

# 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

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

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

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

and add a new field to store the password\_hash

```
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](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 :

```
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

```
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

```
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
```

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 and at 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`

pffewwww... 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,

```
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 :

```
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.

## Managing JWT Token with Guardian

```
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 :)