

Elixir Phoenix Workshop

What we will build

A very minimalistic version of a Chat App, with Phoenix Features will include :

- User Management
- Form Authentication
- JWT token for session management
- Minimal (very very) Chat interface
- Room Management

NOTE

Let's dig in

Create a Phoenix App - tag : creation

We will build an App called Slang, Sla for Slack, and ng because why not!?!

The name of the app will be used in Module name, so if you want to be able to copy paste easily use **slang** as App name

```
mix phx.new folder_name --app slang
```

It will generate a Phoenix Project in the folder specified You will get asked to download dependencies, you can safely accept :D

A tour of the Generated Code

```
|
|_ _build # where the package will be build
|_ assets # static assets, Javascript, CSS, images, webpack
|_ config # conf for the app
|_ deps   # dependencies binaries
|_ lib     # it's where our code will be.
|_ priv    # database migration and target for static build
|_ test    # TESTS for the sake of your mind!
mix.exs    # project description, dependencies, build config
README.md  # teh README, every project need one
```

Not too much spoiler, I will get in lengthy details :) Ask me for more during the workshop!

Run the project

First Create your database, and run the migrations

```
mix ecto.create
mix ecto.migrate
```

now let's open a browser and navigate to <http://localhost:4000/>

956px × 639px



Phoenix Framework

[Get Started](#)

Welcome to Phoenix!

A productive web framework that
does not compromise speed and maintainability.

Resources

- [Guides & Docs](#)
- [Source](#)
- [v1.4 Changelog](#)

Help

- [Forum](#)
- [#elixir-lang on Freenode IRC](#)
- [Twitter @elixirphoenix](#)

if you see something like that, you are on the right path fellow Elixirian :)

Authentication debut, User Creation

We will use another code generator. To generate the different form for our users management

Let's go :

```
mix phx.gen.html Accounts User users email:string password:string
password_confirmation:string
```

Generated a bunch of stuff... first let's follow the instructions.

place this line in lib/slang_web/router.ex

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
scope "/", SlangWeb do
  pipe_through :browser

  get "/", PageController, :index

  resources "/users", UserController
end
```

and then run the migration

```
mix ecto.migrate
```

now let's have a look to the apps !

```
mix phx.server
```

Where to look for nothing changed?

```
mix phx.routes
```

You will get a list of routes. Let's go to <http://localhost:4000/users> as a starting point

Oh nice an empty list. Not surprising we might need to create some user...

Continue to <http://localhost:4000/users/new> (you have a link on the previous page)

keep playing with the different screen for a moment

We have something that nearly looks like a user sign up process :D

Ok awesome on to the next level, stop saving clear password !!! We are not Sony !!!

Securing user sign up

Virtual Attributes in Schema

let's replace those 2 password attribute in the schema to make them virtual in *lib/slang/accounts/user.ex*

lib/slang/accounts/user.ex

```
field :password, :string, virtual: true
field :password_confirmation, :string, virtual: true
```

and add a new field to store the password_hash

lib/slang/accounts/user.ex

```
field :password_hash, :string
```

Ok we just changed the database table underneath. If you look at your postgres table there's those 2 fields, `password` and `password_confirmation`... not quite what we will store now...

We are going to store `password_hash`

Let's create a migration to modify our level

ok smarter but not quite nearly done We need to hash the password, and for that we need a dependency

```
mix ecto.gen.migration change_user_table
```

it generate a file in the `priv/repo/migrations`

let's open it

damn it's empty we need to find a way to do our changes...

take a look on this page : https://hexdocs.pm/ecto_sql/Ecto.Migration.html

and look for something like change or alter or something

once you know what to do run your migration

```
mix ecto.migrate
```

and check your table in postgres pgadmin3 or 4 or anything you want and see that it has changed :)

ok if you can't make it on the migration, here it is :

priv/repo/migrations/_timestamp_change_user_table.exs

```
defmodule Slang.Repo.Migrations.Change_user_table do
  use Ecto.Migration

  def change do
    alter table("users") do
      add :password_hash, :text
      remove :password
      remove :password_confirmation
    end
  end
end
```

Hashing the password

let's open mix.exs and add a dependency to hash password

mix.exs

```
defp deps do
  [
    ...
    {:comeonin, "~> 4.0"},
    {:bcrypt_elixir, "~> 0.12"},
    ...
  ]
end
```

now get those new dependencies and restart our dev environment

```
mix deps.get
mix phx.server
```

And we are back up :D

Let's hash this password !

We will do that in the changeset of the schema.

Changesets allow filtering, casting, validation and definition of constraints when manipulating structs

When we want to create a record in the database we just pass a Map describing the schema through a changeset pipeline and forward that to the Repo The Repo is the "instance" that handles the order we pass to the database.

Ok back to our little complicated changeset. replace the current changeset in the User Schema [lib/slang/accounts/user.ex](#) by this

```

defmodule

  ...

  alias Slang.Accounts.User

  ...

