

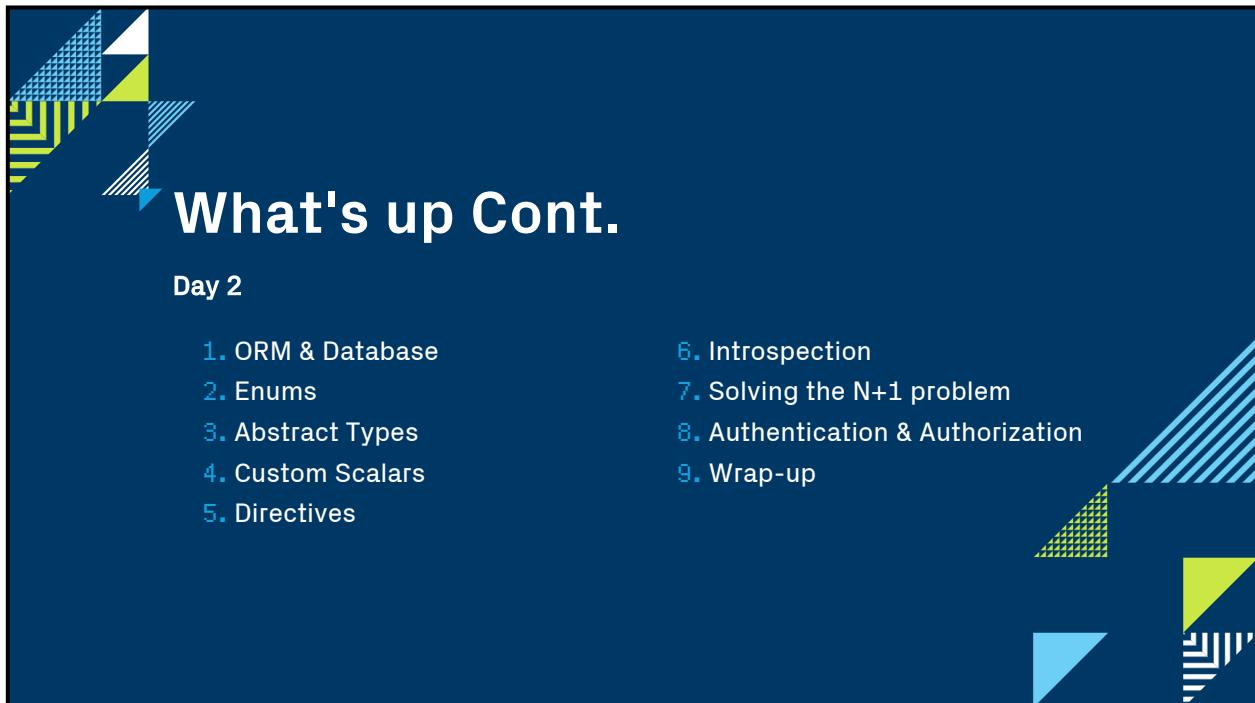
# GraphQL



## What's up

### Day 1

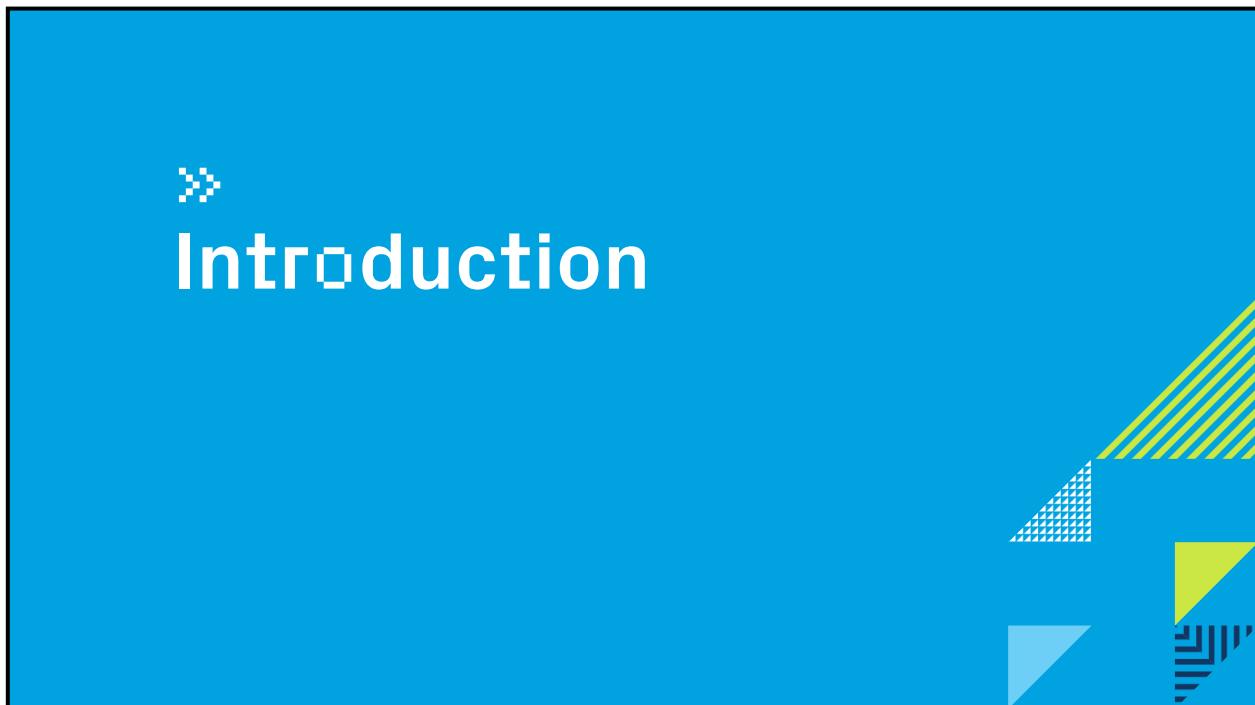
- 1. Introduction
- 2. GraphQL vs REST
- 3. Graphs
- 4. IDE Walkthrough
- 5. Fetch Data
- 6. Set up Environment
- 7. Lists & Nullability
- 8. Nest Objects
- 9. Arguments
- 10. Type System
- 11. Mutate Data and Use Variables
- 12. Realtime Data (optional)
- 13. Wrap-up



# What's up Cont.

Day 2

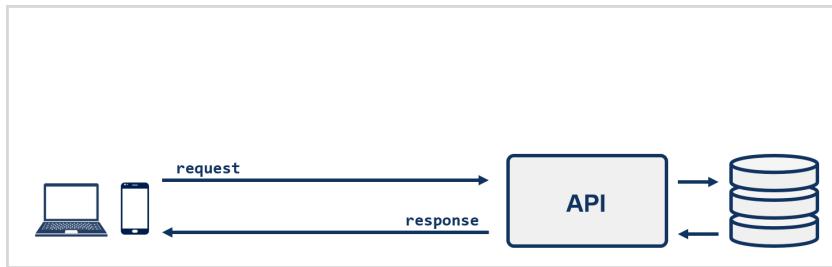
- 1. ORM & Database
- 2. Enums
- 3. Abstract Types
- 4. Custom Scalars
- 5. Directives
- 6. Introspection
- 7. Solving the N+1 problem
- 8. Authentication & Authorization
- 9. Wrap-up



»

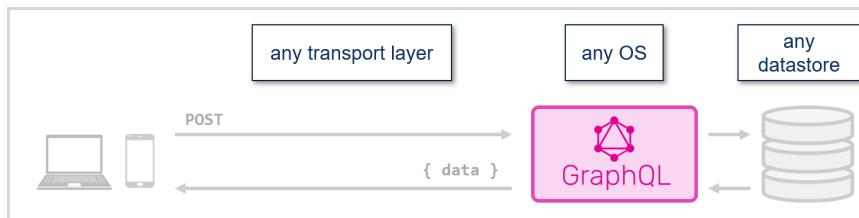
# Introduction

## ► What is GraphQL?



## ► Independency

As it is a specification:



## ► Language Support

- JavaScript
- C#
- Java / Kotlin
- Python
- C / C++
-  <https://graphql.org/code/>

## ► Origin

Lee Byron - creator of GraphQL

*When we built Facebook's mobile applications, we needed a data-fetching API powerful enough to describe all of Facebook, yet simple enough to be easy to learn and use by our product developers. We developed GraphQL three years ago to fill this need. Today it powers hundreds of billions of API calls a day.*

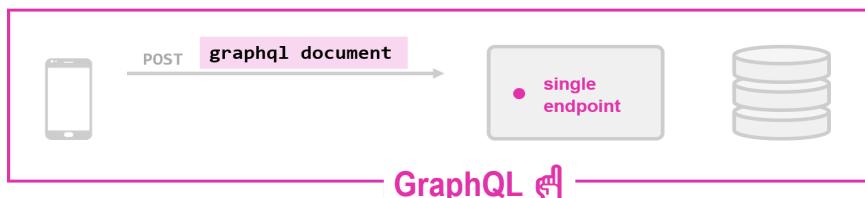
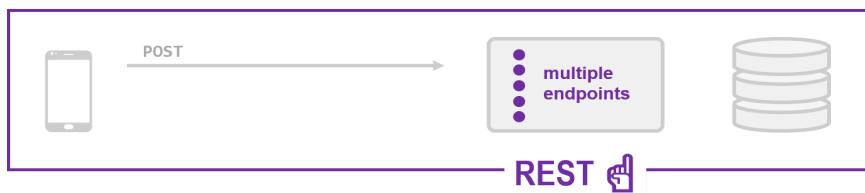
 <https://engineering.fb.com/2015/09/14/core-data/graphql-a-data-query-language/>

## History

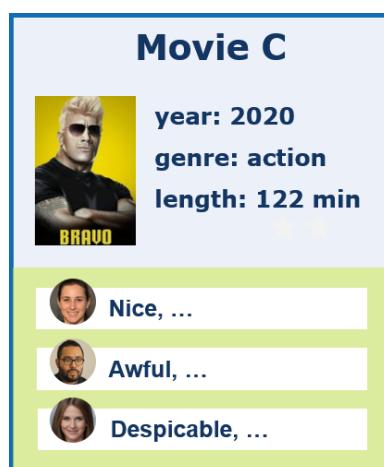


»  
**GraphQL vs REST**

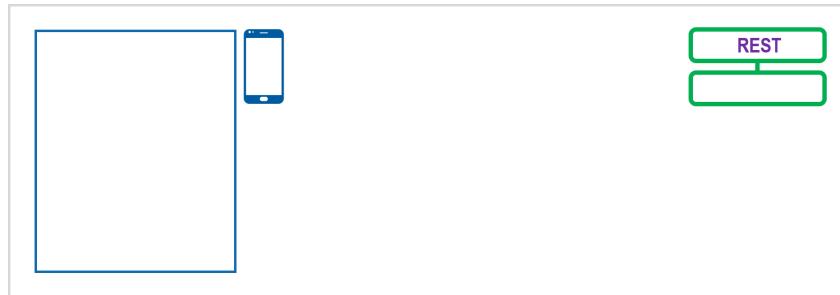
## Compare



## Demo



## REST



## GraphQL



## Take-away

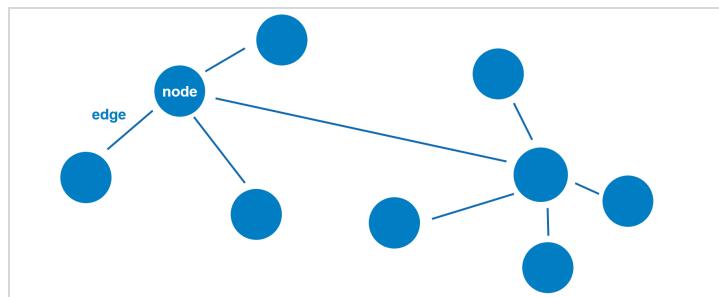
GraphQL:

1. Client determines what will be returned
2. No overfetching
3. No underfetching
4. Less versioning

»  
**Graphs**

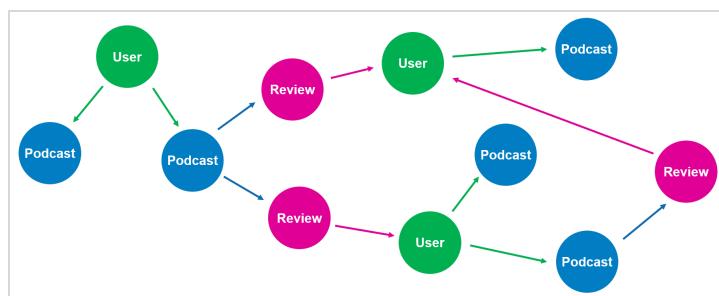
## What is a Graph?

- a *data structure*
- can be traversed recursively



## Edges

Each edge has a start and end: **start → end**

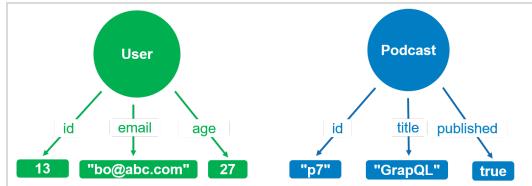


Above is a *Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG)*

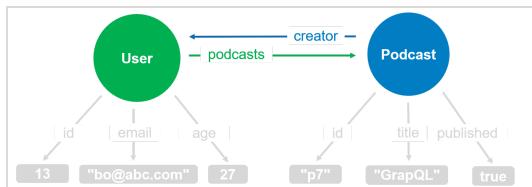
## Field Types

Object types have fields.

