

Working with database models and relations

This lesson covers

- Creating object types for database models
- Defining a global context shared among all resolvers
- Resolving fields from database models and transforming their names and values
- Resolving one-to-one and one-to-many relations
- Working with database views and join statements



Running and connecting to databases

- The easiest way to get this project's databases up and running with sample data is to use Docker.
- Docker uses your OS virtualization to provide software in packaged containers, It's available on all three major operating systems.
- I've prepared two Docker containers for this project: one for PostgreSQL and one for MongoDB.
- They both have the database structure created and the sample data imported.



Running and connecting to databases

 Once Docker is running, you can run this command to start both databases.

\$ npm run start-dbs



Running and connecting to databases

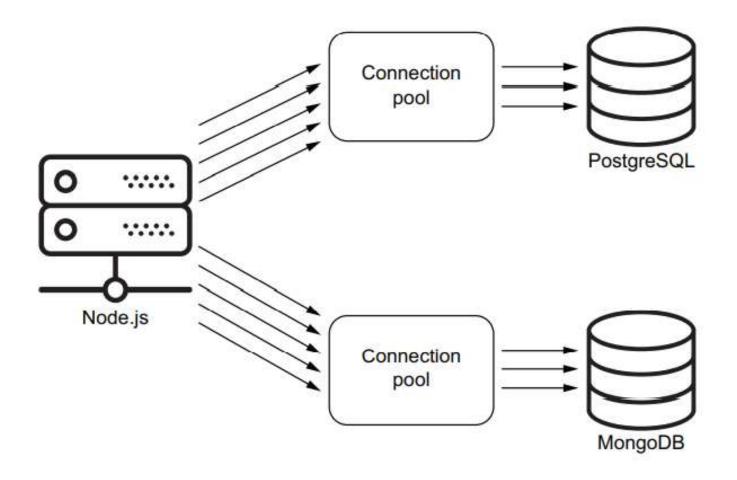
 Use the following SQL queries to see the data in PostgreSQL.

```
SELECT * FROM azdev.users;
SELECT * FROM azdev.tasks;
SELECT * FROM azdev.approaches;
```

 For the data in MongoDB, you can use this find command.

db.approachDetails.find({});







The taskMainList query

 Let's start by implementing the main Task type, Here is the SDL text we prepared for it.

```
type Task implements SearchResultItem {
  id: ID!
  createdAt: String!
  content: String!
  tags: [String!]!
  approachCount: Int!

# author: User!
  # approachList: [Approach!]!
}
```



The taskMainList query

- The first query field that will use this Task type is the list of the latest Tasks that will be displayed on the main page of the AZdev app.
- We named that field taskMainList.

```
type Query {
     taskMainList: [Task!]
}
```



The taskMainList query

 Here's a GraphQL query that we can use to start testing this feature.

```
query {
  taskMainList {
    id
    content
    tags
    approachCount
    createdAt
  }
}
```



Defining object types

```
import {
    GraphQLID,
    GraphQLObjectType,
    GraphQLString,
    GraphQLInt,
    GraphQLNonNull,
    GraphQLList,
} from 'graphql';

const Task = new GraphQLObjectType({
    name: 'Task',
    fields: {
    id: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLID) },
```



Defining object types

```
content: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString) },
  tags: {
    type: new GraphQLNonNull(
        new GraphQLList(new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString))
    ),
    },
    approachCount: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLInt) },
    createdAt: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString) },
});
export default Task;
```

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Defining object types

- The worst part about this is probably the type for the tags field.
- The simple [String!]! had to be written with nested calls of three functions:

```
new GraphQLNonNull(
   new GraphQLList(
      new GraphQLNonNull(
         GraphQLString
   )
)
```



- It means the type for the taskMainList field should be new GraphQLList(new GraphQLNonNull(Task)).
- To resolve this field, we need to execute this SQL statement on the PostgreSQL database

```
SELECT *

FROM azdev.tasks

WHERE is_private = FALSE 
ORDER BY created_at DESC

LIMIT 100

Don't include private Task objects.

Sorts Tasks by creation date, newest first

Limits the results to 100 Task objects
```



```
11 .---
import pgClient from './db/pg-client';
async function main() {
 const { pgPool } = await pgClient();
 const server = express();
  // .-.-.
  server.use(
    1/1,
   graphqlHTTP({
     schema,
     context: { pgPool },
     graphiql: true,
   }),
   );
   // ----
 main();
```