  @doc false
  def changeset(%User{} = user, attrs) do
    user
    |> cast(attrs, [:email, :password, :password_confirmation])
    |> validate_required([:email, :password, :password_confirmation])
    |> validate_format(:email, ~r/@/) # Check that email is valid
    |> validate_length(:password, min: 8) # Check that password length is >= 8
    |> validate_confirmation(:password) # Check that password ==
password_confirmation
    |> unique_constraint(:email)
    |> put_password_hash # Add put_password_hash to changeset pipeline
  end

  defp put_password_hash(changeset) do
    case changeset do
      %Ecto.Changeset{valid?: true, changes: %{password: pass}}
      ->
        put_change(changeset, :password_hash, Comeonin.Bcrypt.hashpwsalt(pass))
      _ ->
        changeset
    end
  end
end

```

What does it do ?

the alias is a macro that enable the compiler to use the User Schema inside the changeset itself. It's like an import in other language

- cast : will compare types of the map attributes(attrs) and the types of the User schema
- validate_required : check that everything has been set in the map
- validate_format : validate that the email as a @ somewhere
- validate_length : makes it more complicated to set a password....
- validate_confirmation : will compare the `password` and `password_confirmation`, it's a build in validator... Neat huh?
- unique_constraint : verify that email isn't already registered
- put_password_hash : it's our user defined function bellow

put_password_hash verify that the changeset is valid with an awesome pattern match that verify things

andcat same time assign password to pass

then use Comeonin (our new dependency) to hash the password and return a new changeset with the password_hash attributes set correctly with the hash

tag after those changes is `hashing_password`

pfffewwww... not a bad thing done

Now we can create a user and store it's hashed password and life is good and create, except we have no screen to login !

Login Screen

We will play with phoenix forms and understand how router forms controllers and views interact ! How supremely excited it is ! (is that too much?)

Let's take a look at this <http://localhost:4000/users/new>

I'd say that it look close to a login screen... We'll use that as a base for our new login screen !

But first let's create a url for this login page, in `lib/slang_web/router.ex`

Before we change something let me give you some kind of explanations

How is this router working :

First thing we notice is that pipeline,

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
pipeline :browser do
  plug :accepts, ["html"]
  plug :fetch_session
  plug :fetch_flash
  plug :protect_from_forgery
  plug :put_secure_browser_headers
end
```

What's a pipeline? As it's name let think it's a pipeline through which every request entering phoenix will transit. Each step of the pipeline is an elixir plug. A plug is A specification for composable modules between web applications, this is the building block of nearly every web application in Elixir.

so here we will go through:

- verify that the request speaks html
- attach the session to the connection (req/resp in phoenix)
the session is stored in a JWT token as a cookie coming from the browser. yes we are stateless by default :D
- attach the flash message - specific part of the session to store message for the user,
it's a build in mechanism in phoenix - we want to display messages to our user when an action is done during a navigation (saving a form for example)

- `protect_from_forgery` is pretty explicit - it protects from forgery :)
- secure the browser headers - another security plug to protect the users and the app.

Next in the router is another pipeline used for api - we will see that later in the workshop

Then comes this Scope :

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
scope "/", SlangWeb do
  pipe_through :browser

  get "/", PageController, :index

  resources "/users", UserController

end
```

Ok the scope is where the actual routing is done.

As you can see this is where we use our browser pipeline.

So for a connection to be handled by this scope it will have to comply with the pipeline `:browser`

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
get "/", PageController, :index
```

Defines a endpoint at the root of the webapp

If the request is a GET it will be handled by the `index` function PageController referred to as the atom `:index`

