

Setting Up Your Development Environment

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About this module

As a developer, you will create Neo4j Databases, add and update data in them, and query the data. When you learn to use Neo4j as a developer, you have two options! the Neo4j Desktop or the Neo4j Sandbox. In this module you will learn how to use each of these development environments and select the option that is best for your needs while you are learning about Neo4j.

Many graph-enabled applications have been developed and deployed using Neo4j's Community Edition (free). If your enterprise requires features such as advanced access control, secure routing, advanced caching, etc. you will use Neo4j's Enterprise Edition which you can download and start using for free.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:

- " Determine the development environment that is best for you:
 - # Install and start using the Neo4j Desktop.
 - # Create a Neo4j Sandbox for learning Neo4j.
- " Start using Neo4j Browser.

Neo4j Desktop

The Neo4j Desktop includes the Neo4j Database server which includes the graph engine and kernel so that Cypher code can execute to access a database on your system. It also includes libraries and drivers for accessing the Neo4j database from Cypher code or from another programming language. In addition, it includes an application called Neo4j Browser. Neo4j Browser enables you to access a Neo4j database using Cypher code. You can also call built-in procedures that communicate with the database server. If you are looking to use your system for application development and you want to be able to create multiple Neo4j databases on your, you should consider downloading the Neo4j Desktop (free download). The Neo4j Desktop runs on OSX, Linux, and Windows.

Neo4j Sandbox

The Neo4j sandbox is another way that you can begin development with Neo4j. It is a temporary, cloud-based instance of a Neo4j Server with its associated graph that you can access from any Web browser.

By default, the Neo4j sandbox is available for three days, but you can extend it for up to 10 days. If you do not want to install Neo4j Desktop on your system, consider creating a Neo4j sandbox. You must make sure that you extend your lease of the sandbox, otherwise you will lose your graph and any saved Cypher scripts you have created in the sandbox. However, you can use Neo4j Browser Sync to save Cypher scripts from your sandbox. Neo4j recommends you use the Desktop for a real development project. The Sandbox is intended as a temporary environment or for learning about the features of Neo4j.

Guided Exercise: Getting Started with Neo4j Desktop

Guided Exercise: Creating a Neo4j sandbox

Using Neo4j Browser

Neo4j Browser is a tool that enables you to access a Neo4j Database by executing Cypher code to create or update data in the graph and to query the graph to return data. The data returned can either be displayed as tables or text, or can be visualized as nodes and relationships in a graph. In addition to executing Cypher code, you can execute a number of system calls that are related to the database being accessed by the Browser. For example, you can retrieve the list of queries that are currently running in the server.

There are two ways that you can use Neo4j Browser functionality:

- " Open the Neo4j Browser application from Neo4j Desktop (database is local)
- " Use the Neo4j Browser Web interface by specifying a URL in a Web browser using port 7474 (database is local or in the cloud)

The user interface and behavior for the Neo4j Browser application and Neo4j Browser Web interface is identical, except that in the Web interface, you have the option of syncing your settings and scripts in the cloud.

Guided Exercise: Getting Started with Neo4j Browser

Check your understanding

Question 1

What development environment should you use if you want to develop a graph-enabled application using a local Neo4j Database?

Select the correct answer.

- \$ Neo4j Desktop
- \$ Neo4j Sandbox

Question 2

What development environment should you use if you want develop a graph-enabled application using a temporary, cloud-based Neo4j Database?

Select the correct answer.

- \$ Neo4j Desktop
- \$ Neo4j Sandbox

Question 3

Which Neo4j Browser command do you use to view a browser guide for the Movie graph?

Select the correct answer.

- \$ MATCH (Movie Graph)
- \$:MATCH (Movie Graph)
- \$ play Movie Graph
- \$:play Movie Graph

Summary

You should now be able to:

- " Determine the development environment that is best for you:
 - # Install and start using the Neo4j Desktop.
 - # Create a Neo4j Sandbox for learning Neo4j.
- " Start using Neo4j Browser.