

#### Laravel

Database & Models



- Author(s):
  - Marco Monteiro (<u>marco.monteiro@ipleiria.pt</u>)



## **Summary**

- Database DB
- 2. Models Eloquent ORM
- 3. Model Relationships
- 4. Collections

5. Migrations & Seeds



#### 2 - DATABASE - DB



- Laravel supports (currently and by default) 5 different relational database systems:
  - MySQL
  - MariaDB
  - PostgreSQL
  - SQLite
  - SQL Server
- Under the hood, Laravel uses <u>PDO</u> (PHP Data Objects) to create and run all kind of queries in a safe manner protecting your application against SQL injection attacks
- Interaction with database can be done with <u>raw SQL</u>, the <u>fluent query</u> <u>builder</u>, or the <u>Eloquent ORM</u>



## **Configuration**

"config/database.php" (example with a subset of settings)

".env" file (example with a subset of settings)

```
DB_HOST=127.0.0.1
DB_DATABASE=work
DB_USERNAME=root
DB_PASSWORD=root_password
```

Value defined on ".env" file is used. If no value is defined on ".env" file, then default value of config file is used



- DB facade allows to execute <u>raw SQL</u>
- Has a static method for each kind of DML statement

```
use Illuminate\Support\Facades\DB;
$results= DB::select('select * from users where user = ?', [23]);
$results= DB::select('select * from users where user = :id',
           ['id' => 23]);
DB::insert('insert into users (id, name) values (?, ?)',
           [24, 'John Doe']);
DB::update('update users set votes = 100 where name = ?',
           ['John Doe']);
DB::delete('delete from users where id = ?', [23]);
// Generic statement
DB::statement('drop table users');
```



#### Transactions

- All operations are completed, or all operations are cancelled
- Operations of the transaction can include DB class or Eloquent Models

```
// As a callback closure
DB::transaction(function () {
    DB::update('update users set votes = 1');
    DB::delete('delete from posts');
});
```

```
// As a try / catch block
try {
    DB::beginTransaction();
    DB::update('update users set votes = 1');
    DB::delete('delete from posts');
// Do something else that could raise an exception (...)
    DB::commit();
} catch (\Exception $e) {
    DB::rollback();
}
```



- Query builder is a <u>fluent interface</u> to create and run queries in a safe and error-prone way
- Retrieve all rows from a table

```
$users = DB::table('users')->get();
```

- Returns a <u>Collection</u> containing the results where each row is an instance of the PHP <u>StdClass</u> object. It does not return an Eloquent Model
- You may access each column's value by accessing the column as an attribute of the object:

```
foreach ($users as $user) {
    echo $user->name;
}
```



▶ Retrieve data with query builder – other examples

```
// Single row
$user = DB::table('users')->where('name', 'John')->first();
// Where operator:
$users = DB::table('users')->where('age', '>', 100)->get();
$users = DB::table('users')->where('age', '>', 18)
                           ->where('country', 'pt')
                           ->orWhere('name', 'like', 'J%')
                           ->get();
// With select
$users = DB::table('users')
         ->select('name', 'email as user email')->get();
// Distinct operator
$users = DB::table('users')->distinct()->get();
// Raw methods
$orders = DB::table('orders')
   ->selectRaw('price * ? as price with tax', [1.0825])->get();
```



Retrieve data with query builder – other examples

```
// Order by, group by and having
$users = DB::table('users')
                    ->orderBy('name', 'desc')
                    ->groupBy('count')
                    ->having('count', '>', 100)
                    ->get();
// Joins
$users = DB::table('users')
        ->join('contacts', 'users.id', '=', 'contacts.user id')
        ->join('orders', 'users.id', '=', 'orders.user id')
        ->select('users.*', 'contacts.phone', 'orders.price')
        ->get();
$users = DB::table('users')
        ->leftJoin('posts', 'users.id', '=', 'posts.user id')
        ->get();
```



Insert data – examples:

```
// Insert one row
DB::table('users')->insert(
    ['email' => 'john@example.com', 'votes' => 0]
   Insert one row and retrieves auto-incrementing id
    = DB::table('users')->insertGetId(
    ['email' => 'john@example.com', 'votes' => 0]
   Insert multiple rows
DB::table('users')->insert([
    ['email' => 'taylor@example.com', 'votes' => 0],
    ['email' => 'dayle@example.com', 'votes' => 0]
]);
```



