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T7: What are ORMs and when to use them?

ORM stands for Object Relation Mapping. Typically this means communicating with a system using a language other than the native language is expects. Is a technique that lets you query and manipulate data from a database using an object-oriented paradigm. When talking about ORM, most people are referring to a library that implements the Object-Relational Mapping technique, hence the phrase "an ORM".

An ORM library gives us the mechanism by which to perform Object Relation Mapping. This means we end up with structs or classes that represent something like a table in our database.

Pros:

- Much less time spent to interact with a database in your program.
- Abstracts away the database being used, which makes it easier to swap to another backend.
- If you have weak-SQL skills, the generated queries are at least as good as if you wrote them, if not more performant.

Cons:

- If you need a very highly optimized query and you can write said query, it may perform better than the generated ones.
- There is some amount of mentar overhead related to learning an ORM library
- Most ORMs require some amount of configuration.
- May not help you developer stronger database and/or SQL skills.