Working With Data

Working with data is one of the most critical aspects of every business application. Unfortunately, PHP is not so good when it comes to this. In my opinion, one of the best and worst features of PHP is arrays. Especially associative arrays. The problems are:

- No type-hints
- Undocumented structure
- No restrictions. You can put product models, product IDs, and product arrays under the same key.

Associative arrays are big unstructured blobs of data. Don't get me wrong; they can be helpful but very annoying at the same time. Initially, PHP arrays tried to solve every problem: queues, stacks, lists, hash maps, and trees. Everything. But with its weak type system, it's tough to maintain this kind of data structure.

If you think about it, data plays a huge role in any business application:

- The request comes in. It contains the incoming data.
- The business layer processes this data.
- The database layer inserts this data into the DB.
- The response comes out. It includes the outgoing data.

So you have to work with data in every single layer of your application. Fortunately, Laravel and DDD give us some very clever concepts.