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- The pgPool object has a query method we can use to execute a SQL statement.
- We can use it this way to execute the SELECT statement

```
const pgResp = await pgPool.query(`
    SELECT *
    FROM azdev.tasks
    WHERE is_private = FALSE
    ORDER BY created_at DESC
    LIMIT 100
`);
```



 The pgResp object will have a rows property holding an array of objects representing the rows returned by the database



 The context object is exposed to each resolver function as the third argument (after source and args).

resolve: (source, args, context, info) => {}



```
import {
  GraphQLList,
} from 'graphql';
// .-.-.
import Task from './types/task';
const QueryType = new GraphQLObjectType({
  name: 'Query',
  fields: {
    taskMainList: {
      type: new GraphQLList(new GraphQLNonNull(Task)),
      resolve: async (source, args, { pgPool }) => {
        const pgResp = await pgPool.query()
          SELECT *
          FROM azdev.tasks
          WHERE is private = FALSE
          ORDER BY created_at DESC
          LIMIT 100
        `);
        return pgResp.rows;
      },
   },
});
```

VOYAGE

- Go ahead and test things now.
- The API should be able to answer this query.

```
{
  taskMainList {
   id
  content
}
```



```
1 v {
     taskMainList {
                                                         "data": {
3
       id
                                                            "taskMainList": [
4
       content
                                                               "id": "1",
5
                                                               "content": "Make an image in HTML change based on the theme
                                                       color mode (dark or light)"
                                                             },
{
                                                               "content": "Get rid of only the unstaged changes since the
                                                       last git commit"
                                                             },
                                                               "id": "3",
                                                               "content": "The syntax for a switch statement (AKA case
                                                       statement) in JavaScript"
                                                             },
                                                               "content": "Calculate the sum of numbers in a JavaScript
                                                       array"
                                                                "content": "Create a secure one-way hash for a text value
   QUERY VARIABLES
```

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Transforming field names

- In some cases, we need the API to represent columns and rows in the database with a different structure.
- Maybe the database has a confusing column name; or maybe we want the API to consistently use camelcase for all field names, and the database uses snake-case for its columns.
- This latter situation is exactly what we have to deal with next.



 For example, if we have a function caseMapper that takes an object and makes all of its properties camelcase, we can modify the resolver of taskMainList as follows.

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- We can create custom resolvers for the fields that need to be converted.
- For example, we can change the createdAt field to include this resolve function.



- We can create custom resolvers for the fields that need to be converted.
- For example, we can change the createdAt field to include this resolve function.



 For example, here's a version of the taskMainList resolver function to implement this method



Transforming field values

- let's serialize all date-time fields for the AZdev API using UTC ISO format.
- We can use the JavaScript toISOString method for this.
- We'll need to implement the createdAt field's resolver function using the following.

```
createdAt: {
  type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString),
  resolve: (source) => source.createdAt.toISOString(),
},
```



Transforming field values



Transforming field values

 We need to transform this value into an array of strings instead (so, ["node", "git"]). We do that with a custom resolver function.

```
tags: {
  type: new GraphQLNonNull(
    new GraphQLList(new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString))
),
  resolve: (source) => source.tags.split(','),
},
```

NEARNING VOYAGE With that, the resolver will return an array when asked for the tags property

```
1 v {
2 v          taskMainList {
               id
               content
               tags
6          }
7     }
```



Separating interactions with PostgreSQL

- let's do a small refactoring. Instead of using SQL statements directly in resolver functions, let's introduce a module responsible for communicating with PostgreSQL and just use that module's API in the resolver functions.
- This separation of responsibilities will generally improve the readability of the API's code.
- The logic to fetch things from PostgreSQL will not be mixed with the logic to transform raw data into the public API.



```
import pgClient from './pg-client';
import sqls from './sqls';
const pgApiWrapper = async () => {
  const { pgPool } = await pgClient();
  const pgQuery = (text, params = {}) =>
    pgPool.query(text, Object.values(params));
                                                               The tasksLatest SQL
  return {
                                                               statement is already
    taskMainList: async () => {
                                                               in api/src/db/sqls.js.
      const pgResp = await pgQuery(sqls.tasksLatest);
      return pgResp.rows;
    },
  };
};
export default pgApiWrapper;
```

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Separating interactions with PostgreSQL

```
import pgApiWrapper from './db/pg-api';
                                                    This line replaces the
                                                     pg-client import line.
async function main() {
  const pgApi = await pgApiWrapper();
                                                  This line replaces the
                                                  pgClient() call line.
  // . - . - .
  server.use(
    1/1,
    graphqlHTTP({
      schema,
      context: { pgApi },
      graphiql: true,
    })
  );
```



Separating interactions with PostgreSQL

 Finally, we need to change the resolve function for taskMainList to use the new pgApi instead of issuing a direct SQL statement

```
taskMainList: {
  type: new GraphQLList(new GraphQLNonNull(Task)),
  resolve: async (source, args, { pgApi }) => {
    return pgApi.taskMainList();
  },
},
```



Error reporting

 Let's look at an example, Fake an error anywhere in the code that resolves data for the taskMainList field, something like the following.