Update and Delete data – examples:

```
// Updating records
DB::table('users')
            ->where('id', 1)
            ->update(['votes' => 1]);
// Incrementing the value of a column
DB::table('users')->increment('votes');
DB::table('users')->increment('votes', 5);
// Decrementing the value of a column
DB::table('users')->decrement('votes', 5);
// Deleting records
DB::table('users')->where('votes', '<', 100)->delete();
// Deleting all records
DB::table('users')->delete();
```



- Query builder includes more features, such as:
  - Chunking results
  - List selection
  - Dynamic "where" clauses
  - Advanced "where" clauses
  - Aggregates
  - Locking
  - Pagination
  - Etc.
- Official documentation:

https://laravel.com/docs/queries



## 3 – MODELS - ELOQUENT ORM



- ORM Object Relational Mapping
- Each database table has a corresponding "Model"
- Models are defined by extending the class Model

(Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Model)

```
use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Model;
. . .
class Product extends Model { . . . }
```

▶ To create a model, we can use CLI artisan:

```
php artisan make:model Product
```

By default, models are created on:

```
Folder: app/ModelsNamespace: App\Models
```



#### **Eloquent ORM – Model Instances**

- Database <u>tables</u> correspond to <u>model classes</u>
- ▶ Each <u>instance</u> (object) of the Eloquent class model corresponds to a **row** of the database table.
- An instance (object) is called a <u>Model</u>
- Database table <u>columns</u> correspond to model (instance / object) <u>attributes</u>

```
$prod = Product::find(123);
$prod->name = 'New Name of Product';
$prod->qty = 20;
$prod->price = 23.99;
$prod->save();
// name, qty and price are also table columns
```



# **Eloquent ORM - Conventions**

- ► Each model class assumes **by convention**:
  - An underlying table with the snake case plural name of the class (model class should be a singular)
    - ▶ Model="Product" → Table Name = "products"
  - A primary key column called "id" (auto increment column)
  - Two timestamp columns: ("created\_at", "updated\_at")



### **Eloquent ORM - Conventions**

Defaults can be overridden using instance attributes

```
class Product extends Model
    // Overrides table name
    protected $table = 'shop products';
    // Overrides primary key name
    protected $primaryKey = 'product code';
    // Disables auto increment primary key
    public $incrementing = false;
    // overrides primary key type
    protected $keyType = 'string';
    // Disables auto timestamps
    public $timestamps = false;
```



## **Eloquent ORM – Queries**

The Eloquent model base class also serves as a query builder, which means that DB facade queries builder operations are also supported by Eloquent Models

Example with DB facade class:

```
$user = DB::table('users')->where('name', 'John')->get();
```

Same example with Eloquent Model class:

```
// Eloquent Model Class = User (table 'users')
$user = User::where('name', 'John')->get();
```

Main difference is that DB class returns a collection of <u>StdClass</u>
 <u>objects</u>, and User Eloquent model class returns a collection of User models (<u>Model objects</u>)



#### **Eloquent ORM – Queries**

Eloquent query examples

```
// Retrieving all records
$prods = Product::all();
// Retrieving by PK
prod = Product::find(123);
prod = Product::find([2, 7, 123, 24]);
$prod = Product::findOrFail(7);
    //throws ModelNotFoundException if product does not exist
// Filtering
$lowStock = Product::where('qty', '<', 5)->get();
// Order by and limit
$lowStock = Product::where('qty', '<', 5)</pre>
          ->orderBy('qty', 'desc')
          ->orderBy('name')
                                      // only the first 10 rows
          ->take(10)
          ->get();
```



### **Query Builder – multiple operations**

It is possible to combine multiple query builder operations (DB class or Eloquent) on 1 PHP expression or multiple expressions



- All previous examples (that combine <u>multiple</u> operations)
   expressions, end with a method that is responsible for returning data get()
- query() method returns an instance of a Query Builder
- All other methods (where; orderBy; take), except get, are only affecting the query builder.
  - They are not manipulating anything on the database, they are just manipulating a PHP object that is building the SQL command.
- Only when the get() method is invoked, and only then, the Eloquent Model sends an SQL command to the database, which then returns the data.