**scalar type fields**  
endpoints in the graph

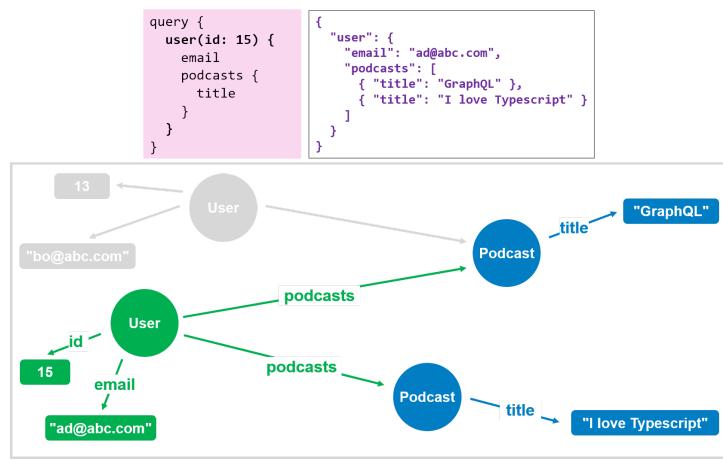


**object type fields**  
define relations  
between objects



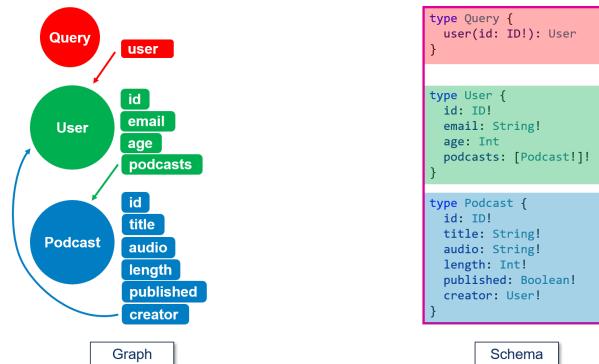
## Traversing

starts with an **entry point**



## Graph to Schema

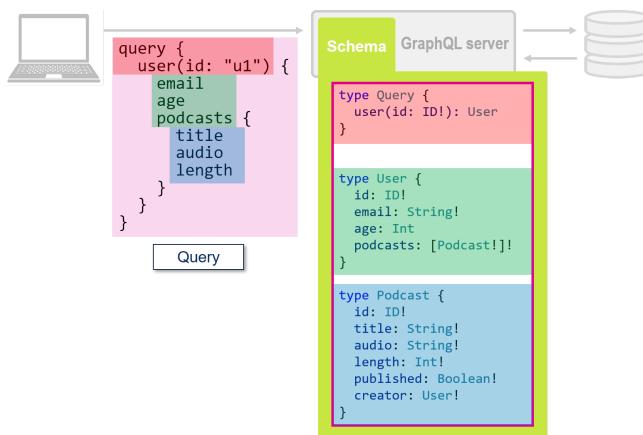
The graph is defined as a **Schema** on the server.



- at least one **entry point** is defined: `User`
- entry points live in a **root type**: `Query`

## GraphQL

Client's query is validated by the Schema.

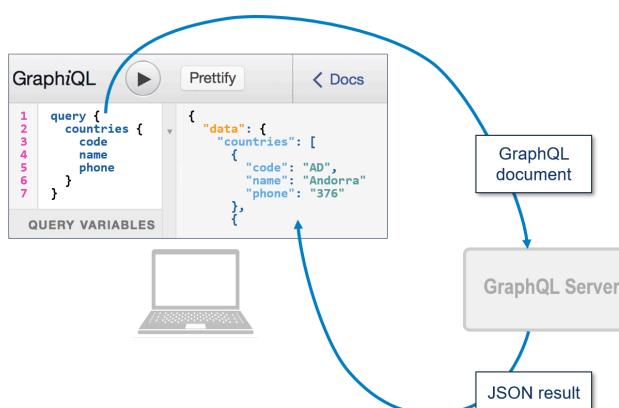




## IDE Walkthrough

### IDE

Each GraphQL Server hosts a free IDE - **GraphiQL** is the default.



Send requests to the server and facilitate the retrieval of data.

## ► GraphQL

GraphQL has some basic features:

- autocompletion
- syntax checking
- live API documentation
- customizable

 What makes the first 3 bullets possible?

## ► Playground

Playground is built on top of GraphQL and has more features.

In a browser go to: <https://countries.trevorblades.com/>



Type a document in the left pane and click Play.

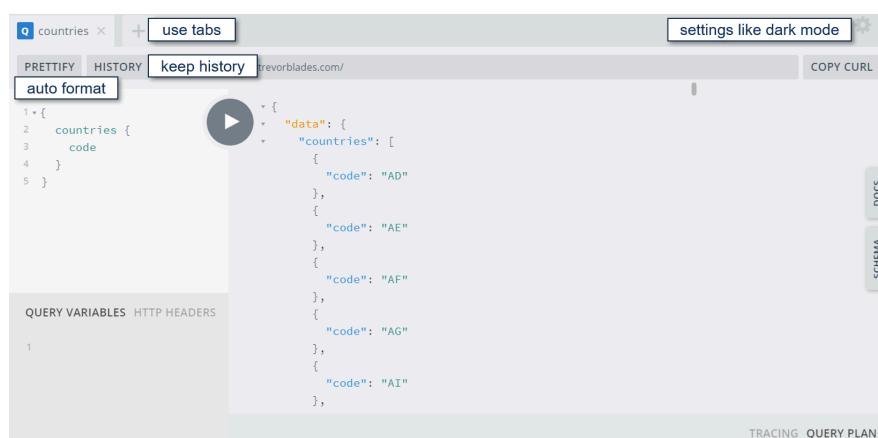
## Result

In the right pane the fetched data is shown. Format is JSON.

 What stands out about the shape of the data?

```
{ "data": {  
    "countries": [  
        {  
            "code": "AD",  
            "name": "Andorra",  
            "phone": "376"  
        },  
        {  
            "code": "AE",  
            "name": "United Arab Emirates",  
            "phone": "971"  
        }  
    ]  
}
```

## Basic Features



## ► Prevent Errors

```

1 + {
2   coun
3   co
4   ph
5 } phone
6 }
    
```

The code editor shows a syntax error for querying 'ph' on 'Country'. A tooltip says "Cannot query field ph on type Country." There are also "syntax checking" and "auto completion" suggestions.

All thanks to a strongly typed schema on server!

## ► Self-documenting

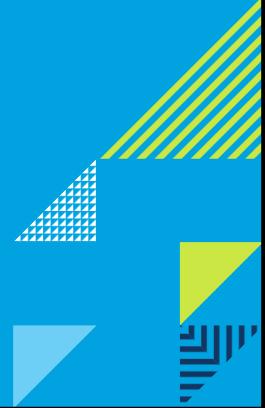
The 'TYPE DETAILS' panel for 'Continent' shows:

- code: ID!
- name: String!
- countries: [Country!]

Explore relationships between types and read details about individual types.



# Fetch Data

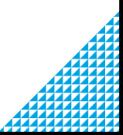


## Operation Types

GraphQL supports 3 types of operations.

- **Query** - fetch data from the data source  focus in this module
- **Mutation** - change data in the data source: *insert, update, delete*
- **Subscription** - handling real-time data

Go to <https://countries.trevorblades.com/>



## query

means **fetch data** - it's the default operation type

Three ways to write a **query**:

**shorthand syntax**

```
{  
  countries {  
    code  
    name  
    phone  
  }  
}
```

**operation type only**

```
query {  
  countries {  
    code  
    name  
    phone  
  }  
}
```

**operation type + query type**

```
query allCountries {  
  countries {  
    code  
    name  
    phone  
  }  
}
```

💡 Which syntax helps clients to identify responses?

## Comment

```
# I'm a comment and will not  
# be sent to the server  
  
query {  
  countries {  
    code  
    name  
    phone  
  }  
}
```

QUERY

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "countries": [  
      {  
        "code": "AD",  
        "name": "Andorra",  
        "phone": "376"  
      },  
      {  
        "code": "AE",  
        "name": "United Arab Emirates",  
        "phone": "971"  
      },  
      ...  
    ]  
  }  
}
```

## ► Relational Data

```
query {
  continents {
    code
    name
  }
}
```

```
1 query {
2   continents {
3     code
4     name
5     countries {
6       name
7       capital
8     }
9   }
10 }
```

```
1 query {
2   continents {
3     code
4     name
5     countries {
6       name
7       capital
8       languages {
9         name
10        native
11      }
12    }
13  }
14 }
```

Container objects are often written with plural nouns.  
Retrieve fields on their members by using brackets `{ }`

## ► Arguments

```
1 query oneCountry {
2   country(code: "AF") {
3     code
4     capital
5     currency
6   }
7 }
```

QUERY

```
{
  "data": {
    "country": {
      "code": "AF",
      "capital": "Kabul",
      "currency": "AFN"
    }
  }
}
```

- filter data via **arguments**
- use double quotes `""` for strings

## Multiple Datasets

```

1 query {
2   country(code: "AF") {
3     name
4   }
5   languages {
6     name
7     native
8   }
9 }
```

QUERY

```
{
  "data": {
    "country": {
      "name": "Afghanistan"
    },
    "languages": [
      {
        "name": "Afrikaans",
        "native": "Afrikaans"
      },
      {
        "name": "Amharic",
        "native": "አማርኛ"
      },
      ...
    ]
  }
}
```

One request can hold multiple unrelated datasets.

## Aliases

Prevent a name conflict with an **Alias**.

```

1 query {
2   Andorra: country(code: "AD") {
3     phone
4     capital
5   }
6   Afghanistan: country(code: "AF") {
7     phone
8     capital
9   }
10 }
```

QUERY

```
{
  "data": {
    "Andorra": {
      "phone": "376",
      "capital": "Andorra la Vella"
    },
    "Afghanistan": {
      "phone": "93",
      "capital": "Kabul"
    }
  }
}
```

The two 'country' fields would have conflicted.  
Use aliases to get both results in a single request.

## ► Fragments

To be 'DRY' use a **Fragment** - a defined set of fields which can be reused

### no fragments

```

1 query {
2   Andorra: country(code: "AD") {
3     capital
4     languages {
5       name
6       native
7     }
8   }
9   Afghanistan: country(code: "AF") {
10    capital
11    languages {
12      name      # ⚡ repetition
13      native    # ⚡ of fields
14    }
15  }
16 }
```

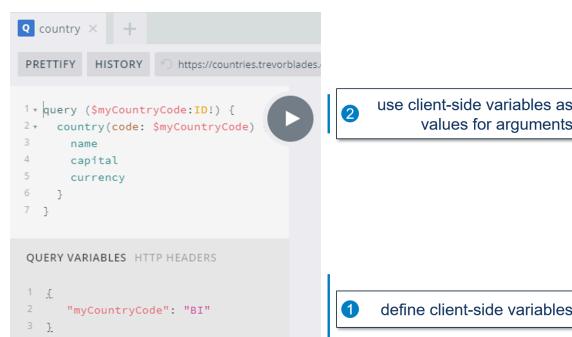
### with a fragment

```

1 query {
2   Andorra: country(code: "AD") {
3     ...compareCountries    # ⚡ reuse
4   }
5   Afghanistan: country(code: "AF") {
6     ...compareCountries    # ⚡ reuse
7   }
8 }
9 fragment compareCountries on Country {
10  capital
11  languages {
12    name      # ⚡ define once
13    native
14  }
15 }
```

## ► Variables intro

Reuse same query written by the client - with different arguments.



The screenshot shows a GraphQL playground interface. On the left, there is a code editor with a query:

- use client-side variables as values for arguments
- define client-side variables

 Why do variables make sense?

## Variables intro

```
{  
  "myCountryCode": "BI"  
}
```

VARIABLE

```
query ($myCountryCode: ID!) {  
  country(code: $myCountryCode) {  
    name  
    capital  
    currency  
  }  
}
```

QUERY

### 1. Define variables (JSON):

- Property names between double quotes: "myCountryCode"
- Surrounded by brackets: {}

### 2. Use them in the query:

- put a \$ in front of the variable names and pass them to the query: query (\$myCountryCode: ID!) {
- then use the variables as value for arguments: code: \$myCountryCode

## Lab time!



Explore Github's GraphQL API

GraphiQL

Prettify

History

Explorer

Docs

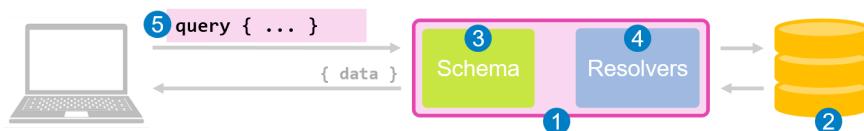
```
1+ query {  
2+   user(login: "fabpot") {  
3+     name  
4+     email  
5+     contributionsCollection(from: "2019-01-01T00:00:00Z") {  
6+       restrictedContributionsCount  
7+     }  
8+   }  
9+ }  
10}  
11
```

```
{
  "data": {
    "user": {
      "name": "Fabien Potencier",
      "email": "fabien@symfony.com",
      "contributionsCollection": {
        "restrictedContributionsCount": 7702
      }
    }
  }
}
```



# Set up Environment

## Meet the players



1. **server** - Apollo Server running on Node.js, code written in TypeScript
2. **data source** - in-memory object
3. **schema** - data model
4. **resolvers** - business logic
5. **request** - client's request to the server

## New project



Built with:  + 

- In a new project folder, create a new project:

```
npm init --yes && npm pkg set type="module"
```

- Install dependencies:

```
npm install @apollo/server graphql
npm install --save-dev typescript @types/node
```

- Configure TypeScript

- Set scripts in package.json for easy running

## Hello world



Add a file index.ts

```
import { ApolloServer } from '@apollo/server';
import { startStandaloneServer } from '@apollo/server/standalone';

// 1. data source here 👉
const dataSource = [ /* ... */ ];

// 2. schema here 👉
const typeDefs = `...`;

// 3. resolvers here 👉
const resolvers = { /* ... */ };

const server = new ApolloServer({ typeDefs, resolvers });
const { url } = await startStandaloneServer(server, { listen: { port: 4000 } });
console.log(`🚀 Server ready at: ${url}`);
```

## >Add data source



In `index.ts`, add a single in-memory object.

