.cursor()

delete_test = """DELETE FROM tests
                  WHERE id = %s"""

cursor.execute(delete_test, (5,))

cnx.commit()
cursor.close()
cnx.close()
```

Query Data

- We can use a cursor also to execute a statement that queries data from the database

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='John',
                              password='Wick',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='prova')

cursor = cnx.cursor()
query = """SELECT * FROM test"""
cursor.execute(query)

for (id, name, value) in cursor:
    print(id, name, value)

cursor.close()
```

- Executing the query fetches results from the database
- We can then use cursor as an **iterator** over the **results set**
- There is no commit, because we are not modifying the database

Query Data: process the results

- After executing the statement, we can use the cursor as a iterator to go through the results

Cursor default position (before first record)

100	<u>S N Rao</u>	5500.50	1 st Record
101	<u>Jyostna</u>	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	<u>Jyothi</u>	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor on first record

100	<u>S N Rao</u>	5500.50	1 st Record
101	<u>Jyostna</u>	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	<u>Jyothi</u>	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor position after last record

100	<u>S N Rao</u>	5500.50	1 st Record
101	<u>Jyostna</u>	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	<u>Jyothi</u>	7550.50	3 rd Record

- Data is available a row at a time
- Rows are read as **tuple**, in the standard cursor. They can be read as dictionary or as named tuple using the corresponding cursor

Query Data

- We can use a cursor also to execute a statement that queries data from the database

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='John',
                              password='Wick',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='prova')

cursor = cnx.cursor(dictionary=True)
query = """SELECT * FROM test"""
cursor.execute(query)

for row in cursor:
    print(row["id"], row["name"], row["value"])

cursor.close()
```

- If we use a **MySQLCursorDict** the results set is read as a dictionary, so we can iterate through the data accordingly

Query Data: fetchone, fetchmany, fetchall


- The cursor object also has other methods to fetch the results retrieved by executing a query statement
 - `fetchone()` retrieves the next row of a query result set and returns a single sequence, or `None` if no more rows are available
 - `fetchmany(N)` fetches the next set of `N` rows of a query result and returns a list of tuples (or dictionaries or named tuples, if using other specialized cursors)
 - `fetchall()` fetches all (or **all remaining**) rows of a query result set and returns a list of tuples (or dictionaries or named tuples, if using other specialized cursors). If no more rows are available, it returns an `empty list`.

Query Data: fetchone, fetchmany, fetchall

Example


- 0. cursor.execute(query)
- 1. cursor.fetchone()
- 2. cursor.fetchall()

Cursor before the first row




100	S N Rao	5500.50	1 st Record
101	Jyostna	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	Jyothi	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor at the first row



100	S N Rao	5500.50	1 st Record
101	Jyostna	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	Jyothi	7550.50	3 rd Record

Cursor after the last row



100	S N Rao	5500.50	1 st Record
101	Jyostna	6500.50	2 nd Record
102	Jyothi	7550.50	3 rd Record

Query Data: fetchone, fetchmany, fetchall

Example

```
import mysql.connector

cnx = mysql.connector.connect(user='John',
                              password='Wick',
                              host='127.0.0.1',
                              database='prova')

cursor = cnx.cursor(dictionary=True)
query = """SELECT * FROM test"""
cursor.execute(query)

rows = cursor.fetchall()
print(rows)

cursor.close()
```

Query Data: fetchone, fetchmany, fetchall

Warning: when executing a query to read the data, we are expected to handle all the results.