Error reporting

 Now observe what happens when you ask for the taskMainList field in GraphiQL.

```
1 v {
2 v taskMainList {
    id content
    createdAt
    tags
7 }
8 }
```

```
"errors": [
    "message": "pgApi.taksMainList is not a function",
    "locations": [ ],
    "path": [
        "taskMainList"
    ]
    }
],
"data": {
    "taskMainList": null
    }
}
```



```
async function main() {
         // . - . - .
         server.use(
            1/1,
           graphglHTTP({
              schema,
              context: { pgApi },
              graphiql: true,
              customFormatErrorFn: (err) => {
                                                                           Makes the error
                const errorReport = {
                                                                           stack show up in
                  message: err.message,
                                                                           development, which
                  locations: err.locations,
                                                                           is very handy
                  stack: err.stack ? err.stack.split('\n') : [],
                  path: err.path,
                };
             console.error('GraphQL Error', errorReport);
  Logs the
                                                                            Returns a
               return config.isDev
error in the
                                                                            generic error
                  ? errorReport
server logs
                  : { message: 'Oops! Something went wrong! :(' }; <-
              },
           }),
```



Resolving relations

- The remaining fields on the Task type are author and approachList, We'll need to implement two new GraphQL types for them.
- I'll name them Author and Approach. These fields will not be leaf fields in a query. They represent relations.
- A Task has one Author and many Approaches, To resolve these fields, the GraphQL server will have to execute SQL statements over many tables and return objects from these tables.



```
taskMainList {
 id
 content
 tags
 approachCount
 createdAt
 author {
   id
   username
   name
 approachList {
   id
   content
   voteCount
   createdAt
    author {
      id
      username
      name
```

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- We have to execute another SQL statement to get information about the User who authored it.
- You can find that SQL statement under sqls.usersFromIds (in api/src/db/sqls.js).

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 Let's design that function to accept a userId value as an argument.



- To make the GraphQL server aware of the new author field, we need to define the User type.
- Everything in a GraphQL schema must have a type.
- In the SDL text, we had this structure for the User type.

```
id: ID!
username: String!
name: String
taskList: [Task!]!

We'll implement the
taskList field under
the me root field.
```



```
import {
 GraphQLID,
 GraphQLObjectType,
 GraphQLString,
 GraphQLNonNull,
} from 'graphql';
const User = new GraphQLObjectType({
 name: 'User',
 fields: {
    id: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLID) },
    username: { type: GraphQLString },
   name: {
      type: GraphQLString,
      resolve: ({ firstName, lastName }) =>
        `${firstName} ${lastName}`,
   },
});
export default User;
```

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 That will do it, You can test the new relation with this query.

```
taskMainList {
  content
  author {
   id
   username
   name
  }
}
```



```
1 . {
                                                          "data": {
     taskMainList {
                                                            "taskMainList": [
        content
        author {
                                                                 "content": "Make an image in HTML change based on the theme
          id
 6
                                                        color mode (dark or light)",
          username
                                                                 "author": {
          name
                                                                  "id": "1".
                                                                  "username": "test",
 9
10
                                                                   "name": "null null"
                                                                 "content": "Get rid of only the unstaged changes since the
                                                        last git commit",
                                                                 "author": {
                                                                  "id": "1",
                                                                  "username": "test",
                                                                   "name": "null null"
```



DEALING WITH NULL VALUES

- There is a small problem in the data response in previous figure: the Author name was returned as null null.
- Why is that? The null concept is confusing, Different coders associate different meanings with it.
- You need to be careful to always consider the possibility of dealing with null, You should ask, "What if this is null?" about every variable you use in your code.
- This is one reason why languages like TypeScript and Flow are popular: they can help detect these problems.