```
// 1. data source here ↗  
const testPodcast = {  
  id: 'p7',  
  title: 'GraphQL',  
  length: 54,  
  price: 1.99,  
  published: true,  
};
```

## Schema



Can be defined in several ways.

Most common is through the **Schema Definition Language (SDL)**:

- language-agnostic
- easy to read for humans

This notation is also part of and is used in the *GraphQL Specification*.

## ► Determine types



- `type Podcast` defines a Podcast object
- `type Query` (root type) has got one entry point to return a Podcast



```
type Query {
  podcast: Podcast
}

type Podcast {
  id: ID!
  title: String!
  length: Int!
  price: Float!
  published: Boolean!
}
```

Schema

## ► Types intro



GraphQL supports 5 different scalars (primitive values):

**ID, String, Int, Float and Boolean**

```
type Query {
  podcast: Podcast! # podcast = entry point of type Podcast 👍
}

type Podcast {
  id: ID! # ID      = unique identifier, string formatted
  title: String! # String = UTF-8 character sequence
  length: Int!   # Int    = whole number
  price: Float   # Float   = floating-point value
  published: Boolean! # Boolean = true or false
}
```

SCHEMA

**! = field is non-nullabe:**

GraphQL promises to always return a value when the field is queried.

## Code

In `APOLLO` defined within an ES6 tagged template literal.

```
// 2. schema here ↗
const typeDefs = `
  type Query {
    podcast: Podcast!
  }

  type Podcast {
    id: ID!
    title: String!
    length: Int!
    price: Float
    published: Boolean!
  }
`;
```

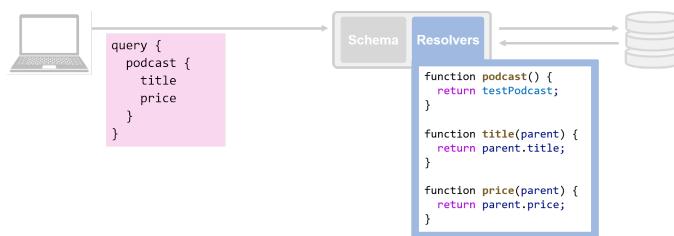
You can also use a `gql` tagged template literal, for which IDEs often provide better syntax highlighting.



## Resolver



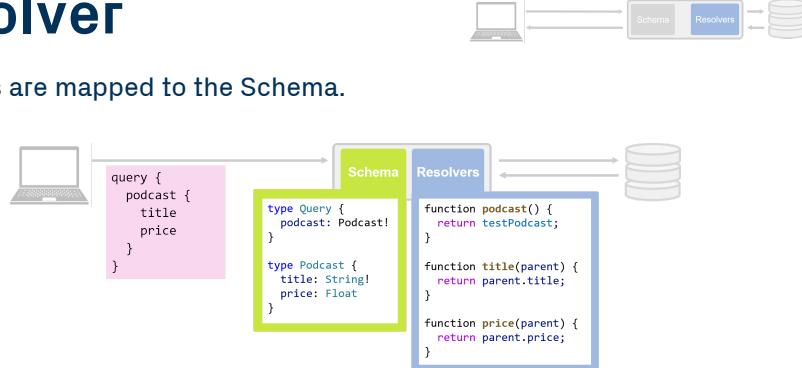
Every field on every type is backed by a *function* called a **resolver**.



A resolver *resolves* a value for a type by fetching data from a data source.

## ► Resolver

Resolvers are mapped to the Schema.

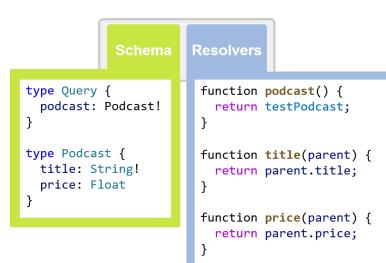


Final response (JSON) is generated by:  
*executing resolvers in a sequence defined by the Schema*

## ► Resolver



Returns either an **object** or a **scalar** (String, Int, etc.)



- when returning an object... execution continues to next child
- when returning a scalar... execution completes

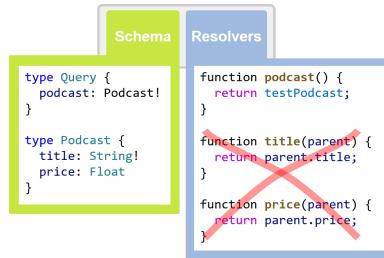
Each resolver can have 4 optional arguments - first one is **parent**:  
*it contains the return value of the resolver of its parent*

## Default Resolver



Resolving a *scalar* is straight-forward:  
Podcast object is assumed to have a `title` and `price` property.

Most GraphQL libraries build **default resolvers** for these cases.



Developers can omit them.

## Code



Resolvers are stored in a **resolver map**.

```
// 3. resolvers here 👉
const resolvers = { // resolver map
  Query: {
    podcast: () => testPodcast, // the resolver
  },
};
```

**RESOLVER**

Fields in resolver map match types in schema.

```
type Query {
  podcast: Podcast!
}
...
```

**SCHEMA**

## Test

Start the server:

```
npm start # this should run tsc followed by node dist/index.js
```



In the browser go to: <http://localhost:4000>.

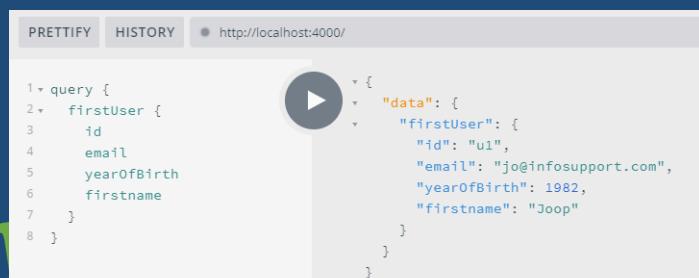
Run a couple of queries.

```
query {  
  podcast {  
    title  
    price  
    published  
  }  
}
```

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "podcast": {  
      "title": "GraphQL",  
      "price": 1.99,  
      "published": true  
    }  
  }  
}
```

## Lab time!

Build a GraphQL endpoint for a Blogging App



```
PRETTIFY HISTORY http://localhost:4000/  
  
1 ↴ query {  
2 ↴   firstUser {  
3 ↴     id  
4 ↴     email  
5 ↴     yearOfBirth  
6 ↴     firstname  
7 ↴   }  
8 ↴ }  
  
{  
  "data": {  
    "firstUser": {  
      "id": "u1",  
      "email": "jo@infosupport.com",  
      "yearOfBirth": 1982,  
      "firstname": "Joop"  
    }  
  }  
}
```



# Lists & Nullability



## Lists

Most nodes in a graph live in lists.

**list** = sequence of values

```
type Query {  
    podcast: Podcast # first entry point: single Podcast object  
    podcasts: [Podcast!]! # second entrypoint: list of Podcast objects  
}
```

SCHEMA

- list modifier is written as square brackets `[]`
- kind of similar to *array* notation in other languages

## ► Lists and Nullability

*A modifier is a type that references and changes another type.*

GraphQL specs define 2 modifiers:

- `!` = non-nullable
- `[]` = list

What is allowed per combination?

	List of non- <code>null</code> values	Empty list	List including <code>null</code> values	<code>null</code>
<code>[Podcast]</code>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<code>[Podcast]!</code>	✓	✓	✓	
<code>[Podcast!][]</code>	✓	✓		✓
<code>[Podcast!]![</code>	✓	✓		

## ► List Example

Data source is an *array* with podcast objects.



```
const testPodcasts = [
  {
    id: "p7",
    title: "GraphQL",
    length: 54,
    price: 1.99,
    published: true,
  },
  // ...
];
```

## List Example

In the Schema the list modifier is used.

```
type Query {  
    podcasts: [Podcast!]! # [] = list modifier  
} # ! = non-nullable modifier  
type Podcast {  
    id: ID!  
    title: String!  
    length: Int!  
    price: Float  
    published: Boolean!  
}
```

SCHEMA



## List Example

Resolver for the entry point `podcasts` is defined.

```
const resolvers = {  
  Query: {  
    podcasts: () => testPodcasts, // podcasts is plural  
  },  
};
```

RESOLVER



For the scalar fields (`id`, `title`, etc.) default resolvers are built automatically.

## List Example

Test in Playground:



```

query {
  podcasts {
    id
    title
    published
  }
}
    
```

QUERY

```

{
  "data": {
    "podcasts": [
      {
        "id": "p7",
        "title": "GraphQL",
        "published": true
      },
      {
        "id": "p8",
        "title": "We love TypeScript",
        "published": true
      },
      ...
    ]
  }
}
    
```

## Lab time!

Retrieve a List of users &  
reason about Nullability

PRETTIFY HISTORY http://localhost:4000/

```

1 ↴ query {
2 ↴   users {
3 ↴     id
4 ↴     email
5 ↴     yearOfBirth
6 ↴     firstname
7 ↴   }
8 ↴ }
    
```

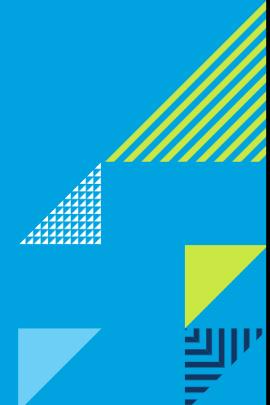
PLAY

```

{
  "data": {
    "users": [
      {
        "id": "u1",
        "email": "jo@infosupport.com",
        "yearOfBirth": 1982,
        "firstname": "Joop"
      },
      {
        "id": "u2",
        "email": "ib@infosupport.com",
        "yearOfBirth": 1989,
        "firstname": "Ibrahim"
      }
    ]
  }
}
    
```



# Nest Objects



## Another List

New root type `users` of type *User List*

### data source

```
const testUsers = [
  {
    id: 'u1',
    email: 'u1@live.com',
  },
  {
    id: 'u2',
    email: 'u2@live.com',
  },
];
```

### schema

```
type Query {
  podcasts: [Podcast!]!
  users: [User!]!
}

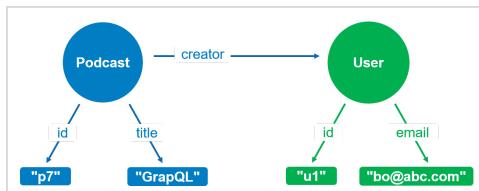
type User {
  id: ID!
  email: String!
}
```

### resolver

```
const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    podcasts: () => testPodcasts,
    users: () => testUsers,
  },
};
```

## ► Nest the Objects

Relation between Podcast and User can be made:



GraphQL API is great at handling queries with **nested objects** such as:

**QUERY**

```
query {
  podcasts {
    title
    published
    creator {
      id
      email
    }
  }
}
```

## ► Nesting Example

Data source defines a `creator` field.



```
const testPodcasts = [
  {
    // ...
    creator: 'u1',
  },
  {
    // ...
    creator: 'u2',
  },
];
```

## ► Nesting Example



Podcast type is extended with a `creator` field.

```
type Query {
  podcasts: [Podcast!]!
  users: [User!]!
}

type Podcast {
  # ...
  creator: User! # each podcast has a creator of type User
}

type User {
  id: ID!
  email: String!
}
```

SCHEMA

## ► Nesting Example



`creator` represents an object, so a resolver needs to be coded:

```
const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    podcasts: () => testPodcasts,
    users: () => testUsers,
  },
  Podcast: {
    creator: (parent) => fetchUserById(parent.creator);
  }
};
```

RESOLVER

- `creator` resolver is called for every podcast in the list
- its parent argument contains all details of the current podcast

❓ Why should resolvers be kept *thin* as best practice?

## ▀ Nesting Example



A resolver can optionally accept four positional arguments:

```
const resolverMap = {
  // ...
  resovername(parent, args, context, info) {
    fetchDataFromDB();
  }
  // ...
};
```

**RESOLVER**

### Resolver Arguments

Argument	Description
parent	Result from the previous/parent type
args	Arguments provided to the field
context	Object shared among all resolvers that are executing an operation
info	Field-specific information relevant to the query (used rarely)

## ▀ Nesting Example



```
query {
  podcasts {
    creator {
      email
    }
  }
}
```

**QUERY**  
When field contains object type ...  
... fields on that object must be resolved

When subfield contains object type ...  
... fields on that object must be resolved

This object field pattern can continue to an arbitrary depth.