```
query = """SELECT * from test"""
cursor.execute(query)

row1 = cursor.fetchone()
print(row1)

cursor.close()
cnx.close()
```

test_db ×

:

```
File "/Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/test_db.py", line 49, in <module>
    cursor.close()
File "/Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/.venv/lib/python3.12/site-packages/mysql/connector/cursor_cx.py", line 100, in close
    self._cnx.handle_unread_result()
File "/Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/.venv/lib/python3.12/site-packages/mysql/connector/cnx_cx.py", line 100, in handle_unread_result
    raise InternalError("Unread result found")
mysql.connector.errors.InternalError: Unread result found
(1, 'prova carico', 99.9)
```

Query Data: fetchone, fetchmany, fetchall

```
43 query = """SELECT * from test"""
44 cursor.execute(query)
45
46 row = cursor.fetchone()
47 while row is not None:
48     print(row)
49     row = cursor.fetchone()
50
51 cursor.close()
```

while row is not None

Run test_db x

/Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/.venv/bin/python /Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/test_db.py

```
(1, 'prova carico', 99.9)
(2, 'prova latenza', 1.0)
(3, 'test supporto', 3.4)
(4, 'test campo', 3.4)
```

```
query = """SELECT * from test"""
cursor.execute(query)

row = cursor.fetchone()
print(row)
rows = cursor.fetchall()
print(rows)

cursor.close()
```

test_db x

/Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/.venv/bin/python /Users/carlo/TdP2024/test_db/pythonProject/test_db.py