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
resources "/users", UserController
```

resources define a complete set of urls for CRUD operation on entity it's the equivalent of all this:

mix phx.routes

user_path	GET	/users	SlangWeb.UserController :index
user_path	GET	/users/:id/edit	SlangWeb.UserController :edit
user_path	GET	/users/new	SlangWeb.UserController :new
user_path	GET	/users/:id	SlangWeb.UserController :show
user_path	POST	/users	SlangWeb.UserController :create
user_path	PATCH	/users/:id	SlangWeb.UserController :update
	PUT	/users/:id	SlangWeb.UserController :update
user_path	DELETE	/users/:id	SlangWeb.UserController :delete

Here is what we are looking for, this `new` route let's try to create a new route to our login page. I want my login page to be at the root of my webapp : <http://localhost:4000/login>

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
get "/login", UserController, :login
```

let's had that at the end of our scope you can try the URL in your browser right now, but it will fail since the UserController can't handle our login operation yet. Let's fix that !

Open `lib/slang_web/controller/user_controller.ex`

We have a lot of function in there... each one is handling an operation from the router. This is where the logic on the connection is handled. Please don't put too much application logic here. It's not the best place, your logic should go in the `lib/slang` folder in it's respectable domain :)

Now we really need this login action to be implemented, since we want to copy the new page, let's also copy the new function from our UserController and rename it login

lib/slang_web/controller/user_controller.ex

```
def login(conn, _params) do
  changeset = Accounts.change_user(%User{})
  render(conn, "new.html", changeset: changeset)
end
```

if we point to the `new.html` template, phoenix is happily showing you the new form, but we want a login form... so :

lib/slang_web/controller/user_controller.ex

```
def login(conn, _params) do
  changeset = Accounts.change_user(%User{})
  render(conn, "login.html", changeset: changeset)
end
```

Now Phoenix is not happy anymore, he commands us to create a login template... let's oblige :)

just copy paste this file `lib/slang_web/templates/user/new.html.eex` to `lib/slang_web/templates/user/login.html.eex`

It renders something ! Awesome ! Well done fellow Elixirian !

Now let's customize our new login page ! Take a look at the `lib/slang_web/templates/user/login.html.eex` Oy Oy Oy it refers to some kind of form.html. That's a composition pattern used in the templates. When Phoenix generate the template, it generate only one form and reuse for all the actions : creation and update

Since we are not aiming for reusability just copy the `lib/slang_web/templates/user/form.html.eex` to `lib/slang_web/templates/user/form_login.html.eex` and update the login template to reflect the change

lib/slang_web/templates/user/login.html.eex

```
<%= render "form_login.html", Map.put(assigns, :action, Routes.user_path(@conn, :create)) %>
```

and the *lib/slang_web/templates/user/form_login.html.eex*

lib/slang_web/templates/user/form_login.html.eex

```
<%= form_for @changeset, @action, fn f -> %>
  <%= if @changeset.action do %>
    <div class="alert alert-danger">
      <p>Oops, something went wrong! Please check the errors below.</p>
    </div>
  <% end %>

  <%= label f, :email %>
  <%= text_input f, :email %>
  <%= error_tag f, :email %>

  <%= label f, :password %>
  <%= password_input f, :password %>
  <%= error_tag f, :password %>

  <div>
    <%= submit "Login" %>
  </div>
<% end %>
```

Last but not least for this part,
the user will not find the login URL by itself, we need to create a link for that on the main page !

lib/slang_web/templates/layout/app.html.eex

```
    <nav role="navigation">
      <ul>
        <li><a href="https://hexdocs.pm/phoenix/overview.html">Get
Started</a></li>
        <li>
          <%= link "New Login", to: Routes.user_path(@conn, :login) %>
        </li>
      </ul>
    </nav>
```

so we define a link with the phoenix helper function `link`, and we link to a `Routes.login_path` But where is it coming from? How do I know ?

mix phx.routes

```
-> % mix phx.routes
page_path GET / SlangWeb.PageController :index
user_path GET /users SlangWeb.UserController :index
user_path GET /users/:id/edit SlangWeb.UserController :edit
user_path GET /users/new SlangWeb.UserController :new
user_path GET /users/:id SlangWeb.UserController :show
user_path POST /users SlangWeb.UserController :create
user_path PATCH /users/:id SlangWeb.UserController :update
user_path PUT /users/:id SlangWeb.UserController :update
user_path DELETE /users/:id SlangWeb.UserController :delete
user_path GET /login SlangWeb.UserController :login
```

See that last line in bold? it's where you can find the function we are using in the template.