### Resolver Chain:



# 'Lab time!

Add blogs &  
allow nesting blogs and users in flexible ways!



```
query {
  users {
    firstname
    blogs {
      title
      published
    }
  }
}
```

```
{
  "data": {
    "users": [
      {
        "firstname": "Joop",
        "blogs": [
          {
            "title": "blog A",
            "published": true
          },
          {
            "title": "blog B",
            "published": true
          },
          {
            "title": "blog C",
            "published": false
          }
        ]
      },
      {
        "firstname": "Ibrahim",
        "blogs": []
      }
    ]
  }
}
```



## Arguments

## Arguments

Arguments - *dynamic parameters*

```
1 query {  
2   podcast(id: "p8") {  
3     id  
4     title  
5     length(inSeconds: true)  
6   }  
7 }
```

QUERY

```
{  
  "data": {  
    "podcast": {  
      "id": "p8",  
      "title": "We love TypeScript",  
      "length": 3600  
    }  
  }  
}
```



Use cases:

- filtering
- pagination in queries
- payload for mutations

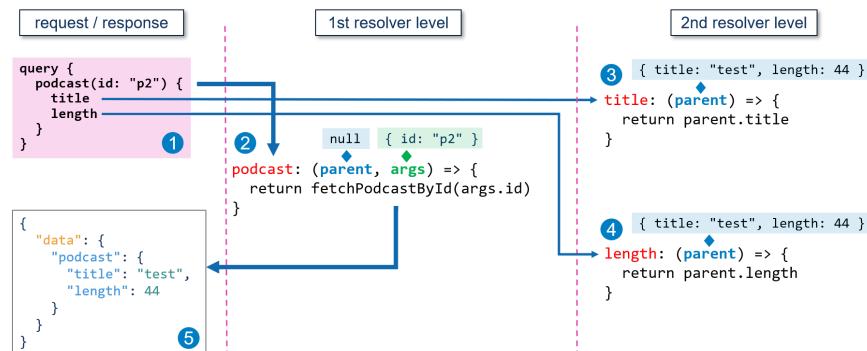
## Arguments

- They are always passed **by name**.
- can be either **required** or **optional**.
- optional arguments can have default values defined in the schema.
- are available in the resolver via its 2nd parameter **args**

QUERY

```
query {  
  podcasts(titleStartsWith: "W") {  
    title  
    length  
  }  
}  
  
podcasts(parent, args) {  
  /* .... */  
}
```

## Arguments in Resolver Chain



## Arguments

Arguments can be passed in two ways:

```
query {
  podcasts(
    titleStartsWith: "W",
    titleEndsWith: "t"
  ) {
    title
    length
  }
}
```

**passed as scalars**

```
query {
  podcasts(input: {
    titleStartsWith: "W",
    titleEndsWith: "t"
  }) {
    title
    length
  }
}
```

**passed as input type**

```
{
  "data": {
    "podcast": {
      "title": "We love TypeScript",
      "length": 60
    }
  }
}
```

## Argument as Scalar

Example: `userById` entry point is added

### schema

```
type Query {
  # id is required
  userById(id: ID!): User!
}
```

SCHEMA

### query

```
query {
  userById(id: "u2") {
    id
    email
  }
}
```

QUERY

### resolver

```
const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    // ⚡ args = all passed arguments
    userById(parent, args) {
      return fetchUserById(args.id)
    }
  },
  // ...
};
```

RESOLVER

## Default value

can be assigned to an *optional* argument  
no value provided in the query  default value is used

### schema

```
type Query {
  userById(id: ID!): User!
}
```

SCHEMA

`id` as required argument

### schema

```
type Query {
  userById(id: ID = "u1"): User!
}
```

SCHEMA

`id` as optional argument with  
default value "u1"

## Arguments via Input Type

Example: podcasts entry point gets simple pagination

### schema

```
type Query {
  podcasts(input: PodcastsInput): [Podcast!]!
}

input PodcastsInput { # use keyword input
  first: Int = 2
  offset: Int = 2
}
```

### resolver

```
const resolvers = {
  Query: {
    podcasts(parent, { input }) {
      const { first, offset } = input;
      return fetchPodcasts({
        first,
        offset
      });
    },
  },
};
```

💡 With above implementation, which queries can be sent to the server?

## Lab time!

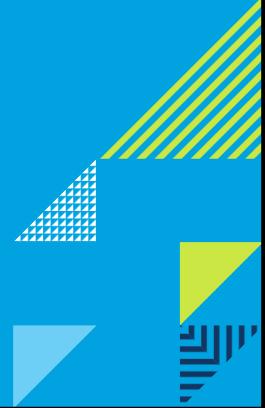
Filter blogs and users in flexible ways!

```
1+ query {
2+   blogsByFilter(input: { content: "Blog", published: true }) {
3+     title
4+     content
5+     published
6+   }
7+ }
```





# Type System



## ◀ GraphQL Type System

GraphQL has a **strict static** type system:

	Strict	Relaxed
Static	C#, Java, GraphQL	Visual Basic
Dynamic	Python	JavaScript

Advantages:

- early detection of errors
- live documentation
- front- and backend teams can work independently
- smart tooling in IDEs: autocompletion & linting

## ► GraphQL Types

GraphQL's type system classifies 8 different types.

### Primitive values      Object types

- Scalar  
- Enum  
- Input Object type 
- Object type 

### Abstract Types

- Interface 
- Union 
- Non-null  
- List  

➤  **input type** - argument for query or mutation

➤  **output type** - all results from the server

## ► Primitive Values

Are the **leaves** in terms of graph theory.

Three types:

1. **built-in scalars** - String, Int, Float, Boolean, ID
2. **enums** - enumerate all possible values in a field
3. **custom scalars** - implementation depends on language,  
most frequently used: DateTime, JSON, HTML

## ► Built-in Scalars

- **String** - UTF-8 character seq. to represent free-form human-readable text
- **Int** - signed 32-bit integer, a whole numeric value between  $-(2^{31})$  and  $2^{31}-1$
- **Float** - signed double-precision fractional values as specified by IEEE 754
- **Boolean** - true or false
- **ID** - unique identifier, not intended to be human-readable

## ► Object Types

Two categories of *Object types*:

- **Object Type** - meant for output:

```
type Podcast {           # @@ keyword 'type'  
  id: ID!  
  title: String!  
  price: Float  
}
```

SCHEMA

- **Input Object Type** - meant for input:

```
input PodcastsInput {   # @@ keyword 'input'  
  first: Int = 2  
  offset: Int = 2  
}
```

SCHEMA

## Object Types

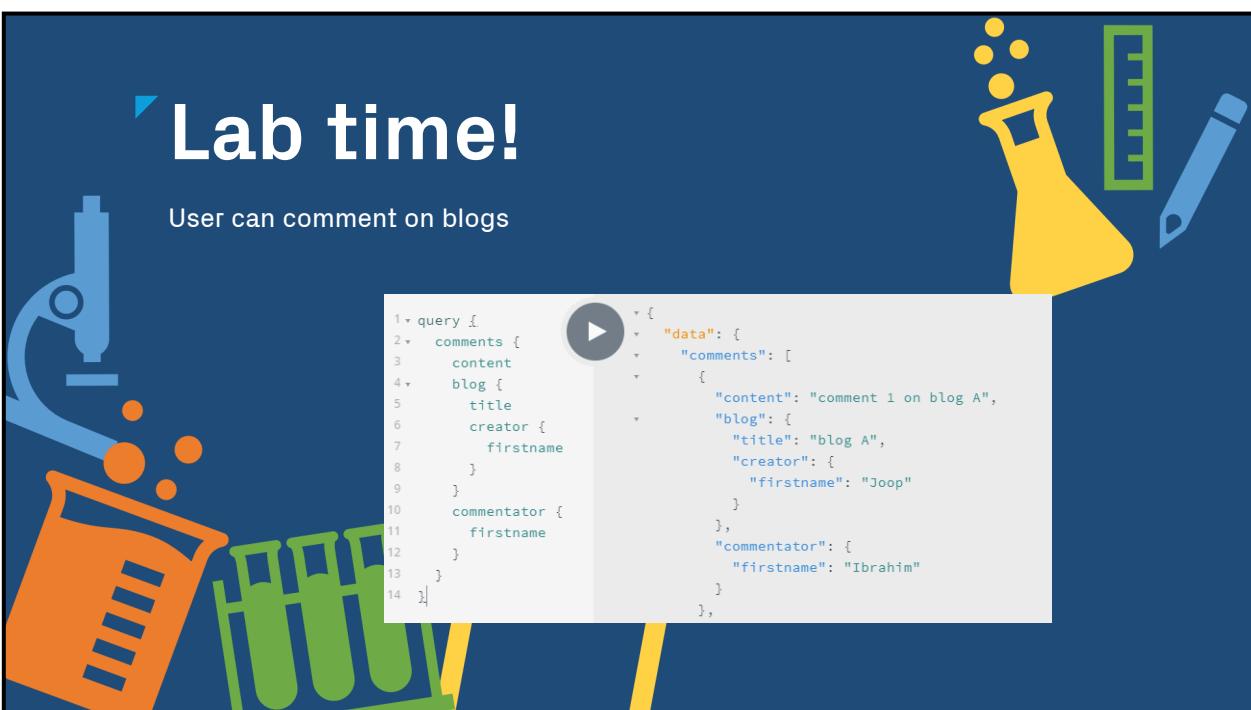
Never reuse an Object Type for input!  
Never use an Input Object Type for output!

1. *Object Type* can contain fields that express circular references:

```
type Podcast {  
    title: String!  
    creator: User!  
}  
  
type User {  
    email: String!  
    podcasts: [Podcast!]!  
}
```

SCHEMA

2. *Object Type* can refer to interfaces and unions
3. *Input Object Type* supports default values



## Lab time!

User can comment on blogs

```
query {  
  comments {  
    content  
    blog {  
      title  
      creator {  
        firstname  
      }  
      commentator {  
        firstname  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}  
  
{"  
  "data": {  
    "comments": [  
      {  
        "content": "comment 1 on blog A",  
        "blog": {  
          "title": "blog A",  
          "creator": {  
            "firstname": "Joop"  
          },  
          "commentator": {  
            "firstname": "Ibrahim"  
          }  
        }  
      }  
    ]  
  }  
},
```



# Mutate Data and Use Variables

## ➤ Mutation

**Mutation** - root type for actions that *alter* data.

```
mutation {  
    QUERY  
}
```

operation type only

```
mutation AddUser {  
    QUERY  
}
```

operation type + query name

- mutations - always use POST requests (no PUT, PATCH or DELETE)
- queries - use either POST or GET requests

❓ Why is the mutation keyword mandatory?

## Mutation



- Query - root type for entry points that **fetch** data
- Mutation - root type for entry points that **alter** data

```
# ↗ CRUD entry points mapped to the 2 root types
```

```
type Query {
  users: [User!]!                                     # read data
}

type Mutation {
  createUser(input: CreateUserInput!): User!        # create data
  updateUser(input: UpdateUserInput!): User!          # update data
  deleteUser(input: DeleteUserInput!): User!          # delete data
}
```

SCHEMA

## Mutation



Each mutation consists of two parts:

```
mutation {
  createUser(
    email: "john@live.com",
    city: "London"
  ) {
    id
    email
    city
  }
}
```

QUERY

top part

bottom part

- **top part** - responsible for mutation
- **bottom part** - query the changed state of the server (!)

## Arguments

```

1 mutation {
2   createUser(input: {
3     email: "john@live.com",
4     city: "London"
5   }) {
6     id
7     email
8   }
9 }
```

Best practice: always use one argument: **Input Object type**.

 **What is the alternative?**

## Mutation Examples

### Insert

```

mutation {
  createUser(input: {
    email: "john@live.com",
    city: "London"
  }) {
    id
    email
    city
  }
}
```

### Update

```

mutation {
  updateUser(input: {
    id: "u2",
    city: "LA"
  }) {
    id
    email
    city
  }
}
```

### Delete

```

mutation {
  deleteUser(id: "u2") {
    id
    email
    city
  }
}
```

Make mutations as specific as possible:

`createUser(), likePodcast(),  
updateReview(), completeTask(), ...`

Naming convention:

`createUser`  
 ↑  
 type of operation   ↑  
 Object Type

## Input Types



Define **Input Types**, two naming conventions:

**schema**

```
input CreateUserInput {
  email: String!
  city: String = 'London'
}

type Mutation {
  createUser(input: CreateUserInput): User
}
```

SCHEMA

CreateUserInput  
type of operation      Object Type      Input

name of argument is **input**

## Mutation



RESOLVER

```
const resolvers = {
  // Query: { ... },
  Mutation: {
    updateUser(parent, args) {
      // 1. read args and validate args
      // 2. issue? throw error
      // 3. update data source
      // 4. return updated user 🤞 don't forget!
    },
  }
};
```

- Second argument `args` contains `input` object with properties: `id`, ...
- Resolver must always return the mutated object (!)

❓ Why should the updated object always be returned?

## Example

### data source

```
const testUsers = [
  { id: 'u1', /* ... */ },
  // ...
];
```

### resolver

```
const resolvers = {
  // Query: { ... },
  Mutation: {
    updateUser(parent, args) {
      // 1. args.input contains:
      //   id, email, city
      // 2. throw error if
      //   user id doesn't exist
      // 3. update user in data source
      // 4. return updated user
    },
  },
};
```

### schema

```
input UpdateUserInput {
  id: ID!
  email: String
  city: String
}
```

SCHEMA

```
type Mutation {
  updateUser(input: UpdateUserInput): User
}
```

SCHEMA

```
type User {
  id: ID!
  email: String!
  city: String!
}
```

SCHEMA

## Why Input Object type?

### Advantage 1: nesting

Supports evolving the GraphQL schema over time:

- Deprecate sections if necessary
- Add new names within a conflict-free section

QUERY

```
mutation {
  updatePodcast(input: {
    id: 3,
    patch: {
      name: "What I like",
      length: 46
    }
  }) {
    name
    length
  }
}
```

## Why Input Object type?

Advantage 2: easier client-side

```
mutation (
  $id: ID!,
  $name: String!,
  $length: Int
) {
  updatePodcast(input: {
    id: $id,
    name: $name,
    length: $length
  }) {
    name
    length
  }
}
```

QUERY

more maintainable:

```
mutation($input: UpdatePodcastInput) {
  updatePodcast(input: $input) {
    name
    length
  }
}
```

QUERY

Reduces complexity of frontend code (especially with 10+ arguments)

## Input variables

Reuse the same client mutation with different arguments.

no variables

```
mutation {
  updateUser(input: {
    id: "u1",
    email: "guan@yahoo.com"
    city: "Barcelona"
  }) {
    id
    name
    city
  }
}
```

QUERY

VARIABLE

with variables

```
mutation($input: UpdateUserInput) {
  updateUser(input: $input) {
    id
    name
    city
  }
}

{
  "input": {
    "id": "u1",
    "email": "guan@yahoo.com",
    "city": "Barcelona"
  }
}
```

QUERY

VARIABLE

## Input variables

```
VARIABLE
{
  "input": {
    "id": "u1",
    "email": "guan@yahoo.com",
    "city": "Barcelona"
  }
}
```

```
QUERY
mutation($input: UpdateUserInput!) {
  updateUser(input: $input) {
    id
    email
    city
  }
}
```

### 1. Define input variable in JSON:

- all property names between double quotes!!
- nest using brackets
- last property no trailing comma!