```
(1, 'prova carico', 99.9)
[(2, 'prova latenza', 1.0), (3, 'test supporto', 3.4), (4, 'test campo', 3.4)]
```

Type conversion MySQL -> Python

- By default, MySQL types in result sets are converted automatically to Python types. For example, a `DATETIME` column value becomes a `datetime.datetime` object. To disable conversion, one can use a cursor with the option `cursor(raw=True)`
- You can check the read type using the Python `type()` function

DATA ACCESS OBJECT (DAO)

**Data
Access
Object**
Design Pattern

Problems

- Database code involves a lot of «specific» knowledge
 - Connection parameters
 - SQL commands
 - The structure of the database
- Bad practice to «mix» this low-level information with main application code
 - Reduces portability and maintainability
 - Creates more complex code
 - Breaks the «one-class one-task» assumption
- What is a better code organization?



Goals

- Encapsulate DataBase access into separate classes and modules, distinct from application ones
 - All other classes should be shielded from DB details
- DataBase access should be independent from application needs
 - Potentially reusable in different parts of the application
- Develop a reusable development pattern that can be easily applied to different situations

Pattern DAO

- DAO (Data Access Object) is a pattern that acts as an abstraction between the database and the main application.
- It takes care of adding, modifying, retrieving, and deleting the data and you do not need to know how it does this, that's what an abstraction is.
- DAO is implemented in a separate file. Then, these methods are called in the main application.

Pattern DAO

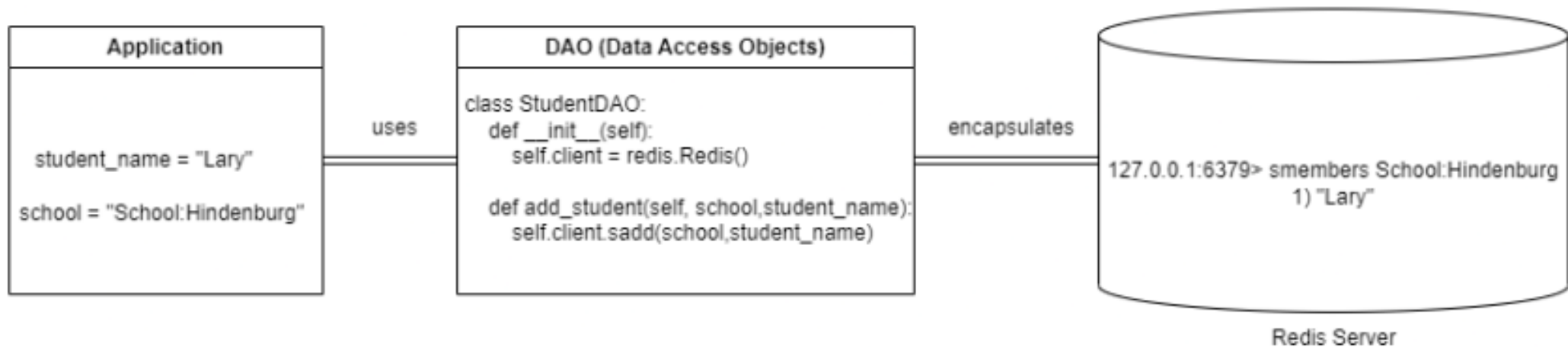


Image source <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2023/02/what-are-data-access-object-and-data-transfer-object-in-python/>

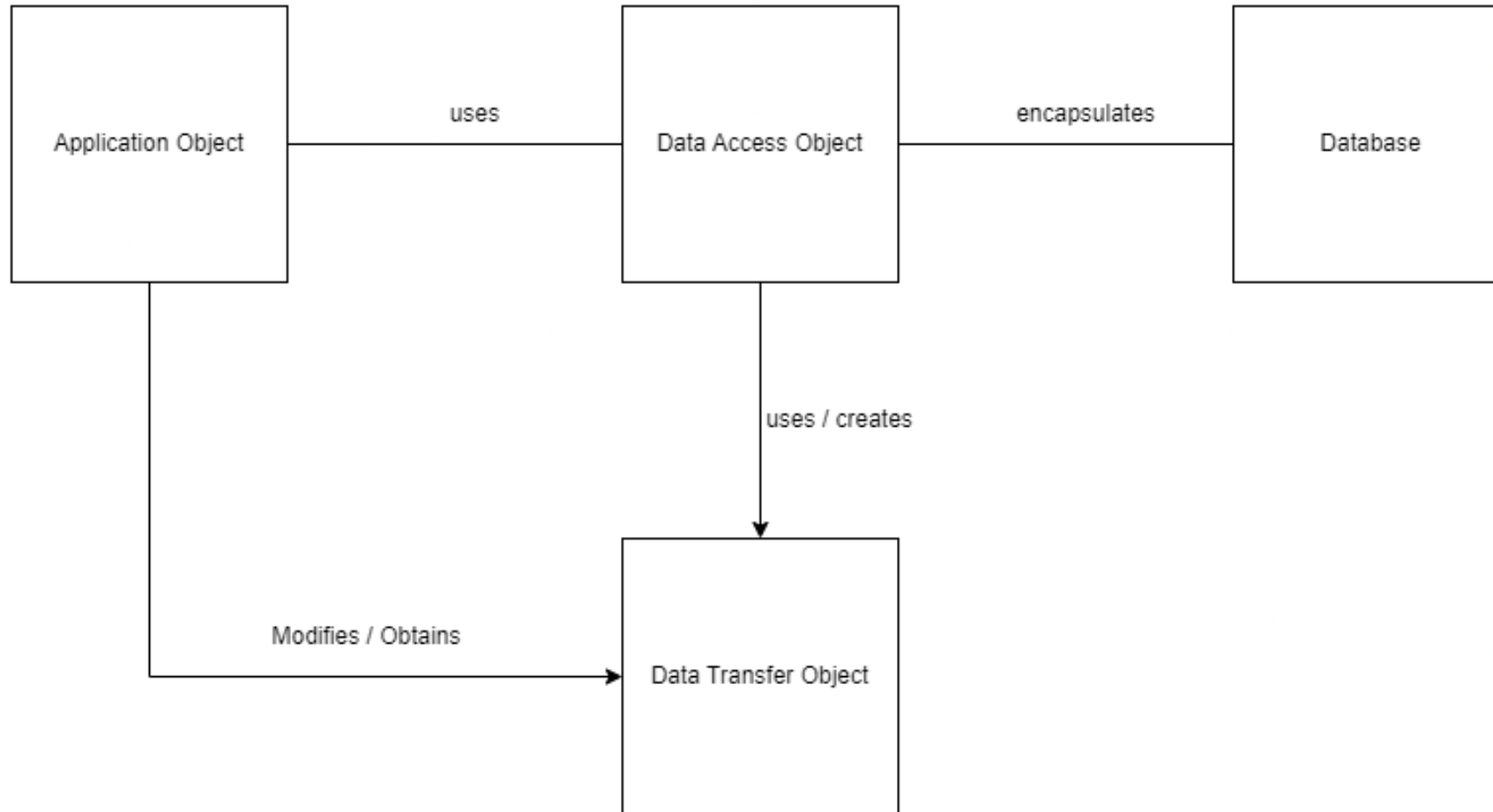
Data Access Object (DAO) – 1/2

- «Client» classes:
 - Application code that needs to access the database
 - Ignorant of database details (connection, queries, schema, ...)
- «DAO» classes:
 - Encapsulate all database access code ([mysql-connector-python](#))
 - The only ones that will ever contact the database
 - Ignorant of the goal of the Client

Data Access Object (DAO) – 2/2

- Low-level database classes, to handle the connection ([MySQLConnection](#), Pooled connection,...)
 - Used by DAO (only!) but invisible to Client
- «Transfer Object» (TO) or «Data Transfer Object» (DTO) classes
 - Contain data sent from Client to Dao and/or returned by DAO to Client
 - Represent the data model, as seen by the application
 - May use [@dataclass](#)
 - Ignorant of DAO, ignorant of database, ignorant of Client
 - The DTO acts as a data store that moves the data from one layer to another
 - Should implement the [__eq__\(\)](#) and [__hash__\(\)](#) functions using the primary key
 - May implement [__str__\(\)](#) and other dunder methods as needed

DAO Diagram



DAO: application example