The `@conn` parameter is the way we refer to arguments passed to the template, so yeah the `conn` is passed as an argument to the template, that should not be a great surprise, since the connection hold the state of the request.

We can see how the param are passed to the template in the controller

lib/slang_web/controllers/user_controller.ex

```
def index(conn, _params) do
  users = Accounts.list_users()
  render(conn, "index.html", users: users)
end
```

we will pass the list of users in a Map with the key `users`

it is used in the template like this :

lib/slang_web/templates/user/index.html.eex

```
<%= for user <- @users do %>
  <tr>
    <td><%= user.email %></td>
    <td><%= user.password %></td>
    <td><%= user.password_confirmation %></td>

    <td>
      <%= link "Show", to: Routes.user_path(@conn, :show, user) %>
      <%= link "Edit", to: Routes.user_path(@conn, :edit, user) %>
      <%= link "Delete", to: Routes.user_path(@conn, :delete, user), method:
:delete, data: [confirm: "Are you sure?"] %>
    </td>
  </tr>
<% end %>
```

we see that it iterates in the list of users using the `@users` syntax. you can also see that the `user` is defined inside the template and doesn't need the `@` that the way to differentiate between template arguments and scoped variable of the template. you can also see how to use the `for` loop in Elixir with the backward arrow `<`

For cosmetic reason I want that when I click on the Elixir Phoenix Logo I am redirected to the index of the app, instead of the Phoenix web page.

```
<section class="container">

  ...

  <%= link to: Routes.page_path(@conn, :index), class: "phx-logo" do %>
    "
    alt="Phoenix Framework Logo"/>
  <% end %>
</section>
```

We replace the `<a href` that surround the `img` with the Phoenix Template way to create a link. Same as before, we used the `Routes` helper function to redirect to the `:index` of the app.

That the end of this part concentrated on the templating system of Phoenix

The tag of the code in the repo is : `forms_template_login`

Managing JWT Token with Guardian

That's the worst part (in terms of complexity) - you can avoid it by moving to the tag `user_authentication_finished`

Now that we have an awesome page where we can have a user input there credential, It might be usefull to process those credential to authenticate the user !

Let's do that right now !

first we defined a `form_login` but what does it do?

lib/slang_web/templates/user/form_login.eex

```
<%= form_for @changeset, @action, fn f -> %>
  <%= if @changeset.action do %>
    <div class="alert alert-danger">
      <p>Oops, something went wrong! Please check the errors below.</p>
    </div>
  <% end %>

  <%= label f, :email %>
  <%= text_input f, :email %>
  <%= error_tag f, :email %>

  <%= label f, :password %>
  <%= password_input f, :password %>
  <%= error_tag f, :password %>

  <div>
    <%= submit "Login" %>
  </div>
<% end %>
```

if looks like that a function, `form_for` that takes 3 params, a changeset (a keyvalue map), an action (!) and a function.

so `@action` is what will be called on submit and the function as a parameter is simply a way to like the html tag with the elixir code. This function receive a parametre `f`, that is passed to each component, label, text_input, error_tag, etc...

But the action seems to come from a controller. Let's look at the `user_controller`

lib/slang_web/controllers/user_controller.ex

```
def login(conn, _params) do
  changeset = Accounts.change_user(%User{})
  render(conn, "login.html", changeset: changeset)
end
```

Hum nothing here... except we are rendering a login.html, let's look at this template

/lib/slang_web/templates/user/login.html.eex

```
<h1>Login</h1>

<%= render "form_login.html", Map.put(assigns, :action, Routes.user_path(@conn,
:create)) %>

<span><%= link "Back", to: Routes.user_path(@conn, :index) %></span>
```

Yeah here ! That's where we define the action when we add a new keyvalue to the assigns map. `assigns` is

the named of the map used to hold the variable of the template

So the action is a route pointing to the `:create` action in `UserController` Looking at the `mix phx.routes` it's a POST which make sense since we want to push a form

But we don't want to create a user... we want to validate its email / password

The Plan : - Add a new route to handle the post submission - Create a function in the controller to handle to POST - Delegate the check to the Accounts Module - Find the user by it's email from the database - Compare the hashed password from the database, with the form hashed password - Give all that back to the controller for it to display result to the user.