Invalid

```
$prods = Product::where('qty', '<', 5);</pre>
```

\$prod has no data – it is an instance of the query builder

**Valid** 

```
$prods = Product::where('qty', '<', 5)->get();
```

\$prod has data – get() method returns data from DB



# Queries – 1 model

- Methods that returns <u>1 model</u> (1 row):
- ▶ **find** return a model instance from its primary key

```
$product = Product::find(23);
```

▶ findOrFail — return a model instance from its primary key. If it does not exist, throws a "model is not found" exception. If exception is not handled a "404 HTTP Response" is sent to the client

```
$product = Product::findOrFail(23);
```

▶ **first** – return the first model instance (first row) from a query

```
$product = Product::where('qty', '<', 5)->first()
```



### Queries – 1 aggregated value

Methods that only returns 1 (aggregated) value:

```
count / max / min / avg / sum
```

Examples:

```
$users = Users::count();
```

```
$total_computers =
   Product::where('type', 'computer')->count();
```

```
$more_expensive = Product::max('price');
```

```
$average_price_of_computer =
Product::where('type', 'computer')->avg('price');
```



## Queries – collection of models

- Methods that returns <u>collections of models</u>:
- ▶ all return all models (all rows in the table). It does not work with query build methods (where, take, etc..)

```
$product = Product::all();
```

get – return a collection of models.

```
$products = Product::where('qty', '<', 5)->get();
```

paginate — return a collection of models, but with pagination (only a "page" is returned at once)

```
$p = Product::where('qty', '<', 5)->paginate(10);
```

▶ **chunk** — return a collection of models, but handles all data in chunks (example: handling 1 million models, but only 100 at a time)



### **Queries - arrays**

- Pluck method returns an array with one field
- pluck— returns an array with a field value relative to a set of rows

```
$allIds = Product::pluck('id');
```

Array with all ids of the Product table

Array with all names of all "ssd drive" (product category)

Array with all names of all "laptops" (product category).
- Array **keys** will be the "**id**" of the products

- Array **values** will be the "**name**" of the products



### **Query Builder – Callbacks**

- ▶ It is possible to group several expressions within a <u>callback</u>
  - Callback function receives and modifies the query instance
  - Example that adds "parenthesis":

Compare resulting SQL of this example with previous example



Retrieve data from the DB with "paginate" method:

On the Blade view use one of the following code sections to generate the pagination links:

```
{{ $prods->links() }}

{{ $prods->withQueryString()->links() }}

( 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 ... 237 238 )
```

Laravel will automatically coordinate pagination links and pagination results



#### Eloquent ORM – insert, update, delete

- Insert, update or delete can be done in two ways:
  - Model instance method
  - Model Eloquent class method (static methods)
- Using <u>model instance</u> methods:

```
Inserting
$user = new User
$user->name = 'John Doe';
$user->save();
$insertedId = $user->id; // Accessing the auto-inc column id
// Updating
$user = User::find(2);
$user->name = 'New name here';
$user->save();
// Deleting
$user = User::find(3);
$user->delete();
```



#### **Eloquent ORM – insert, update, delete**

Using Eloquent <u>class methods</u> (static methods)

```
// Creates a new user
$user = User::create(['name' => 'John Doe']);
// Fetch user by the attr, or create it if it doesn't exist
$user = User::firstOrCreate(['name' => 'John Doe']);
// Updates the user by properties
$user = User::update(['id' => 2, 'name' => 'New name here']);
// Deleting
User::destroy(3);
User::destroy([1, 2, 3]);
```



#### Eloquent ORM – insert, update, delete

Mass updates – example:

```
Flight::where('active', 1)
   ->where('destination', 'San Diego')
   ->update(['delayed' => 1]);
```

Mass Assignment – examples:

```
$user = User::create(['name' => 'John Doe']);
$user->fill(['name' => 'John Doe']);
```

- A set of attributes (table columns) that can be filled at once (with an array).
- To prevent mass-assignment vulnerability, models (by default) don't support mass assignment. Model's attributes <u>\$fillable</u> (white list) and <u>\$guarded</u> (black list) specify which attributes can be mass assignable

```
class User extends Model
{
    protected $fillable = ['name', 'age'];
    protected $guarded = ['password', 'email'];
}
```



### **Eloquent ORM – Soft Deletes**

#### Soft deletes

- ▶ Requires <u>deleted at</u> attribute (value != null → soft deleted)
- Model must use SoftDeletes trait

```
use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Model;
use Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\SoftDeletes;

class Flight extends Model
{
    use SoftDeletes;
    //protected $dates = ['deleted_at'];
}
```

- Calling <u>delete</u> method on the model, will set deleted\_at with the current date and time – it will not delete the model (row)
- When querying a model that uses soft deletes, the soft deleted instances (rows) will be automatically excluded from query results.