```
from dao import StudentDAO
from dto import StudentDTO

student_dao = StudentDAO()

student1= "Lary"
student2 = "Mike"
school = "School:Hindenburg"

stud1 = StudentDTO(school,student1)
stud2 = StudentDTO(school,student2)

student_dao.add_student(stud1)
student_dao.add_student(stud2)

student_names = student_dao.get_all_student("School:Hindenburg")
print(student_names)
```

For example a @dataclass

The DAO then implements the methods to interface with the student table in the database

DAO design criteria

- DAO **has no state**
 - No instance variables (except Connection - maybe)
- DAO manages one 'kind' of data
 - Uses a small number of DTO classes and interacts with a small number of DB tables
 - If you need more, create many DAO classes
- DAO offers CRUD methods
 - Create, Read, Update, Delete
- DAO may offer search methods
 - Returning collections of DTO

DAO: example

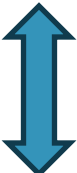
```
class studentDAO:
    def __init__(self):
        #possibly a state to keep information about a connection
        # we will see this with pooling

    def get_methods(self):
        try:
            cnx = mysql.connector.connect(database='student')
        except mysql.connector.Error as err:
            print(err)
            result = None
        else:
            result = []
            cursor = cnx.cursor(dictionary=True)
            cursor.execute("SELECT * FROM students")
            for row in cursor:
                result.append(studentDTO(row["id"], row["name"]))
            cursor.close()
        finally:
            cnx.close()
        return result
```

OBJECT-RELATIONAL MAPPING



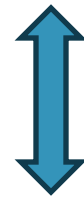
Object Relational Mapping (ORM)

- **Object Relational Mapping** is programming pattern that enables for moving data between objects and a database while keeping them independent of each other.
 - In the **database**, entities are represented as rows of a table, and they can be related to entries of other tables
- 
- In the **Python application**, we represent entities as objects, and we need to represent their relationships

Object Relational Mapping (ORM)

Database,
table Pets

name	species	age	weight_in_kg	favorite_food
Pocket	dog	3	22.5	Kibbles & Bits
Mittens	cat	7	8.0	Fancy Feast: Salmon Edition
Mrs. Birdy III	bird	22	0.5	Froot Loops



DTO Pet

Class Pet

Mapping Tables to Objects

- Goal: guidelines for creating a set of (data)classes to represent information stored in a relational database: will be used as DTO
- Goal: guidelines for designing the set of methods for DAO objects

Tables → data class ORM rules

1. Create one dataclass per each main database entity
 - Except tables used to store n:m relationships!
2. Class names should match table names
 - In the singular form (Utente; User)
3. The Class should have one attribute for each column in the table, with matching names
 - According to Python naming conventions (NUMERO_DATI -> numero_dati)
 - Match the data type
 - Except columns used as foreign keys

Tables → data class ORM rules

4. Add the getter (`@property`) and setter (`@attr.setter`) methods for the attributes, if needed. The setter method cannot be specified if the dataclass uses the `frozen=True` parameter.
5. Define `__eq__()` and `__hash__()` using the **exact** set of fields that compose the primary key of the table

Relationships, Foreign keys → Class

- Define additional attributes in the DTO classes, for every relationship that we want to easily navigate in our application
 - Not necessarily **all** relationships!

Cardinality-1 relationship

- A relationship with cardinality **1** maps to an attribute referring to the corresponding Python object
 - not the PK value
- Use singular nouns.

1:1 relationship

STUDENTE

matricola (PK)

fk_persona

@dataclass

class **Studente**:

 persona: Persona

 codice_fiscale: str

PERSONA

codice_fiscale (PK)

fk_studente

@dataclass

class **Persona**:

 studente: Studente

 matricola: int

Cardinality-N relationship

- A relationship with cardinality **N** maps to an attribute containing a collection
 - The elements of the collection (for example list or set) are corresponding Python objects (not PK values).
 - Use plural nouns.
- The class should have methods for reading (get, ...) and modifying (add, ...) to the collection

1:N relationship

STUDENTE

matricola (PK)
fk_citta_residenza

