

# Glossary

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### \$cmd

A special virtual collection that exposes MongoDB's database commands. To use database commands, see [Issue Commands](#).

### \_id

A field required in every MongoDB document. The `_id` field must have a unique value. You can think of the `_id` field as the document's primary key. If you create a new document without an `_id` field, MongoDB automatically creates the field and assigns a unique BSON ObjectId.

### accumulator

An expression in the aggregation framework that maintains state between documents in the aggregation pipeline. For a list of accumulator operations, see [\\$group](#).

### action

An operation the user can perform on a resource. Actions and resources combine to create privileges. See [action](#).

### admin database

A privileged database. Users must have access to the `admin` database to run certain administrative commands. For a list of administrative commands, see [Administration Commands](#).

### aggregation

Any of a variety of operations that reduces and summarizes large sets of data. MongoDB's `aggregate()` and `mapReduce()` methods are two examples of aggregation operations. For more information, see [Aggregation](#).

### aggregation framework

The set of MongoDB operators that let you calculate aggregate values without having to use map-reduce. For a list of operators, see [Aggregation Reference](#).

### arbiter