### 2. Use input variable in mutation:

- pass variable to mutation as `$input` (type: `UpdateUserInput`)
- use `$input` as value for `input` argument

## Output Type

**Expert tip** - Use a separate type for outputs as well:

```
SCHEMA
type Mutation {
  updateUser(input: UpdateUserInput!): UpdateUserPayload!
}
```

```
SCHEMA
input UpdateUserInput {
  id: ID!
  email: String
  city: String
}
```

```
SCHEMA
type User {
  id: ID!
  email: String!
  city: String!
}
```

```
SCHEMA
type Error {
  number: Int!
  message: String!
}
```

```
SCHEMA
type UpdateUserPayload {
  user: User      # when successful, return updated user
  errors: [Error!]! # return user errors
}
```

# 'Lab time!

Mutate users and blogs & enjoy the flexibility of using variables!

```
1 mutation($input: UpdateUserInput!) {
2   updateUser(input: $input) {
3     id
4     email
5     city
6   }
7 }
```

QUERY VARIABLES HTTP HEADERS

```
1 ↴ {
2 ↴   "input": {
3 ↴     "id": "u1",
4 ↴     "email": "guan@yahoo.com",
5 ↴     "city": "Barcelona"
6 ↴   }
7 }
```

»

# Realtime Data

## ► Subscriptions

**Notify a client *in real-time* about particular events**  
(new object created, fields updated, ...)

- subscription is 3rd operation type in GraphQL
- underlying technology: *web sockets*

**web sockets**  
bi-directional real-time communication between server and client

## ► Use Cases

Use subscriptions:

- **small, incremental changes to large objects**  
planner application with a lot of initial data / fields change rarely
- **low-latency, real-time updates**  
online trading application where clients need updates ASAP

Subscriptions are often not necessary!

- ?
- What will be used in scenarios where subscriptions are overkill?

## ► Publish-Subscribe

In **APOLLO** use **PubSub** class:  
exposes a simple publish and subscribe API

**publish-subscribe** - asynchronous messaging pattern:  
**publishers** (senders of messages) and **subscribers** (receivers) don't know  
about the existence of one another



## ► Setup Subscriptions

Implementing GraphQL subscriptions require these steps:

1. Setup Subscription Server
2. Declare Subscription in Schema
3. Setup PubSub
4. Publish events to PubSub (in Mutation resolver)
5. Implement Subscription resolver
6. Test

## 1. Setup Subscription Server

Subscriptions use the *ws protocol* instead of *HTTP*.  
Add a 2nd GraphQL endpoint specifically for subscriptions.

In **APOLLO**:

version 2: Nothing to do! 😊  
version 3: More to do 😞

- integrate with **Express**, or similar
- build executable schema
- more dependencies

## 2. Subscription



```
type Query {
  users: [User!]!
}

type Mutation {
  createUser(email: String!): User!
}

type Subscription {      # 🎯 subscription root type
  userCreated: User!    # client can subscribe to userCreated
}

type User {
  id: ID!
  email: String!
}
```

## 3. Setup PubSub

In **APOLLO** available via the PubSub class:

```
import { PubSub } from 'graphql-subscriptions';
const pubsub = new PubSub();
```

Share pubsub instance via context argument of constructor.

```
const server = new ApolloServer({
  schema,           // ⚡ executable schema (typedefs + resolvers)
  context: { pubsub } // ⚡ available in all resolvers
  // ...
});
```

Also Subscription server needs executable schema + pubsub in context!

## 4. Publish Events

Pick a mutation of which a client might want to be notified.

3rd argument **context** contains the pubsub instance

```
Mutation: {
  createUser: (parent, args, ctx) => {
    const user = DB.createUser({ email: args.email });
    ctx.pubsub.publish('USER_CREATED', { userCreated: user }); // 🎉
    return user;
  },
},
```

The **publish()** method of pubsub expects 2 arguments:

- **topic** - name of the channel
- **payload** - object with data to send to the client

## 5. Subscription



Every subscription needs a resolver.  
resolver name mirrors schema (as usual):

```
Mutation: {
  // ...
},
Subscription: {
  userCreated: {    // ☺ an object - not a function
    // ...
  }
},
```

Note that a subscription resolver is not a function but **an object!**

## 5. Subscription



Define a **subscribe()** method within the resolver object.

```
Subscription: {
  userCreated: {
    subscribe: (parent, args, ctx) => {
      return ctx.pubsub.asyncIterator('USER_CREATED');
    }
  }
},
```

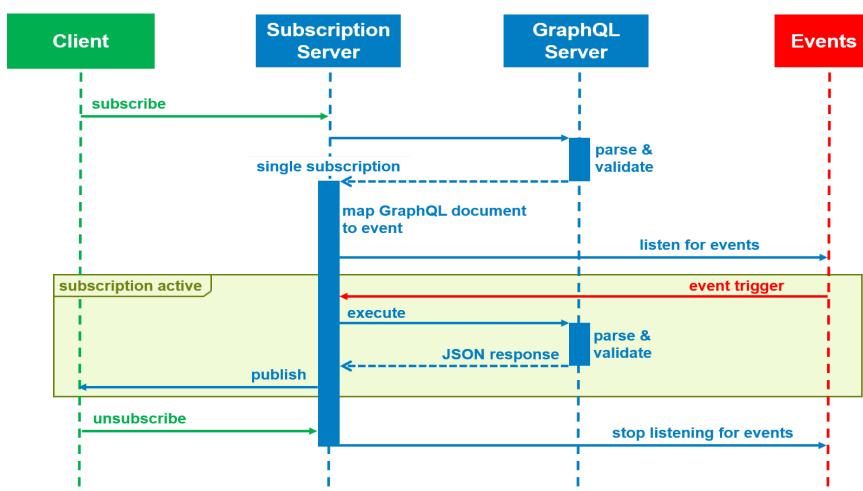
**asyncIterator** - emits published messages to all subscribed clients

This function has one string argument: the **topic**.

## 6. Test



## Full Flow



# 'Lab time!

Get notified in real-time about the events you're interested in!

A screenshot of a mobile application interface showing a GraphQL subscription query. The code is as follows:

```
1subscription {  
2  blogCreated(creatorID: "u2") {  
3    id  
4    title  
5    creator {  
6      id  
7      firstname  
8    }  
9  }  
10}
```

The interface includes a red circular button with a white square icon, a grey vertical bar, a small circular icon, and the text "Listening ...".

»

## Wrap-up

## ► Questions?

Last chance!

## ► Continued Training

- **GraphQL Advanced** - 1 day  
Learn advanced GraphQL topics
- **Node.js** - 3 days  
Server-side JavaScript done right
- **React** - 3 days  
Develop Applications Using the ReactJS Framework
- **Angular** - 4 days  
Building Professional Single Page Applications with Angular
- **TypeScript** - 4 days  
Develop maintainable JavaScript applications with TypeScript

More? Check out our [web development courses](#)

## ► The end

Don't forget to fill out an evaluation at:

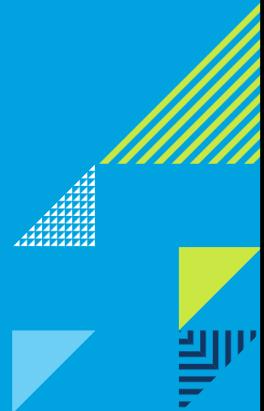
→ <http://eval> (from inside Info Support network)

or

→ <https://tinyurl.com/infosupporteval>



## ORM & Database

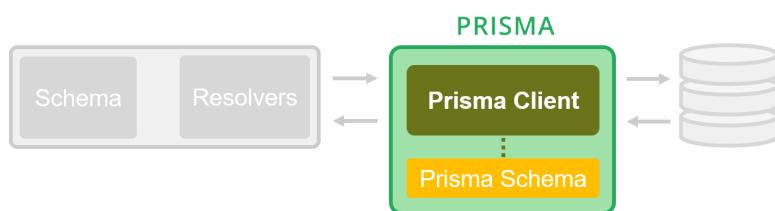


### Prisma & SQLite



- **Prisma** - open source ORM for Nodejs
- **SQLite** - small, fast, self-contained DB engine

## Prisma



- **Prisma Client** - auto-generated query builder
- **Prisma Schema** - data models & relations

## Prisma CLI

Command Line tool to build all assets.

- install CLI  
`npm install prisma --save-dev`
- initialize Prisma project  
`npx prisma init`
- in `.env` file set path to SQLite db file  
`DATABASE_URL="file:./dev.db"`

## ► Prisma Schema 1/2

- update the db provider

```
datasource db {  
    provider = "sqlite"  
    url      = env("DATABASE_URL")  
}
```

- add models to the schema by introspecting the database

```
npx prisma db pull
```



## ► Prisma Schema 2/2

- make all fields lowercase
- express *semantics* similar to the GraphQL Schema

```
model Podcasts {  
    # @@ Old  
    Users    Users     @relation(fields: [userid], references: [id])  
    Comments Comments[]  
  
    # @@ New  
    creator  Users    @relation(fields: [userid], references: [id])  
    comments  Comments[]  
}
```

## Prisma Client

- install Prisma Client

```
npm install @prisma/client
```

- read Prisma schema en generate Prisma Client

```
npx prisma generate
```

## Import Prisma Client

*server.js*

```
import pkg from '@prisma/client'; // 👉 import PrismaClient
const { PrismaClient } = pkg;
const prisma = new PrismaClient(); // 👉 make prisma instance
// ...

const server = new ApolloServer({
  typeDefs,
  resolvers: { ... },
  context: {
    prisma, // 👉 share prisma among all resolve
    pubsub,
  },
});
```

## Prisma in Resolvers

1. Replace `db` with `prisma` in argument list and in function body
2. Make resolver asynchronous by adding `async` and `await`
3. When fetching, use `findMany()` or `findUnique()`
4. When mutating, use `create()`, `update()` or `delete()`

## Fetching

`findMany()` and `findUnique()`

Both support optional object argument with `where` property:

```
podcastById: async (_parent, { id }, { prisma }) => {
  return await prisma.podcasts.findUnique({
    where: {
      id: +id,          // unary plus: convert string to number
    }
  });
}
```

Extendable with nesting objects like:

```
findMany({ where: { firstname: { contains: namePart } } })
findMany({ take: 5 })   // first 5
findMany({ take: -5 }) // last 5
```

## Mutating

Object argument is mandatory:

```
> create({ data: ... })
> update({ data: ..., where: ... })
> delete({ where: ... })
```

```
updateUser: async (_parent, { id, input }, { prisma }) => {
  const user = await prisma.users.update({
    data: input,
    where: {
      id: +id,
    }
  });

  return user;
}
```

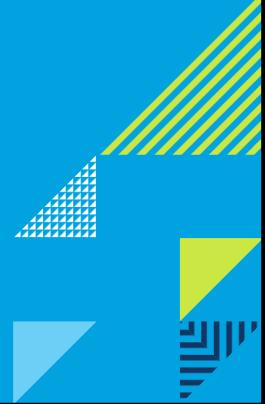
## Lab time!

App gets real database ...





# Enums



## Enum

**Enum** = enumeration type

- special kind of primitive
- restricted to a defined set of allowed values (e.g. EASY, MEDIUM, HARD)

```
1 query {  
2   podcastByLevel(level: EASY) {  
3     id  
4     title  
5     length  
6   }  
7 }
```

QUERY

## ► Enum in Type System

**Primitive values** Object types

- Scalar
- **Enum**

**Abstract Types** Modifiers

- Interface
- Union

❓ What do you think, can an enum be used for input, output or both?

## ► Enum Advantages

### 1. prevent typos:

is the Podcast's `level` defined as "Medium" or "medium"?

### 2. discoverability:

```
1 ↴ query {  
2   ↴   podcastByLevel(level: "M") {  
3     id  
4     title  
5     length  
6   }  
7 }
```

```
1 ↴ query {  
2   ↴   podcastByLevel(level: M) {  
3     id  
4     title  
5     length  
6   }  
7 }
```

### 3. promotes type reuse across the Schema

## Enum Advantages

4. no need to code validation logic to check for valid values:

```
Query: {  
  async podcastByLevel(_parent, { level }) {  
    const validLevels = ["easy", "medium", "hard"]; // not needed  
    if (!validLevels.includes(level)) { // when using Enum  
      throw new Error("Invalid level!");  
    }  
  
    return await podcasts.findMany({  
      where: {  
        level,  
      },  
    });  
  };  
}
```

## Enum in Schema



Enums are named using the all-caps convention.

```
enum Status { # @@ define enum  
  HIRED  
  LONGTERMLEAVE  
  MATERNITYLEAVE  
  EXPIRED  
}  
  
type Query {  
  users(first: Int!, status: Status!): [User!]! # @@ use enum for input  
}  
  
type User {  
  email: String!  
  status: Status! # @@ use enum for output  
}
```

## Enum Value Resolution

How enum values are resolved is an implementation detail.

In **APOLLO** each enum value is resolved to its string equivalent:

*Status.HIRED* resolves to "HIRED"

*Status.EXPIRED* resolves to "EXPIRED"

...

Apollo implementation also supports **enum resolvers**.