```
@dataclass
class Studente:
    cittaResidenza: Citta
```

CITTA

cod_citta (PK)
nome_citta

```
@dataclass
class Citta:
    studentiResidenti: list[Studente]
```

1:N relationship

STUDENTE

matricola (PK)
fk_citta_residenza

```
@dataclass
class Studente:
    cittaResidenza: Citta
```

CITTA

cod_citta (PK)
nome_citta

```
@dataclass
class Citta:
    studentiResidenti: list[Studente]
```

In SQL, there is no «explicit»
Citta->Studente foreign key.
The same FK is used to
navigate the relationship in
both directions.

In Python, both directions (if
needed) must be represented
explicitly.

N:M relationship

ARTICLE

id_article (PK)
Article data...

```
@dataclass
class Article:
    creators: set[Creator]
```

AUTHORSHIP

id_article (FK, PK*)
id_creator (FK, PK*)
id_authorship (PK#)

CREATOR

id_creator (PK)
Creator data...

```
@dataclass
class Creator:
    articles: set[Article]
```

N:M relationship

In SQL, there is an extra table just for the N:M relationship .

ARTICLE

id_article (PK)
Article data...

@dataclass

class **Article**:

creators: set[Creator]

AUTHORSHIP

id_article (FK, PK*)
id_creator (FK, PK*)
id_authorship (PK#)

The extra table is not represented.
The PK is not used.

CREATOR

id_creator (PK)
Creator data...

@dataclass

class **Creator**:

articles: set[Article]

The PK may be an extra field (#) or a combination of the FKs (*)

Storing Keys vs Objects

`id_citta_residenza: int`

- Store the *value* of the foreign key
- Easy to retrieve
- Must call a read method from the DAO to get all the data
- Tends to perform more queries

`citta_residenza: Citta`

- Store a *fully initialized object*, corresponding to the matching foreign row
- Harder to retrieve (must use a Join or multiple/nested queries)
- Gets all data at the same time (eager loading)
- All data is readily available
- Maybe such data will not be needed

Storing Keys vs Objects (3rd way)

```
citta_residenza : Citta = field(default_factory=lambda: []) // Lazy  
citta_residenza : Citta = None                               // Lazy
```


- Store a *partially initialized object*, with only the 'id' field set
 - Or even a null field
- Easy to retrieve
- Must ask the DAO to have the real data (lazy loading), but only once
- Loading details may be hidden behind getters

Identity problem

- It may happen that a single object gets retrieved many times, in different queries
 - Especially in the case of N:M relationships