#### **Eloquent ORM – Soft Deletes**

```
// Determine if a model was soft deleted
if ($flight->trashed()) { . . . }
// Including soft deletes on a query
$flights = Flight::withTrashed()
                ->where('account id', 1)->get();
// Retrieving only the soft deleted models
$flights = Flight::onlyTrashed()
                ->where('airline id', 1)->get();
// Restoring (un-delete) a model
$flight->restore();
// Restoring (un-delete) several models
Flight::withTrashed()
        ->where('airline id', 1)
        ->restore();
// Permanently Deleting Models
$flight->forceDelete();
```



#### 4 – MODEL RELATIONSHIPS



# **Eloquent Relationships**

- Database table are often related to each other using relationships (foreign keys)
- ▶ Eloquent ORM can represent table relationships as methods.
- These methods can be abstracted as <u>collection</u> attributes or as <u>references</u> attributes
  - Example with relationships: get all posts of a specific user (id= 13)

```
$posts = User::find(13)->posts;
```

Previous example (with relationships) is equivalent to next example (without relationships):

```
$posts = Post::where('user_id', 13)->get();
```



#### One to One - Definition

```
class User extends Model
{
    // A user may have or not a phone
    public function phone()
    {
        return $this->hasOne(Phone::class);
    }
}
```

```
class Phone extends Model
{
    // A phone always belongs to a user
    public function user()
    {
        return $this->belongsTo(User::class);
    }
}
```



▶ One to One – Using the models

```
$phone = User::find(123)->phone;
$phone->number = '99293283';
```

```
$user = Phone::find(324)->user;
$str = "I'm calling " . $user->name;
```



# **Eloquent Relationships**

hasOne (non default columns)

```
// Will look for a column called user_id on Phone model's table
return $this->hasOne(Phone::class);

// Overrides available
return $this->hasOne(Phone::class, 'foreign_key');
return $this->hasOne(Phone::class, 'foreign_key', 'local_key');
```

belongsTo (non default columns)

```
// Will look for a column called user_id
return $this->belongsTo(User::class);

// Overrides available
return $this->belongsTo(User::class, 'foreign_key');
return $this->belongsTo(User::class, 'foreign_key', 'owner_key');
```



#### One to Many - Definition

```
class User extends Model
{
    // A user may have 0 or more posts
    public function posts()
    {
       return $this->hasMany(Post::class);
    }
}
```

```
class Post extends Model
{
    // A post always belongs to a user
    public function user()
    {
        return $this->belongsTo(User::class);
    }
}
```



One to Many – Using the models

```
$posts = User::find(123)->posts;
foreach ($posts as $post) {
    // . . . E.g. $post->title
}
```

```
$user = Post::find(1)->user;
$str = "Post owner is " . $user->name;
```



#### Many to Many - Definition

```
class User extends Model
{
    // A user may have 0 or more roles
    public function roles()
    {
       return $this->belongsToMany(Role::class);
    }
}
```

```
class Role extends Model
{
    // A role can be owned by multiple users
    public function users()
    {
        return $this->belongsToMany(User::class);
    }
}
```



#### Many to Many – Pivot Table

 belongsToMany requires a <u>pivot table</u> to link the related tables. In the previous example the following tables must exist:

```
users, roles, role_user
```

 The role\_user table name is derived from the alphabetical order of the related model names, and should have user id and role id columns



- Many to Many access Pivot Table
  - Pivot table may include extra columns (besides foreign keys)
  - ▶ They are accessible through pivot attribute:

```
$user = User::find(1);

foreach ($user->roles as $role) {
   echo $role->pivot->created_at;
}
```

Filtering relationships via Pivot table columns

```
class User extends Model {
    public function roles()
    {
        return $this->belongsToMany(Role::class)
        ->wherePivot('approved', 1);
    }
}
```



- Many to Many Pivot Table as a Model
  - Although pivot table doesn't require a Model, it is possible to create a Model for the pivot table
  - Using the "pivot" model to define the relationship:

▶ The "pivot" model extends from <u>Pivot</u> class

```
class UserRole extends Pivot
{
    //
}
```



