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Feature Request: Parameterized labels for create

New issue

Open

terribleplan opened this issue Mar 30, 2015 · 5 comments



terribleplan commented Mar 30, 2015

Description

Allow a user to send a parameter for the label of a create statement.

Use case

When inserting new nodes into the graph it would allow users to simply `CREATE (n:{type} {document})` to create a new node with a label, instead of requiring them to build a string with the type statically inserted.

Additional

It'd be great if this could work for non-creation queries as well, since that would still require string building. It may not be possible though, due to constraints in query optimization. I don't know enough to intelligently comment on that end of things, but I would like some additional usefulness (that I actually assumed was already there) out of a tool I am using.

Labels

None yet

Milestone

No milestone

Assignee

No one assigned

2 participants



cleishm commented Mar 30, 2015

Owner

Hi @terribleplan,

Thanks for the input. This is almost a duplicate of #340.

Certainly there are constraints that require knowing the labels in statements that require index selection - use of parameters would hide that from the compiler. Generally, my experience has also been that the desire to parameterize labels/types can be indicative of a modeling concern - a typical model would have a small, consistent and well-known set of labels/types, and if these instead needs to be determined at runtime then it *may* be that a well-known property and dynamic value is more appropriate.

That said, there are undoubtably some cases that can't be addressed in alternate ways. It would be great if you could share yours.

Cheers,
Chris



terribleplan commented Mar 30, 2015

@cleishm Thanks for the quick reply. What I am building is basically a generic middleware for creating a RESTful API in node.js atop Neo4j, and as such I don't know anything about their models until they create one with my middleware. I don't really want to tell users "You can't use 'type' in your model", I would like to give them full access to use whatever properties they want, and then basically manage the rest through whatever metadata-like mechanisms exist.



cleishm commented Mar 30, 2015

Owner

Have you considered generating the queries to contain the appropriate label then? Middleware for SQL databases also has the same challenge, as you can't parameterize table or column names.

It may be easier in the long run, as you'll want to be substituting in the user-defined labels into read queries also, where index selection is required.



terribleplan commented Mar 30, 2015

Yeah, that's what I'm falling back to now, but I have always had a version to string building SQL queries. I figured I would create a feature request in case it could change for the future and I could at least change it in the `CREATE` s.

Feel free to close this in favor of [#340](#), I created this because there seemed to be no comment from contributors on using it in `CREATE` , only a way to use it in `WHERE` .



cleishm commented Mar 30, 2015

Owner

I'll leave it open for now, and pass the feedback along to our team. Thanks for taking the time to provide it!

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