```
articles = dao.list_articles()
for article in articles:
    authors= dao.get_creators_for(article)
    article.creators(authors)
```

```
...
authors = []
for row in cursor:
    authors.append(Creator(...))
...
return authors
```



Identity problem

- It may happen that a single object gets retrieved many times, in different queries
 - Especially in the case of N:M relationships

```
articles = dao.list_articles()
for article in articles:
    authors = dao.get_creators_for(article)
    article.creators(authors)
```

```
...
authors = []
for row in cursor:
    authors.append(Creator(...))
...
authors
```

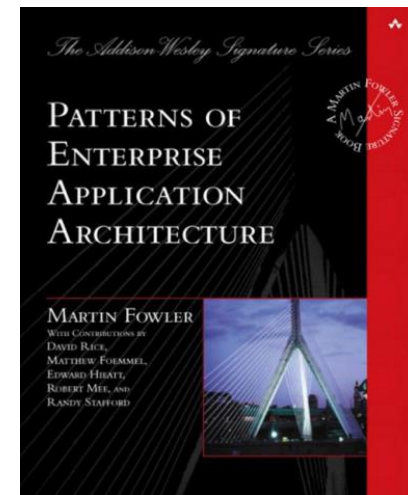
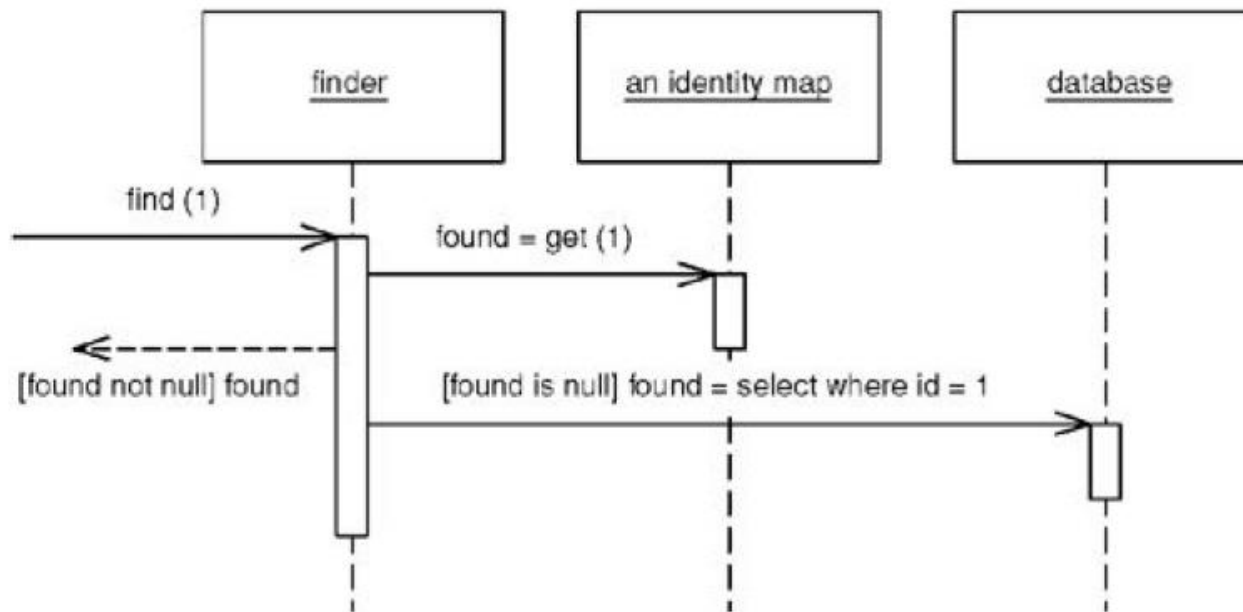
If the same Creator is author of many articles, a we would repeatedly query the database to create **new objects** (with identical information

Identity problem

- It may happen that a single object gets retrieved many times, in different queries
 - Especially in the case of N:M relationships
- Different «identical» objects will be created
 - They can be used interchangeably
 - They waste memory space
 - They can't be compared for identity (== or !=)
 - You can't store additional information in those objects
- Solution: avoid creating pseudo-identical objects
 - Store all retrieved objects in a map (for example, using a dictionary)
 - Don't create an object if it's already in the map

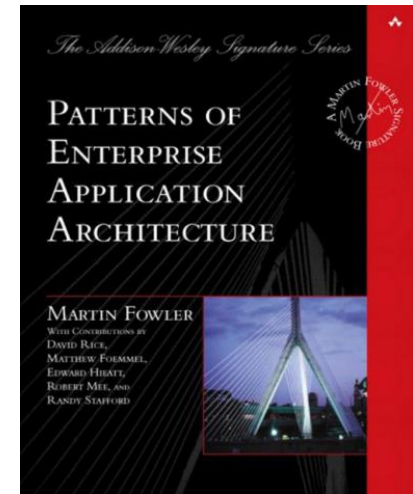
Identity Map pattern

- Ensures that each object gets loaded only once, by keeping every loaded object in a map
- Looks up objects using the map when referring to them.



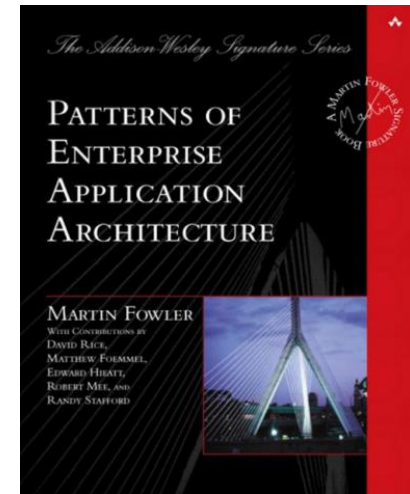
Creating an Identity Map

- One identity_map per database table
- The identity_map stores a dictionary
 - Key = field(s) of the Table that constitute the Primary Key
 - Value = Object representing the table



Using the Identity Map

- Create and store the identity_map in the Model
- Pass a reference to the identity_map to the DAO methods
- In the DAO, when loading an object from the database, first check the map
 - If there is a corresponding object, return it (and don't create a new one)
 - If there is no corresponding object, create a new object and put it into the map, for future reference