### **Eloquent Relationships – on queries**

All relationships can be accessed through its dynamic attribute:

```
// Retrieving the dynamic phone property
$phone = User::find(1)->phone;

// Retrieving all posts for a user
$posts = User::find(1)->posts;
```

Relationships can also be used as an "expression" of a query:



# **Eloquent Relationships – null value**

If foreign key accepts null on the database, then the dynamic property might return null. We must take that into consideration:

```
$categoryName= Product::find(2)?->category->name;
```

or

```
$category= Product::find(2)->category;
// $category has an instance of Category model or null
$categoryName= $category ? $category->name : null;
```

- "products" table has a foreign key that references the "categories" table, and accepts null – this means that the product might not have a category
- When the foreign key value is null, the relationship dynamic attribute (category) also returns null
- The following code will generate an <u>error</u>, because the category returns null, which does not have the "name" property



\$categoryName= Product::find(2)->category->name;



## **Eloquent Relationships**

#### Lazy loading (default)

Relationship objects are only loaded when required.

```
$books = Book::all();
foreach ($books as $book) {
   echo $book->author->name;
}
```

For 25 books, 26 queries are executed. 1 query for the Book model (books table) and 25 additional queries to retrieve the author of each book

#### Eager loading

Relationship object are loaded when the original model is loaded.

```
$books = Book::with('author')->get();
foreach ($books as $book) {
   echo $book->author->name;
}
```

For the same 25 books, only 2 queries are executed. 1 query for the Book model (books table) and 1 query for all the authors of the 25 books



## **Eloquent Relationships**

#### Inserting related models

```
// belongsTo relationship
$phone = new Phone(['number' => 123123123]);
$user = User::find(1);
$user->phone()->associate($phone);
$user->save();
// hasMany relationship
$firstPost = new Post(['title' => 'Hello', 'body' => '...']);
$user->posts()->save($firstPost);
$posts = [
    new Post(['title' => 'A new post', 'body' => '...']),
    new Post(['title' => 'Another one', 'body' => '...']),
    new Post(['title' => 'That\'s all folks', 'body' => '...'])
];
$user->posts()->saveMany($posts);
// belongsToMany relationship
$user->roles()->attach(1); // attach role with id 1
$user->roles()->detach(1); // detach role with id 1 from user
```



- Query builder includes more features, such as:
  - Timestamps
  - Query scopes
  - Polymorphic relations
  - Accessors and mutators
  - Events and observers
  - Eloquent collections
  - Etc.

Official documentation:

https://laravel.com/docs/eloquent



### 5 – COLLECTIONS

Eloquent collections and base collections



# **Eloquent collections / Base collections 53**

► All Eloquent methods that return more than one model will return instances of Eloquent Collections

Illuminate\Database\Eloquent\Collection

► Eloquent collections extends Laravel's base collection Illuminate\Support\Collection

- Collections provides a fluent wrapper for working with arrays of data
  - Collections' data exists "in memory" only
- More info:
  - ▶ Eloquent collections: <a href="https://laravel.com/docs/eloquent-collections">https://laravel.com/docs/eloquent-collections</a>
  - ► Collections: https://laravel.com/docs/collections



- Collections include methods like:
  - wherecountsortBy
- These methods will filter, transform, transverse, etc ... data in memory.
- For instance, if we apply the where method on a collection, it will filter data already in memory

```
. . .
$filtered = $collection->where('price', 100);
$filtered->all();
```



# **Collections vs Query Builder**

#### Attention:

These 2 sections of code will produce a similar result (\$a var will have the same data) but are completely different:

```
$a = Aluno::where('curso', 'TESP-TI')->get();
```

- where is a method of the query builder
- DB query executed:

```
select * from alunos where curso = 'TESP-TI'
```



```
$a = Aluno::get()->where('curso', 'TESP-TI');
```

- where is a method of the collection
- o DB query executed: select \* from alunos
- All "alunos" are loaded into the collection. Only then the filter is applied



### 5 – MIGRATIONS & SEEDS

- Defines the database structure (database <u>schema</u>) https://laravel.com/docs/migrations
- ▶ Database version control support multiple versions of the database schema – different developers or different installations of the application may have different versions of the database
- Typically paired with Laravel Schema Builder https://laravel.com/docs/schema
  - Database agnostic code to manipulate the DB structure



▶ To create a migrate, execute:

php artisan make:migration name\_migration\_file

- ▶ Each migration represents a version of the DB structure
- ▶ Each migration has a set of operations that upgrade the DB structure (changes the DB structure from previous version to the new version) and a set of operations that downgrade the DB structure (changes the DB structure from the new version to the previous version)
- ▶ Each migration is defined by a timestamped file (name of file includes a timestamp)— version control is defined by the time
- Database includes a table called "migrations" which is responsible for the synchronization between DB structure and migration files



- Migration classes implement at least 2 methods:
  - up() operations to upgrade the database to a new version
  - down() operations to downgrade the database to the initial version. Down method reverts all up() operations
- Typically use Laravel Schema Builder examples will follow ...



