



Chapter 7: \$merge Aggregation Stage

Homework: Using \$merge

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Correct Option

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```
{
  $merge: {
    into: "analytics",
    on: "name",
    whenMatched: "merge",
    whenNotMatched: "insert"
  }
}
```

This is the correct use of **\$merge**. We merge into a collection called **analytics**, merging on the **name** field of each document. When a matching document is found, it is merged with the information from the resulting document. When no matching document is found, a new document is created with the resulting document's information.

It is worth noting that **merge** and **insert** are the default values of **whenMatched** and **whenNotMatched**, respectively. So, we could have left out these two fields, and this **\$merge** operation would still have worked as intended.

Incorrect Options

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```
{
  $merge: {
    into: "analytics"
  }
}
```

While this **\$merge** operation would have been correct for **into**, **whenMatched**, and **whenNotMatched** (since the default values of **whenMatched** and **whenNotMatched** are what we wanted), the default value of **on** is **_id**, so this would have merged the resulting documnts with the existing documents incorrectly.

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```
{
  $merge: {
    into: "analytics",
    on: "name",
    whenMatched: "keepExisting",
    whenNotMatched: "insert"
  }
}
```

Using **keepExisting** as the value of **whenMatched** would result in the wrong functionality. **keepExisting** leaves existing documents unmodified, so any potential changes in the resulting documents would not be merged with the existing documents.

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```
{
  $merge: {
    into: "analytics",
    on: "name",
    whenNotMatched: "fail"
  }
}
```

Using **fail** as the value of **whenNotMatched** would result in the wrong functionality. **fail** stops the aggregation operation if any resulting documents don't match with existing documents.

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```
{
  $merge: {
    on: "name"
  }
}
```

This is not valid **\$merge** syntax. **\$merge** must always include the **into** parameter to specify which collection the resulting documents should be merged into.

Proceed to next section