- If possible, check the map *before* doing the query



ORM Libraries

- There are many **Object Relational Mappers** in Python, that are libraries that implement the ORM logic and usually much more (they integrate the connector, implement DAO)

The logo for SQLAlchemy, featuring the word "SQL" in a black serif font and "Alchemy" in a red, stylized, handwritten-style font.The logo for Django, featuring the word "django" in a dark green, lowercase, sans-serif font.The logo for Peewee, featuring the word "PEEWEE" in a bold, black, stylized font where the letters are interconnected.The logo for Pony, featuring the word "Pony" in a large, blue, stylized font with a small face-like shape above the 'y', followed by the text "Object-Relational Mapper" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

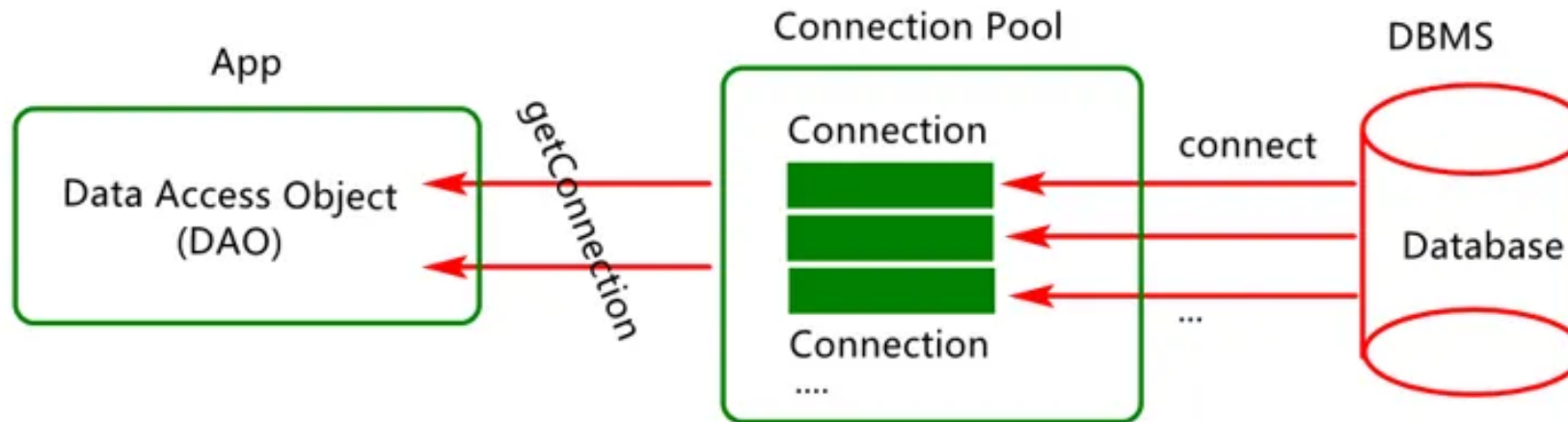
CONNECTION POOLING



Connection pooling

- Opening and closing DB connection is expensive
 - Requires setting up TCP/IP connection, checking authorization, ...
 - After just 1-2 queries, the connection is dropped and all partial results are lost in the DBMS
- Connection pool
 - A set of “already open” database connections
 - DAO methods “lend” a connection for a short period, running queries
 - The connection is then returned to the pool (not closed!) and is ready for the next DAO needing it

Connection Pool conceptual model



Connection pooling with mysql-connector

- The `mysql.connector.pooling` module implements pooling.
- A pool opens a number of connections and handles thread safety when providing connections to requesters.
- A `connection pool` has several properties:
 - `size`: indicates the number of connections available in the pool. It is configurable at pool creation time and cannot be resized thereafter.
 - `name`: can be retrieved from the connection pool or connections obtained from it.
- It is possible to have multiple connection pools. This enables applications to support pools of connections to different MySQL servers, for example.
- For each `connection request`, the pool provides the next available connection. No round-robin or other scheduling algorithm is used. If a pool is exhausted, a `PoolError` is raised.

Creating a pool

