

Populate() in mongoose

Population in mongoose is a process that allows replacing a path of a document with the document itself.

For eg, replacing the reference of an object with the entire object itself.

```
Post.find({})
  .populate('user')
  .exec(function(err, posts){
    return res.render('home', {
      title: "Codeial | home",
      posts: posts
    });
  });
```

Here `find({})` is a filter which will fetch all entries from the posts database. Once it does so, it'll check for the 'user' attribute in the fetched entries (this 'user' attribute was defined in the Post schema). This attribute refers to the ObjectId attribute of the users database i.e. it will have a value which will correspond to the id of an entry in the users database.

The `.populate('user')` function will take the **userId (which comes from the 'user' column of the posts database)** and map it to the corresponding object in the users database. Then return a new table whose user field will NOT be `userId` anymore, rather it'll be the whole user object.