DEALING WITH NULL VALUES

There are many ways to implement that. Here's one.

```
name: {
  type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString),
  resolve: ({ firstName, lastName }) =>
    [firstName, lastName].filter(Boolean).join(' '),
},
```



DEALING WITH NULL VALUES

```
1 = {
                                                         "data": {
     taskMainList {
 3
        content
                                                            "taskMainList": [
 4 +
        author {
                                                               "content": "Make an image in HTML change based on the theme
 5
          id
 6
                                                       color mode (dark or light)",
          username
          name
                                                                "author": {
                                                                 "id": "1",
 8
 9
                                                                  "username": "test",
10 }
                                                                  "name": ""
                                                             3,
                                                                "content": "Get rid of only the unstaged changes since the
                                                       last git commit",
                                                                "author": {
                                                                 "id": "1",
                                                                 "username": "test",
                                                                 "name": ""
```



THE N+1 QUERIES PROBLEM

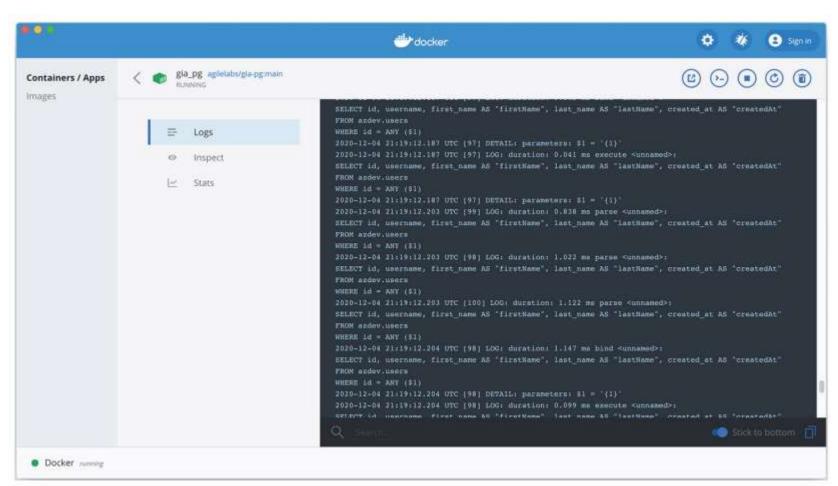
- Now that we have implemented a relation and made the GraphQL server execute multiple SQL statements for it, we can talk about the N+1 queries problem.
- It is the first big challenge when implementing GraphQL services.
- To see this problem in action, you'll need to enable logging for your PostgreSQL service and tail the logs while you execute GraphQL queries.



 Here are the SQL queries that were executed on my PostgreSQL server when I tested this.

```
LOG: statement:
SELECT .---
FROM azdev.tasks WHERE . - - - -
LOG: execute <unnamed>:
SELECT .---
                                          "1" is the ID value for the user
FROM azdev.users WHERE id = ANY ($1)
                                         I used in the sample data.
DETAIL: parameters: $1 = '1'
LOG: execute <unnamed>:
SELECT .---
FROM azdev.users WHERE id = ANY ($1)
DETAIL: parameters: $1 = '1'
LOG: execute <unnamed>:
SELECT .-.-
FROM azdev.users WHERE id = ANY ($1)
DETAIL: parameters: $1 = '1'
LOG: execute <unnamed>:
SELECT .-.-
FROM azdev.users WHERE id = ANY ($1)
DETAIL: parameters: $1 = '1'
LOG: execute <unnamed>:
SELECT .-.-
FROM azdev.users WHERE id = ANY ($1)
DETAIL: parameters: $1 = '1'
```





THE N+1 QUERIES PROBLEM

```
const views = {
  tasksAndUsers:
    SELECT t.*,
        u.id AS "author_id",
        u.username AS "author_username",
        u.first_name AS "author_firstName",
        u.last_name AS "author_lastName",
        u.created_at AS "author_createdAt"
    FROM azdev.tasks t
    JOIN azdev.users u ON (t.user_id = u.id)
    ,
};
// -----
```

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```
[/ # psql azdev postgres
psql (12.2)
Type "help" for help.
azdev=#
            SELECT t.*,
azdev-#
                u.id AS "author id",
azdev-#
                u.username AS "author_username",
                u.first_name AS "author_firstName",
azdev-#
azdev-#
                u.last name AS "author lastName",
                u.created_at AS "author_createdAt"
azdev-#
azdev-#
            FROM azdev.tasks t
            JOIN azdev.users u ON (t.user_id = u.id);
azdev-#
 id |
                                        content
thor_id | author_username | author_firstName | author_lastName
  1 | Make an image in HTML change based on the theme color mode
      1 | test
  2 | Get rid of only the unstaged changes since the last git con
      1 | test
  3 | The syntax for a switch statement (AKA case statement) in 3
```

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THE N+1 QUERIES PROBLEM

 To use the tasksAndUsers view, instead of selecting from the azdev.tasks table for the sqls.tasksLatest SQL query, we can select from the new tasksAndUsers view.