```
cnxpool = mysql.mysql.connector.pooling.MySQLConnectionPool(pool_name = "mypool",  
                                                             pool_size = 3,  
                                                             database = "test",  
                                                             user = "John",  
                                                             password = "Wick",  
                                                             host = "127.0.0.1")
```

The `cnxpool` object is an instantiation of the class `PooledMySQLConnection`. Differently from `MySQLConnection` objects, `PooledMySQLConnection` objects cannot be used directly as connections, but we must lend a connection from them

Lending a connection

- We can ask a connection from the pool using the `get_connection()` method
 - Warning: if there are no connections available this method raises a `PoolError` exception

```
cnxpool = mysql.mysql.connector.pooling.MySQLConnectionPool(pool_name = "mypool",  
                                                             pool_size = 3,  
                                                             database = "test",  
                                                             user = "John",  
                                                             password = "Wick",  
                                                             host = "127.0.0.1")  
  
cnx = cnxpool.get_connection()  
  
//do operations  
  
cnx.close()
```

`cnx` is an instantiation of the class `PooledMySQLConnection`. It is similar to a `MySQLConnection` object, but with one notable difference:

- The `close()` method return the connection to the pool, does not terminate it!

Benchmarks

# Iterations	1	10	100	1000	10000
Pooling	0.012s	0.081s	0.717s	8.81s	92.2s
Non-Pooling	0.031s	0.039s	0.081s	0.351s	2.42s

References

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 - Coding examples <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-examples.html>
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 - Connection arguments and option files <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-connecting.html>
 - API reference <https://dev.mysql.com/doc/connector-python/en/connector-python-reference.html>

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 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_access_object
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- Connection pooling
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