Let's create a new Route in the router for that.

lib/slang_web/router.ex

```
scope "/", SlangWeb do

  ...

  post "/validate_login", UserController, :validate_login
end
```

nothing new, a post to a controller function

in the controller let's create that function

lib/slang_web/controllers/user_controller.ex

```
def validate_login(conn, %{"user" => login_params}) do
  case Accounts.form_sign_in(login_params["email"], login_params["password"], conn)
do
  {:ok, conn} ->
    conn
    |> put_flash(:info, "Login successfully.")
    |> redirect(to: Routes.page_path(conn, :index))
  {:error, :unauthorized} ->
    changeset = Accounts.change_user(%User{})
    conn
    |> put_flash(:error, "Couldn't log you in")
    |> render("login.html", changeset: changeset)
end
end
```

it delegate the check of the password to the Accounts Module if `form_sign_in` return the type `{:ok, conn}` everything is ok

and we can redirect the user to the home page, and display a message about the success if `form_sign_in` returns an error, user stays on login page, and an error is displayed

first we need a function the get a user from the database by it's email adress
.lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
defmodule Slang.Accounts do

  import Comeonin.Bcrypt, only: [checkpw: 2, dummy_checkpw: 0]
  ...
end
```

first import the cryptographic function that we will use `checkpw` and `dummy_checkpw`

lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
...
defp get_by_email(email) when is_binary(email) do
  case Repo.get_by(User, email: email) do
    nil ->
      dummy_checkpw()
      {:error, "Login error."}
    user ->
      {:ok, user}
  end
end
```

Repo is the data repository, it handle calls to the database. It has a convinient function that will retrieve one entity called `get_by`, takes 2 args, first is the entity, and second is a field and it's value to query

`dummy_checkpw` will create a delay when the user is not found, mimiking a password hash comparaisn, to avoid email fishing on your app.

if a user is found it return it. if no user is found it return an error.

ok now we need to create this `form_sign_in` function in the Accounts module

lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
...

def form_sign_in(email, password, conn) do
  case email_password_auth(email, password) do
    {:ok, _user} ->
      {:ok, conn}
    _ ->
      {:error, :unauthorized}
  end
end

...
```

it delegate the password checkin to the `email_password_auth` function

lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
...

defp email_password_auth(email, password) when is_binary(email) and
is_binary(password) do
  with {:ok, user} <- get_user_by_email(email),
  do: verify_password(password, user)
end

...
```

call the `get_user_by_email` function to retrieve the entity from the database if it does, it calls another function to verify the password

lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
...

defp verify_password(password, %User{} = user) when is_binary(password) do
  if checkpw(password, user.password_hash) do
    {:ok, user}
  else
    {:error, :invalid_password}
  end
end

...
```

`checkpw` is a function provided by Comeonin (our crypto dependency) to check the password against it's hashed version.

if the user password is validated it is returned else it return as error with an `invalid_password`

And we are done ! We can check the password of the user and be sure it's validated

NOTE | git tag at this point is : `password_check_done`

Only thing we need to do now is store that in the JWT token of the app. That's the job of Guardian

first add the guardian dependency:

mix.exs

```
defp deps do
  [
    ...
    {:guardian, "~> 1.2.1"},
    ...
  ]
end
```

then configure it:

config/config.exs

```
# Guardian config
config :slang, Slang.Guardian,
  issuer: "slang",
  secret_key: "a2rLR0uj4W1nQ3h3kTCONdx/jGtKlNrHvu0AUv7EwLLthDFTvsjXNL3SRZbPd7x/"
```

a word on config,
there's 2 part to the config :

- config.exs witch is the default / main config,
- dev.exs / prod.exs which is a loaded by the config.exs based on the MIX_ENV environment variable

let's call a login function in our `form_sign_in` on success of password check like that :

lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
...
def form_sign_in(email, password, conn) do
  case email_password_auth(email, password) do
    {:ok, user} ->
      {:ok, login(conn, user)}
    _ ->
      {:error, :unauthorized}
  end
end
...
```

lib/slang/accounts/accounts.ex

```
def login(conn, user) do
  IO.inspect conn
  conn
    |> Guardian.Plug.sign_in(user)
end
```

```
mix phx.gen.html Chat Room rooms name:string description:string
```

```
mix phx.gen.html Chat Message messages text:string sender_id:references:users  
room_id:references:rooms
```

And remember, Keep Elixiring :)