## Enum in Resolver



Data source uses the values 'hired', 'ltl' and 'expired'.

```
const resolvers = {
  Status: { // ** enum resolver
    HIRED: 'hired',
    LONGTERMLEAVE: 'ltl',
    EXPIRED: 'expired'
  },
  Query: {
    async usersByStatus(_parent, { status }) {
      return await users.findMany({ where: { status } });
    }
  },
};
```

value of Enum:

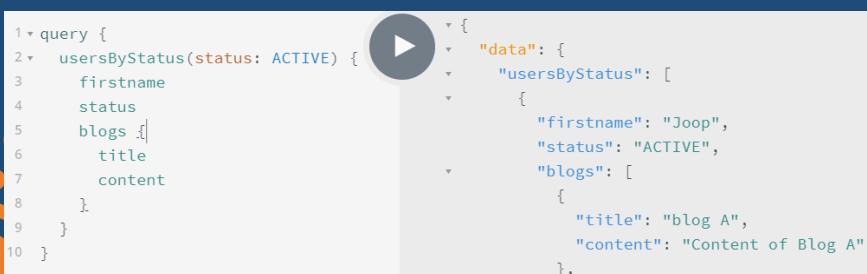
- "ltl" within the resolver code
- LONGTERMLEAVE in the public API

## Example



## Lab time!

Further improve the API by using enums!



A screenshot of a GraphQL playground interface. On the left, a query is defined:

```

1 query {
2   usersByStatus(status: ACTIVE) {
3     firstname
4     status
5     blogs {
6       title
7       content
8     }
9   }
10 }
  
```

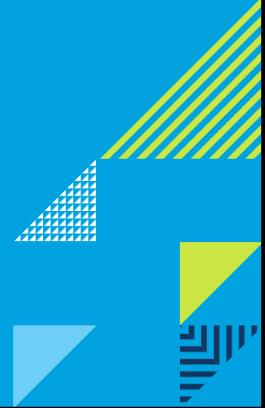
An execution button is shown between the query and its results. On the right, the resulting JSON data is displayed:

```

{
  "data": {
    "usersByStatus": [
      {
        "firstname": "Joop",
        "status": "ACTIVE",
        "blogs": [
          {
            "title": "blog A",
            "content": "Content of Blog A"
          }
        ]
      }
    ]
  }
}
  
```

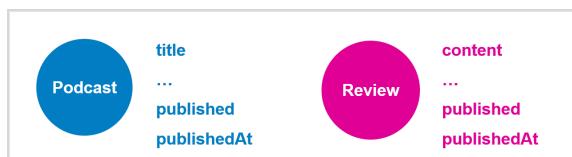


## Abstract Types



## ▀ Different Objects

Assume two Object types:



Both have the fields *published* and *publishedAt*.  
Both are kind of *publishable* items.



## ► One List



Client needs *one list of all publishable items*:

### Solution 1

```
query {
  podcasts {
    title
    published
    publishedAt
  }
  reviews {
    content
    published
    publishedAt
  }
}
```

### Solution 2

```
query {
  items {
    content
    title
    published
    publishedAt
  }
}
```

In Schema, add an extra Result object type:  
4 fields; **title** and **content** are optional

💡 Why are above solutions not great?

## ► Abstract Types



In GraphQL an **abstract type** can be used to  
return different concrete types for a single field:

This allows for smart queries like:

```
query {
  items {
    published
    publishedAt
    ... on Podcast {
      title
    }
    ... on Review {
      content
    }
  }
}
```

## ► Abstract Types

GraphQL specification defines two different abstract types:

- **interface**
- **unions**

Use them to:

- reduce complexity of the schema
- reduce the number of queries and mutations
- describe data in a more precise way

## ► Abstract Types in Type System

Primitive values      Object types

- Scalar
- Enum
- Input Object type
- Object type

**Abstract Types**      Modifiers

- Interface
- Union
- Non-null
- List

 **Can abstract types be used for input, output or both?**

## ► Interface

**Interface** - a *contract*:

list of fields which may be implemented by object types

1. interface has fields, but is never instantiated
2. concrete object types implement the interface
3. fields may return interface types

## ► Define Interface



**interface** has fields, but is never instantiated.

```
interface Publishable {  
    published: Boolean!  
    publishedAt: Int  
}
```

➤ cannot be used in a query directly

❓ Can an interface be used as type for an input argument?

## Implement Interface



Concrete object types implement the interface.  
They must include all fields of the interface.

```
type Review implements Publishable {  
    content: String!  
    published: Boolean!      # @@  
    publishedAt: Int          # @@  
}  
  
type Podcast implements Publishable {  
    title: String!  
    published: Boolean!      # @@  
    publishedAt: Int          # @@  
}
```

## Return



Fields may return interface types.  
Returned object may be any member of that interface.

```
type Query {  
    items: [Publishable]  
}
```

## ► GraphQL Specs

### Resolving an Abstract Type



*When completing a field with an abstract return type, that is an Interface or Union return type, first the abstract type must be resolved to a relevant Object type. This determination is made by the internal system using whatever means appropriate.*

## ► Resolve Interface



In **APOLLO** a `__resolveType` function must be defined.

```
const resolvers = {
  Publishable: {
    __resolveType(item, _context, _info) {
      if (item.length) return "Podcast"; // @@ name of type
      if (item.content) return "Review"; // @@ name of type
      return null; // @@ GraphQLError is shown
    },
  },
  Query: {
    items: () => [...testPodcasts, ...testReviews],
  },
};
```

## Inline Fragment

Access data on the underlying concrete type.

Inline Fragments use `... on`

In an earlier module we saw **Named Fragments**. These also use the spread operator `... without on`.



```
1 query {  
2   items {  
3     published  
4     publishedAt  
5     ... on Podcast {  
6       title  
7     }  
8     ... on Review {  
9       content  
10    }  
11  }  
12 }
```

## `__typename`

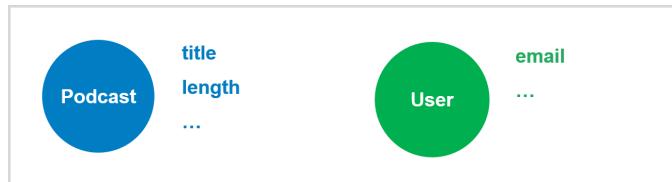
Use meta field `__typename` to get the name of the concrete type.



```
1 query {  
2   items {  
3     published  
4     publishedAt  
5     __typename  
6     ... on Podcast {  
7       title  
8     }  
9     ... on Review {  
10      content  
11    }  
12  }  
13 }
```

## ► Union

**union** - another abstract type, used when:  
concrete object types don't have any significant fields in common



## ► Define Union

```
union Result = Podcast | User
```

SCHEMA

A **resolver** is then needed to determine the actual type:

```
_resolveType(obj, _ctx, _info) {  
  if (obj.email)  
    return 'User';  
  if (obj.title)  
    return 'Podcast';  
  return null;      // GraphQLError is thrown  
}
```

RESOLVER

## ◀ Errors

In GraphQL sending back errors to the client is different compared to REST.

- consider HTTP error codes (404, 500 etc.) server- and framework-level errors
- send domain-level errors to clients in an object type:



These will all have an HTTP status code of 200 (= successful request)!

## ◀ Domain Errors 1/3



**Expert tip** - Use a combination of a *union* and an *interface*.

Mutation returns a special object type `CreatePodcastPayload`.

```
type Mutation {
  createPodcast(input: CreatePodcastInput): CreatePodcastPayload!
}

input CreatePodcastInput { ... }      # title and length

union CreatePodcastError = TooManyPodcasts | MissingFields    # @@ union

type Podcast { ... }                # id, title and length

type CreatePodcastPayload {
  errors: [CreatePodcastError]!      # always return a list with errors
  podcast: Podcast                 # optionally return the created podc
}
```

SCHEMA

## ► Domain Errors 2/3



The object types defined in the union all implement an Error *interface*.

```
interface Error { # @@ interface
  message: String!
  code: Int!
}

type TooManyPodcasts implements Error {
  message: String!
  code: Int!
}

type MissingFields implements Error {
  message: String!
  code: Int!
}
```

SCHEMA

## ► Domain Errors 3/3



Query the full payload in a mutation:

```
mutation {
  createPodcast(input: { title: "a new title", length: 78 }) {
    podcast {
      title
      length
    }
    errors {
      ... on Error {
        __typename
        code
        message
      }
    }
  }
}
```

QUERY

# Lab time!

More flexibility with abstract types



```
query {
  blogById(id: 4) {
    ... on Blog {
      title
      price
    }

    ... on NotAvailableYet {
      availableDate
    }

    ... on NotAvailableInCountry {
      availableInCountries {
        id
        name
      }
    }
  }
}
```



## Custom Scalars

## ▶ Scalars

GraphQL's type system supports two *atomic* types:

- Scalar (built-in: **Int**, **Float**, **String**, **Boolean**, **ID**)
- Enum

Certain scalars are 'missing', like: **Byte** and **DateTime**

That's why GraphQL supports *custom scalars*.

## ▶ AST and Coercion

Implement custom scalars by:

1. using a well-supported library ([graphql-scalars](#) for Nodejs)
2. building and using self-coded custom scalars

Both scenarios require basic knowledge about:

- Abstract Syntax Tree (AST)
- Coercion

## Abstract Syntax Tree

### query

```
query MyTest {
  userById(id: "u2") {
    id
    email
  }
}
```

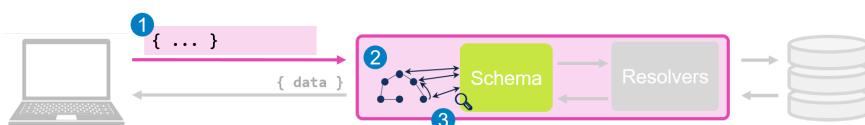
QUERY

### AST (JSON representation)

```
{
  "kind": "Document",
  "definitions": [
    {
      "kind": "OperationDefinition",
      "operation": "query",
      "name": {
        "kind": "Name",
        "value": "MyTest",
        "loc": {
          "start": 6,
          "end": 12
        }
      },
      // ...
    }
  ]
}
```

- graph representation of source code
- used by other compilers as well  
(C++, TypeScript, Babel, ...)

## AST in GraphQL



1. client's request is a single string
2. GraphQL parses this string into an AST
3. GraphQL processes the query:
  - a. traverses the AST
  - b. executes each part against the schema (performing validation)
  - c. maps schema types onto the respected *branches* in the AST (metadata)

❓ What might be the result of the validation?

## ► Coercion

A scalar provides **type-safety** about:

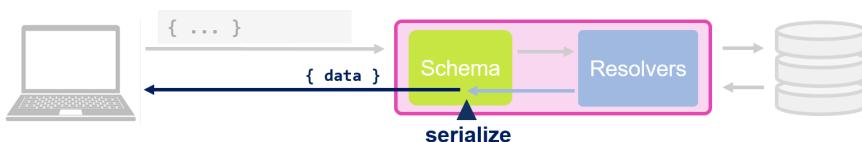
- returned values
- values used as input

Per scalar, **three functions** are implemented to guarantee type-safety:

- Result Coercion
- Literal Input Coercion
- Value Input Coercion

**coercion** - each function validates and *converts* a provided value

## ► 1. Result Coercion



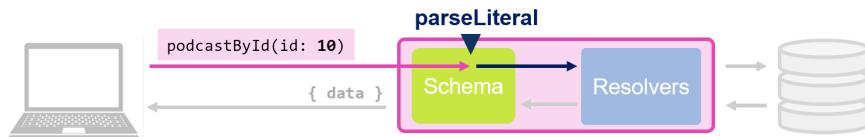
**serialize** - convert outgoing scalar type to JSON when sent back to client

Details depend on implementation!

For example in *GraphQL.js* (Facebook's reference implementation):

**Boolean** - only `true`, `false`, `1` or `0` are serialized  
(eg. `1` becomes `true`, `"apple"` raises an error)

## 2. Literal Input Coercion



**parseLiteral** - parse client input that was passed **inline** in the query

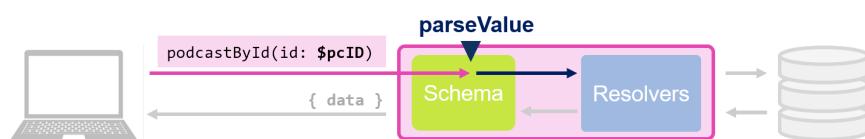
Details much less platform dependent as input is clearly defined.

For example in GraphQL spec:

**Int** - only integer is accepted (eg. 12 becomes 12, 12.3 raises an error)

**ID** - only string or integer is accepted

## 3. Value Input Coercion



**parseValue** - parse client input that was passed through **variables**

For built-in scalars: same rules apply as parsing input passed inline.

## Custom Scalar

In SDL:

```
scalar MyScalar
```

SCHEMA

Shape of Scalar:

- `name`
- `description`
- `serialize(value)` - used for output
- `parseLiteral(ast)` - used for literal input (note that `ast` is used!)
- `parseValue(value)` - used for variable input

❓ Where do you think the description will become visible?

## Code 1/3



Podcast has nullable `publishedDate` field (eg. '2021-06-14') in data source.

