

Team Project Meta-Management Database Seeder Documentation

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Team Project Meta-Management

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1 Database Seeder

The purpose of the database seeder is to provide easily usable test data for team members. This functionality includes mass production of valid randomized data to quickly fill database tables, as well as a quick method for adding specific rows to a database table.

For all database seeding we use Laravel's seed classes. Running the `php artisan db:seed` command will run the default `DatabaseSeeder` class, which can make additional calls to operate specific seeders

Seeders can directly insert data into a table so long as the data does not conflict with SQL constraints. Because any manual insertions will require the developer to monitor any conflicts that may occur in the database, this is not recommended except for when testing specific cases. In general, we instead use Model Factories which can be used to quickly generate large randomized sets of data.

Model factories use the `Faker PHP` library to conveniently generate many types of randomized data for testing. A model factory only requires specifics of which types of data each table column should be filled with in order to generate non-conflicting entries into the database. A single call to a factory can produce any number of records for testing. In addition, we can insert data with many relations easily by nesting factory requests.

References