```
taskMainList: `
SELECT id, content, tags, ----
    "author_id", "author_username", "author_firstName",
    "author_lastName", "author_createdAt"
FROM (${views.tasksAndUsers})
WHERE is_private = FALSE
ORDER BY created_at DESC
LIMIT 100
`,
```

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THE N+1 QUERIES PROBLEM



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THE N+1 QUERIES PROBLEM

```
LOG: statement:

SELECT ·-·-·

FROM (

SELECT ·-·-·

FROM azdev.tasks t ,

JOIN azdev.users u ON (t.user_id = u.id)
) tau WHERE ·-·-·
```



```
import Approach from './approach';
const Task = new GraphQLObjectType({
  name: 'Task',
  fields: {
     // .-.-.
                                                                         Approach is the new
    approachList: {
                                                                         GraphQL type we
       type: new GraphQLNonNull(
                                                                         need to introduce.
         new GraphQLList(new GraphQLNonNull(Approach))
         ),
         resolve: (source, args, { pgApi }) =>
                                                            pgApi.approachList receives the ID of
a Task object (source.id) and should
           pgApi.approachList(source.id),
       },
                                                            return a list of Approach objects.
  });
```



 Let's implement the Approach type next, This is the schema-language text we have for it.



```
import {
  GraphQLID,
  GraphQLObjectType,
  GraphQLString,
  GraphQLInt,
  GraphQLNonNull,
} from 'graphql';
import User from './user';
const Approach = new GraphQLObjectType({
  name: 'Approach',
  fields: {
    id: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLID) },
    content: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString) },
    voteCount: { type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLInt) },
    createdAt: {
      type: new GraphQLNonNull(GraphQLString),
      resolve: ({ createdAt }) => createdAt.toISOString(),
    },
    author: {
      type: new GraphQLNonNull(User),
     resolve: (source, args, { pgApi }) =>
       pgApi.userInfo(source.userId),
   },
 },
                                                               });
});
export default Approach;
                                                               exp
```

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```
The columns are aliased as camel-case.

SELECT id, content, user_id AS "userId", task_id AS "taskId",

vote_count AS "voteCount", created_at AS "createdAt"

FROM azdev.approaches

WHERE task_id = ANY ($1)

ORDER BY vote_count DESC, created_at DESC

This statement needs a Task

ID value to be passed as $1.

Sorts Approaches by their vote count (and then timestamp, if many records have the same vote count)
```



 The sqls.approachesForTasklds statement will be used by the pgApi.approachList function that we will implement next.



```
1 + {
                                                         "data": {
     taskMainList {
                                                            "taskMainList": [
3
        id
4
        content
                                                               "id": "1",
5
        tags
                                                               "content": "Make an image in HTML change based on the theme
6
        approachCount
                                                       color mode (dark or light)",
7
        createdAt
                                                               "tags": [
8
                                                                 "code",
9 +
        author {
                                                                 "html"
10
          id
11
          username
                                                               "approachCount": 1,
12
          name
                                                               "createdAt": "2020-08-01T00:03:02.032Z",
13
       }
                                                               "author": { 3},
14
                                                               "approachList": [
15 v
        approachList {
16
          id
                                                                   "id": "1",
17
          content
                                                                   "content": "<picture>\n <source\n srcset=\"settings-
18
          voteCount
                                                       dark.png\"\n media=\"(prefers-color-scheme: dark)\"\n />\n
19
          createdAt
                                                                    srcset=\"settings-light.png\"\n media=\"(prefers-
                                                       <source\n
20
                                                       color-scheme: light), (prefers-color-scheme: no-preference)\"\n />\n
21 v
          author {
                                                       <img src=\"settings-light.png\" loading=\"lazy\" />\n</picture>",
22
            id
                                                                   "voteCount": 0.
23
            username
                                                                   "createdAt": "2020-08-01T00:03:02.035Z",
24
            name
                                                                   "author": { - }
25
26
    QUERY VARIABLES
```

Summary

- Use realistic, production-like data in development to make your manual tests relevant and useful.
- Start with the simplest implementations you can think of.
 Make things work, and then improve on your implementations.
- You can use the GraphQL context object to make a pool of database connections available to all resolver functions.



"Complete Lab"