Define new scalar `Date`.

```
import { GraphQLScalarType, Kind } from "graphql";

const dateScalar = new GraphQLScalarType({
  name: "Date",
  description: "Superhandy Date custom scalar type",
  serialize(value) {
    /* ... */
  },
  parseValue(value) {
    /* ... */
  },
  parseLiteral(ast) {
    /* ... */
  },
});
```

## Code 2/3



Implement the three methods.

```
serialize(value) {  
    return value;  
},  
parseValue(value) {  
    if (typeof value === 'string' && value.length === 10) {  
        return new Date(value);  
    }  
    return null;  
},  
parseLiteral(ast) {  
    if (ast.kind === Kind.STRING) { // provides the helper Kind  
        return new Date(ast.value);  
    }  
    return null; // Invalid hard-coded value (not an integer)  
},
```

## Code 3/3



Add the defined `dateScalar` to the resolvers map.

```
const resolvers = {  
  Date: dateScalar, // @@ defined scalar  
  Query: {  
    podcasts(parent) {  
      return testPodcasts;  
    },  
  },  
};
```

RESOLVER

## Update Schema



SCHEMA

```
scalar Date # @@ Define new scalar type
type Query {
    podcasts: [Podcast!]!
    podcastsPublishedSince(startDate: Date!): [Podcast!]! # @@ Use for INP
}

type Podcast {
    id: ID!
    title: String!
    publishedDate: Date # @@ Use for OUTPUT
}
```

## Add Resolvers



RESOLVER

```
const resolvers = {
  Date: dateScalar,
  Query: {
    podcasts: parent => testPodcasts,
    podcastsPublishedSince(parent, args) {
      return testPodcasts.filter(podcast => {
        return new Date(podcast.publishedDate) > args.startDate;
      });
    },
  },
};
```

## Test

APOLLO

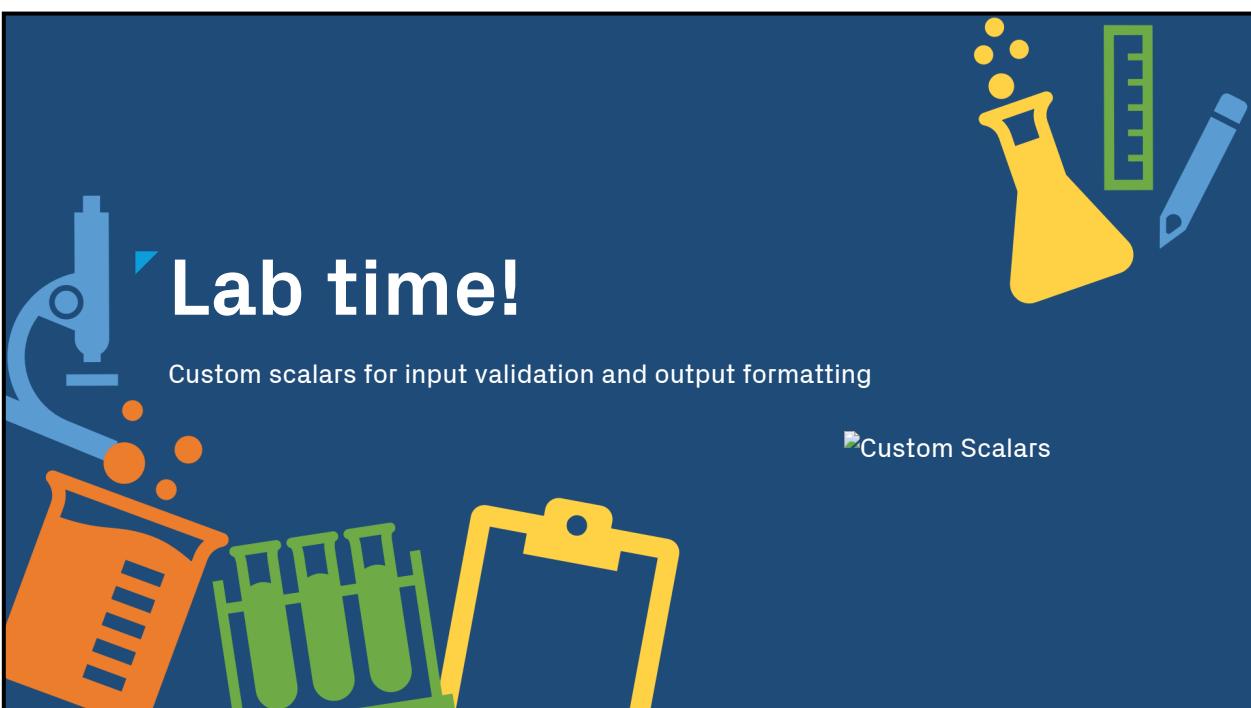
```
query ($startDate: Date!) {
  podcastsPublishedSince(startDate: $startDate) {
    title
    publishedDate
  }
}

{
  "startDate": "2021-06-22"
}
```



```
{
  "data": {
    "podcastsPublishedSince": [
      {
        "title": "We love TypeScript",
        "publishedDate": "2021-06-28"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

`serialize()`



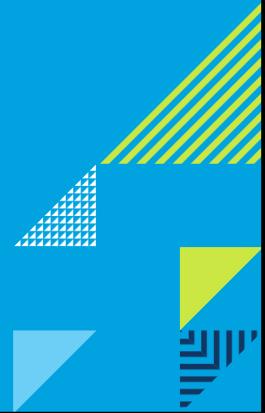
## Lab time!

Custom scalars for input validation and output formatting

 Custom Scalars



# Directives



## Why Directives?

Directives enable a GraphQL server to provide custom capabilities:

- caching
- data formatting
- improve performance
- logging
- data mocking
- security
- ...

## Directive

**Directive** - function that augments some other functionality.

- defined using the @ symbol
- kind of aspect-oriented programming (AOP)

```
query {
  podcasts {
    id
    name @camelCase
  }
}

{
  "data": {
    "podcasts": [
      {
        "id": "p7",
        "name": "graphQL"
      },
      {
        "id": "p8",
        "name": "weLoveTypeScript"
      },
      {
        "id": "p9",
        "name": "c#ForDummies"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

custom directive **@camelCase**  
can be applied to any string field

## Directive Types

- **schema directives** - executed when building the schema

```
type Podcast {
  title: String!
  price: Float @money # ↪ defined in the SDL
}
```

SCHEMA

- **operation directives** - executed when resolving the query

```
query {
  podcasts {
    id
    name @uppercase # ↪ appears in the client query
  }
}
```

QUERY

## ► Directive Arguments

- 0 or more arguments
- can be optional:

```
type Image {
  id: ID!
  height: Int! @deprecated
  small: String! @deprecated(reason: "Use picture instead!")
  picture: String!
}
```

SCHEMA

- ❓ Are arguments always *named* arguments?

## ► Default Directives

To be spec-compliant, an implementation must support 4 directives:

Directive	Description
@deprecated(reason: String)	marks the schema definition of a field (or enum value) as deprecated, optional argument: reason
@specifiedBy(url: String!)	specify the behavior of a <i>custom scalar type</i> , mandatory argument: url
@skip(if: Boolean!)	if true, the decorated field (or fragment) in an operation is not resolved
@include(if: Boolean!)	if true, the decorated field (or fragment) in an operation is resolved

- ❓ Which are map-to-schema directives and which map-to-operation?

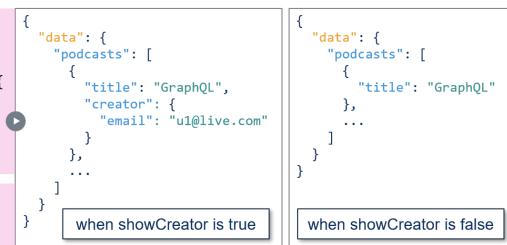
## Default Operation Directives

### > `@include(if: Boolean)`

Allow client to include field(s) based on value of mandatory `if` argument.

```
query ($showCreator: Boolean!) {
  podcasts {
    title
    creator @include(if: $showCreator) {
      email
    }
  }
}

{
  "showCreator": true
}
```



```
{
  "data": {
    "podcasts": [
      {
        "title": "GraphQL",
        "creator": {
          "email": "ui@live.com"
        }
      },
      ...
    ]
  }
}
```

`when showCreator is true`

`when showCreator is false`

### > `@skip(if: Boolean)`

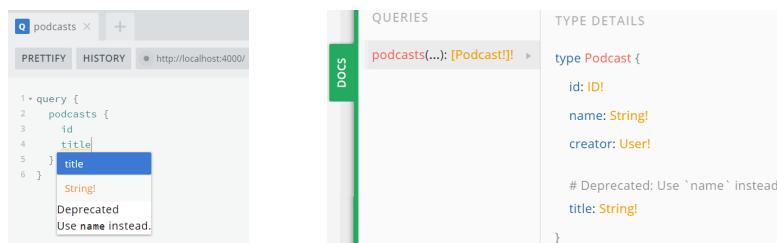
The other way around ...

## Default Schema Directives 1/2

### > `@deprecated(reason: String)`

```
# Define in schema where applicable ↗
type Podcast {
  # ...
  title: String! @deprecated(reason: "Use `name` instead.")
  name: String!
}
```

SCHEMA



podcasts

QUERIES

podcasts(...): [Podcast!]!

TYPE DETAILS

type Podcast {  
 id: ID!  
 name: String!  
 creator: User!  
  
 # Deprecated: Use `name` instead.  
 title: String!

## ► Default Schema Directives 2/2

- `@specifiedBy(url: String!)`

`url` - declare how custom scalar types behaves

Custom scalar type `UUID`:

```
scalar UUID @specifiedBy(url: "https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4122")SCHEMA
```

- added to the spec ~June 2021
- `(APOLLO` not implemented yet

## ► Directives Improving Latency

- `@defer(if: Boolean, label: String)`
- `@stream(initialCount: Int!, label: String)`

RFC for these 2 directives is in the Proposal Stage:

<https://github.com/graphql/graphql-wg/blob/main/rfcs/DeferStream.md>



(these directives are *not* in Apollo Server)

## ⚡ @stream

contrawork/  
graphql-helix

Mimick slow retrieval of users:

### ⚡ Resolver

```
Query: {  
  users: async function* () {  
    for (const user of db.testUsers) {  
      await new Promise((resolve) => setTimeout(resolve, 1000)); // 🕒  
      yield user;  
    }  
  },
```

RESOLVER

## ⚡ @stream

contrawork/  
graphql-helix

Assume retrieval of 5 users.

```
query {  
  users {  
    id  
    email  
  }  
}
```

QUERY

after 5 seconds,  
all users retrieved at once

```
1 query {  
2   users @stream(initialCount: 1) {  
3     id  
4     email  
5   }  
6 }
```

QUERY

after 1 second,  
first user is retrieved, afterwards  
each second a user is retrieved

## ► @defer

contrawork/  
graphql-helix

Assume retrieval of creator's details is delayed.

```

query {
  podcasts {
    id
    title
    length
  }
}

query {
  podcasts {
    id
    title
    length
    creator {
      id
      email
    }
  }
}

query {
  podcasts {
    id
    title
    length
    creator {
      ... x
    }
  }
}

query {
  podcasts {
    id
    title
    length
    creator {
      ... x @defer
    }
  }
}
```

**fast retrieval of podcasts**

**retrieval of all data delayed due to slow retrieval of creators data**

**fragment x on User {  
  id  
  email  
}**

**similar, now using a name fragment**

**retrieve podcasts (fast), defer retrieval of creators**

## ► Experimental Support

contrawork/  
graphql-helix

**package.json**

```
"dependencies": {
  "graphql": "15.4.0-experimental-stream-defer.1",
  ...
}
```

Implementation uses a multipart response:

```
res.writeHead(200, {
  Connection: "keep-alive",
  "Content-Type": 'multipart/mixed; boundary="-"',
  "Transfer-Encoding": "chunked",
});
```

**Lab time!**

Transform output via built-in and custom directives

Directives

»

## Introspection

## ► Introspection in GraphQL

GraphQL's schema can be queried by GraphQL!

Introspection queries allow:

- clients to get a complete view of all resources
- rich IDEs like *GraphiQL* to provide self-documentation
- the community to build more tools for GraphQL

 Why is introspection possible in GraphQL?

## ► Query

Server exposes 3 introspection queries on the Query operation type:

- `__schema`
- `__type`
- `__typename`

All fields in the introspection system are prefixed with 2 underscores: `__`

## schema

Built-in schema definition:

```
_schema: __Schema! SCHEMA
type __Schema {
  types: [__Type!]!
  queryType: __Type!
  mutationType: __Type
  subscriptionType: __Type
  directives: [__Directive!]!
}
```

```
query {
  __schema {
    types {
      name
      description
    }
  }
}
```

```
query {
  __schema {
    directives {
      name
      description
    }
  }
}
```

## Description

Improve documentation by adding descriptions.

```
"""User can be a Podcast Creator or Commentor"""
type User {
  id: ID!

  """User's firstname"""
  firstname: String!
  # ...
}
```

SCHEMA

Apollo: embed your description in: `""" """`  
 graphql-js: start your description with `#`

As introspection queries return these descriptions, IDEs will do as well.

## \_\_type

Query for a type specified by the `name` argument.

```
1 query {  
2   __type(name: "User") {  
3     kind  
4     name  
5     description  
6     fields(includeDeprecated: true) {  
7       name  
8       description  
9     }  
10   }  
11 }
```

QUERY

## \_\_typename

Available through all types when querying.

- Get name of concrete type in scenarios where abstract types are used.
- Apollo Client caches entities by using a combination of `id` and `__typename`.

```
1 query {  
2   viewer {  
3     login  
4     repositories(first: 3) {  
5       nodes {  
6         id  
7         name  
8         __typename  
9       }  
10     }  
11   }  
12 }
```

QUERY

## ► Handy query 1

Which queries can a client send to an API?