Examples of migrations classes (create "products" table):

```
class CreateProductsTable extends Migration
   public function up()
      Schema::create('products', function (Blueprint $table) {
          $table->bigIncrements('id');
          $table->string('name',30);
          $table->text('description')->nullable();
          $table->decimal('price', 13, 2);
          $table->decimal('discount', 13, 2);
          $table->timestamps();
        });
    public function down()
       // reverts up() operations:
        Schema::dropIfExists('products');
```



Examples of migrations classes (create "categories" table):

```
class CreateCategoriesTable
 extends Migration
   public function up()
    Schema::create('categories', function (Blueprint $table)
          $table->bigIncrements('id');
          $table->string('name',20);
        });
    public function down()
        // reverts up() operations:
        Schema::dropIfExists('categories');
```



Examples of migrations classes (modify "products" table – add a foreign key to "categories" table):

```
class AddCategoryToProductsTable extends Migration
public function up()
Schema::table('products', function (Blueprint $table) {
  $table->unsignedBigInteger('category id');
  $table->foreign('category id')->references('id')->on('categories');
  });
public function down()
{ // reverts up() operations:
  Schema::table('products', function (Blueprint $table) {
    $table->dropForeign('products category id foreign');
```



- Schema builder (<u>Schema</u> class) has commands to:
  - Create or drop tables, columns, relations, indexes, keys, etc...
- Example for columns:

```
Schema::table('client', function (Blueprint $table) {
    $table->string('nome');
    $table->boolean('vip')->default(false);
    $table->string('cardnumber',10)->nullable();
}

Column Name

Column Data Type

Data type parameter
(Size)
```



Example for Foreign Key:

```
Schema::table('posts', function (Blueprint $table) {
    $table->unsignedInteger('user id');
    $table->foreign('user id')->references('id')->on('users');
} );
                                                            Foreign Table
             Name of Foreign Key Column
                  (created elseware)
                                         Relationship Column at the
Adds a foreign key
                                                Foreign Table
                                           (usually the primary key)
```



## Migration commands

- Artisan tool has a set of commands that use migrations to define the initial DB structure, upgrade or downgrade that DB structure
- Example of migration related commands:
  - Run pending migrations (upgrade)

```
php artisan migrate
```

Rollback (downgrade) last migration

```
php artisan migrate:rollback
```

Drop all tables and re-run all migrations

```
php artisan migrate:fresh
```



- What happens when artisan command: "artisan migrate" is executed?
  - Database structure is modified according to the schema builder commands
  - 2. The migration file name is added to the "migrations" table. This allows to control the history of all migrations applied
  - 3. When upgrading again, the migration system will execute all migration files that are not in the migrations table.
    - Order of execution is defined by timestamp (on the file name)
  - 4. When downgrading, migration system will execute the latest migration, which is defined on the "migrations" table.
    - Order of execution is defined by batch column value and by file name timestamp
- Please refer to the official documentation for a more in-depth explanation (https://laravel.com/docs/migrations)



- Laravel also provides tools to seed (populate) your database with data using seed classes
- They are placed inside the "database/seeds" folder
- Using third-party libs (pre-installed on Laravel) such as the "fzaninotto/Faker" library it's relatively easy to populate the database with fake data for testing
- Recommendation for all your projects
  - Always populate the database with data that simulates a real word usage (at least the size of data). Many performance problems are detected early when running against a large database (problems are detected during development time, not during production)



- Some examples (to execute the seeds)
- Runs the default seeder class DatabaseSeeder

```
php artisan db:seed
```

Runs the seeder UserTableSeeder

```
php artisan db:seed -class="UserTableSeeder"
```

Please refer to the official documentation for a more in-depth explanation (https://laravel.com/docs/seeding)