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Installing MongoDB on macOS Catalina/Big Sur(or Older)



Shashank Verma Mar 7 · 2 min read

I had to reconfigure my Macbook after sending it in for repair. During the setup, I noticed that my instructions for Local MongoDB Setup were outdated and didn't work any longer for macOS Big Sur.

As you all know Mongo puts its database in /data/db and Apple revoked access to the root folder, presenting you with a 'read-only access' warning. I went through tons of forums and did the tiresome work for you.

Here are the steps:

Install Homebrew

```
/usr/bin/ruby -e "$(curl -fsSL  
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install)"
```

Find MongoDB tap.

```
brew tap mongodb/brew
```

Install MongoDB.

```
brew install mongodb-community
```

Before you can use MongoDB, you need to create a **/data/db** folder but Apple created a new volume on macOS Catalina for security purposes. So, we will create the folder in **System/Volumes/Data**.

Use this command:

```
sudo mkdir -p /System/Volumes/Data/data/db
```

Then, give permissions to the folder:

```
sudo chown -R `id -un` /System/Volumes/Data/data/db
```

Starting MongoDB

The 'mongod' command to start MongoDB no longer works out of the box for me. The best way to start MongoDB is now via '**brew services**'.

```
brew services run mongodb-community
```



MongoDB will start as a background service

Note: You can use **start** instead of **run**. **start** will start MongoDB automatically when you log into your Mac. I prefer run as I don't want it to be running all the time.

Mongo Shell

If MongoDB is running, you should be able to access the Mongo shell

Use this command:

```
mongo
```

Stopping MongoDB

```
brew services stop mongodb-community
```

Mongo Mac Big Sur Catalina

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