List all root queries:

```
query allAvailableQueries {  
  __schema {  
    queryType {  
      fields {  
        name  
        description  
      }  
    }  
  }  
}
```

QUERY

## ► Handy query 2

Which possible values does an enumerator has?

```
query enumerationValues {  
  __type(name: "UserStatus") {  
    kind  
    name  
    description  
    enumValues {  
      name  
      description  
    }  
  }  
}
```

QUERY

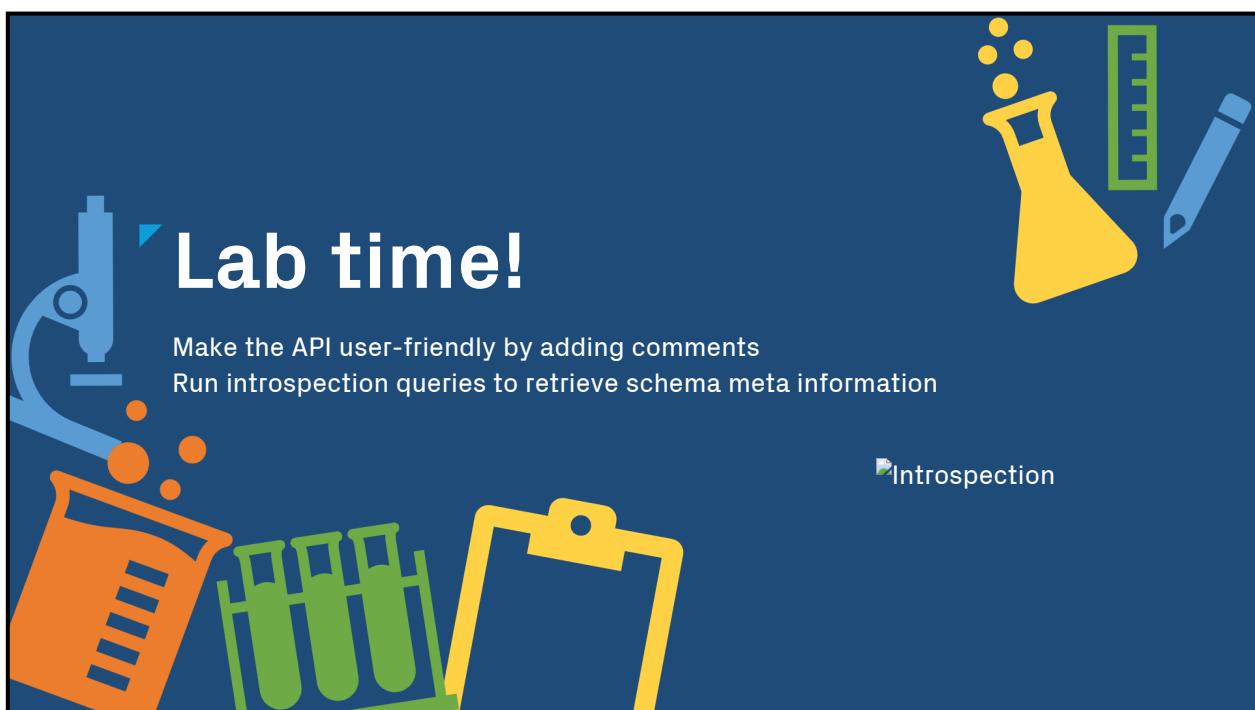
## ► Handy query 3

Which concrete object types are:

- implemented by an **interface**, or
- associated with a **union**

query abstractTypes {  
 \_\_type(name: "Publishable") {  
 kind  
 name  
 description  
 possibleTypes {  
 name  
 kind  
 description  
 }  
 }  
}

QUERY



A blue rectangular box containing a white 'Lab time!' title and a '► Introspection' callout. The background features various laboratory glassware icons like a microscope, test tubes, and a flask.

## Lab time!

Make the API user-friendly by adding comments  
Run introspection queries to retrieve schema meta information

► Introspection



# Solving the N+1 problem

## ▀ N+1 problem

For every **1** query that return **n** results,  
**n** additional queries are needed!

```
query {  
  podcasts {  
    id  
    title  
    creator {  
      id  
      email  
    }  
  }  
}  
  
run 1 query: get all podcasts  
SELECT * FROM Podcasts  
  
run n queries: per podcast get creator  
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE id = 1  
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE id = 2  
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE id = 1  
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE id = 2  
SELECT * FROM Users WHERE id = 3
```

## ► Dataloader

Most popular solution for the n+1 problem

- use in data fetching layer
- batching queries & caching results
- exists since 2010, actively maintained
- implementations for many program languages: .NET, Java, Python, ...

<https://github.com/graphql/dataloader>

## ► Dataloader concepts

the creator resolver:

```
query {  
  podcasts {  
    id  
    title  
    creator {  
      id  
      email  
    }  
  }  
}
```

1. returns a **promise** instead of a value
2. calls a **data loader** instead of the data source



the data loader:

- collects user ids required to fetch creators
- batch load the data in a more efficient way

## ► Dataloader methods



Main methods:

- **`load(identifier)`**  
input 👉 identifier of data the caller is interested in  
output 👉 promise which will be fulfilled later
- **`perform(batchfunction)`**  
use all accumulated keys and loads the data in most efficient way

`perform()` runs automatically *after* all promises are enqueued  
implementation details vary per environment

## ► Implement Dataloader

1. In constructor of Dataloader provide an asynchronous **batchfunction**:

```
const creatorBatchFunction = async (keys) => {  
  // @@ part 1: single database request: translates to WHERE id IN (1, 2  
  const creators = await prisma.users.findMany({  
    where: { id: { in: keys } }  
  });  
  
  // @@ part 2: return users in specific structure expected by data load  
};
```

2. Share dataloader instance in GraphQL context
3. Use dataloader instance in resolver to load the unique identifiers

## ► Alternative 1: Use a JOIN

- Pro: 1 roundtrip instead of 2
- Con: when creator data is not requested in client queries, it's still retrieved

```
function podcastsFormatter(podcasts) {
  return podcasts.map((podcast) => ({
    ...podcast,
    creator: { id: podcast.userid, email: podcast.email },
  }));
}

podcasts: async (_parent, _arg, { prisma }) => {
  const q = 'SELECT * FROM Podcasts AS p JOIN Users AS u ON p.userid = u';
  const result = await prisma.$queryRaw(q);
  return podcastsFormatter(result);
};
```

## ► Alternative 2: ORM features

Prisma has a data loader aboard.

`findUnique()` queries are automagically batched when they:

1. occur in the same tick, and
2. use the same where and include parameters

details:

<https://www.prisma.io/docs/guides/performance-and-optimization/query-optimization-performance>

**Lab time!**

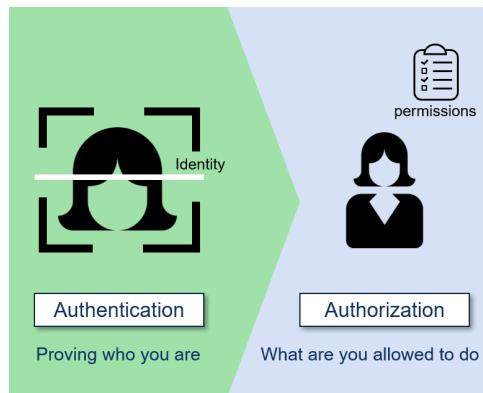
Use a dataloader when retrieving creators of blogs  
to prevent many many database calls

Dataloader

»

## Authentication & Authorization

## ► Different things



❓ Which **authentication** methods do you know?

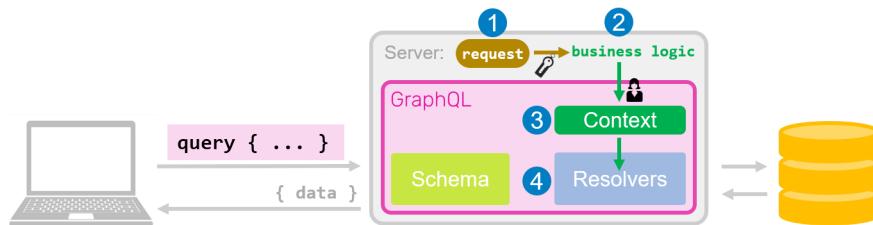
## ► Separation of concerns

Separate business logic and authentication logic.

❓ Also GraphQL resolvers shouldn't know about authentication logic.  
Why?

➤ Best practice:  
authentication implementation provides the **currentUser** to the resolvers  
via the **GraphQL context**

## Authentication flow



1. contains *Authorization* header with info like a token
2. trades the token for the user
3. context contains the (current) user
4. each resolver function can access the context via its 3rd argument

## Authentication implementation

```
import ApolloServer from 'apollo-server';

const server = new ApolloServer({
  typeDefs,
  resolvers,
  async context({ req }) {
    const token = req.headers.authorization || '';
    const user = getUser(token);
    return { user };
  },
});

server.listen().then(() => console.log('🚀 Server ready at port 4000'));
```

## Authorization

At the end of the authentication flow the context contains info like:

```
> { isAuthenticated: true } or  
> { id: '22', roles: ['reviewer', 'editor'] } }
```

This will be input for the authorization logic.

 Where would you implement authorization logic in GraphQL?

## Authorization ► in context

No *public* APIs?

 Authorize once in the context

```
context: ({ req }) => {  
  const token = req.headers.authorization || '';  
  const user = getUser(token);  
  
  // 🚫 Block the user (possibly with user roles/permission checks)  
  if (!user) throw new AuthenticationError('you must be logged in');  
  
  return { user };  
},
```

## ◀ Authorization ► in resolvers

Both *restricted* and *public* APIs?

👉 Authorize within each resolver

```
async allPodcasts(_parent, _args, { prisma, user }) {
  if (!user || !user.roles.includes('admin')) {
    return null; // or throw an error
  }
  return await prisma.podcasts.findMany();
};
```

❓ What is a disadvantage of writing authorization logic in resolvers?

## ◀ Authorization ► before resolvers

Good alternatives to authorization logic directly in resolvers:

- **guard** - wrap resolvers which need protection in a reusable function
- **custom directives** - an `@auth` schema directive
- **data model** - models in the context, each generated via a function:

```
export const generatePodcastModel = ({ user }) => ({
  async getAll() {
    if (!user || !user.roles.includes('admin')) return null;
    return await prisma.comments.findMany();
  },
});
```

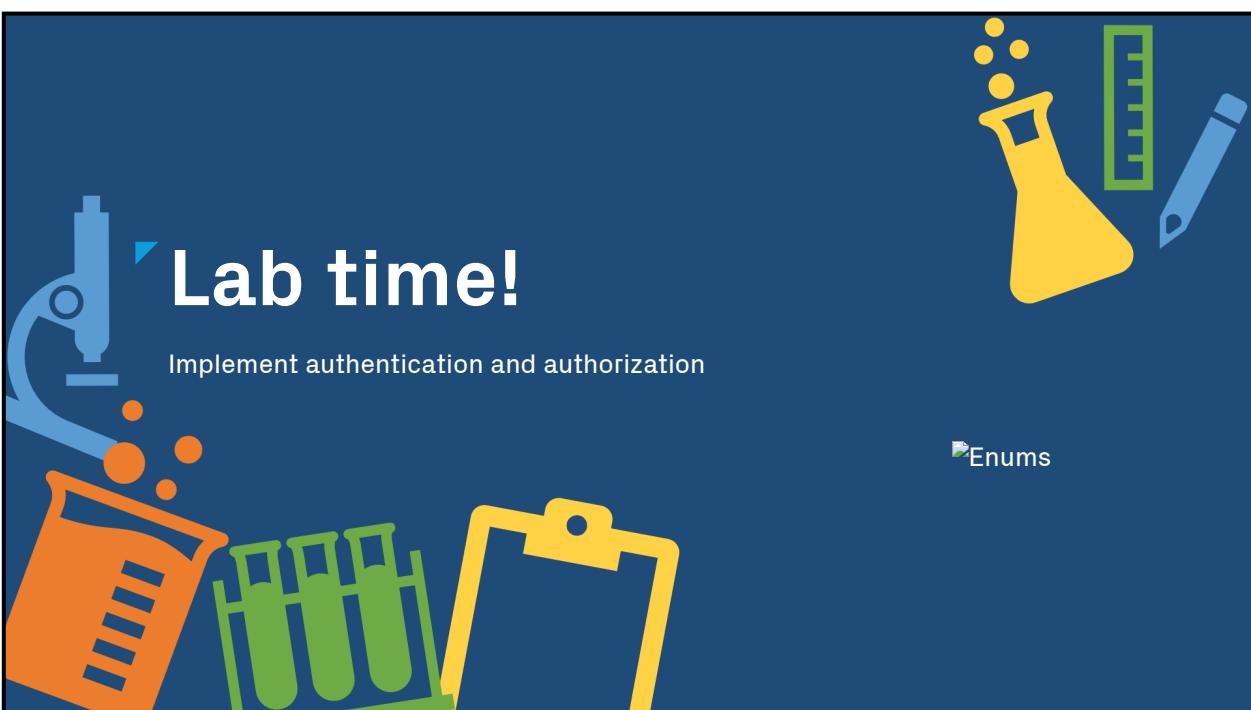
## ► Authorization ► in other api

If GraphQL wraps another API with built-in Authentication/Authorization, then simply pass the request object.

```
context: ({ req }) => ({  
  user,  
  models: { User: generateUserModel({ req }), /* ... */ }  
});
```

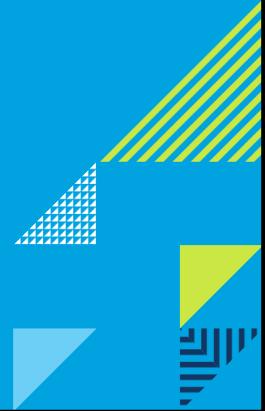
Other endpoint then can use whatever header or cookie it needs.

```
export const generateUserModel = ({ req }) => ({  
  getAll: () => fetch('http://other-api.com/users', { headers: req.headers });  
});
```





## Wrap-up



## ► Questions?

Last chance!



## ► Continued training

- **Node.js** - 3 days  
Server-side JavaScript done right
- **React** - 3 days  
Develop Applications Using the ReactJS Framework
- **Angular** - 4 days  
Building Professional Single Page Applications with Angular
- **TypeScript** - 4 days  
Develop maintainable JavaScript applications with TypeScript
- **Pragmatic JavaScript** - 4 days  
Applying JavaScript in practice

More? Check out our [web development courses](#)



## ► The end

Don't forget to fill out an evaluation at:

- <http://eval> (from inside Info Support network)
- or
- <https://tinyurl.com/infosupporteval>



