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Blog App: Create the Backend

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In this guide, we'll create the backend of our blog. The blog backend needs to:

- store comments for a blog post
- authenticate and authorize users
- find existing comments for a blog post

We'll store the comments within an instance of MongoDB. However, we can't just give all users edit permissions for all comments. We need to make sure that users can only create, edit, and delete comments associated with their user ID, a concept known as authorization. We also want to make sure that a user can't login as another user, a concept known as authentication. To accomplish this, we'll use MongoDB Stitch, which has a built-in user management system that integrates with MongoDB Atlas using rules to enforce user permissions. We can link our instance of MongoDB Atlas to our Stitch application so we can query our database directly through Stitch. Let's get started!

Time required: 15 minutes

What You'll Need

- A MongoDB Atlas account.
- A MongoDB cluster hosted on Atlas. You can create an `M0` Atlas cluster for free. To get up and running with a free `M0` cluster, follow the MongoDB Atlas Getting Started guide ↗.

Procedure

1

Create a Stitch Application

Create a Stitch Application to host the back-end of our blog.

To create a new Stitch application:

1. Log in to Stitch ↗.
2. Click **Stitch Apps** in the left-hand navigation of the MongoDB Atlas console.
3. Click **Create New Application**.
4. Give the application a name (e.g. **BlogTutorial**) and click **Create**.
5. Wait for your application to initialize. Upon creation of your app, you will be redirected to the Stitch UI.

2 Turn on Anonymous Authentication

We need to enable an authentication provider so that users can log in and query MongoDB.

From the **Getting Started** page of the Stitch UI, enable **Anonymous Authentication** under the **Turn On Authentication** heading.

> NOTE:
>
> This tutorial uses anonymous authentication, but you can configure your app to let users authenticate with another method, such as email/password, Google OAuth, or a custom authentication system based on JSON Web Tokens.
>
> See the Authentication Providers Overview for more information, including a complete list of available authentication providers.

3 Configure the `blog.comments` MongoDB Collection

We need to configure rules for the `comments` collection before Stitch will allow users to query it.

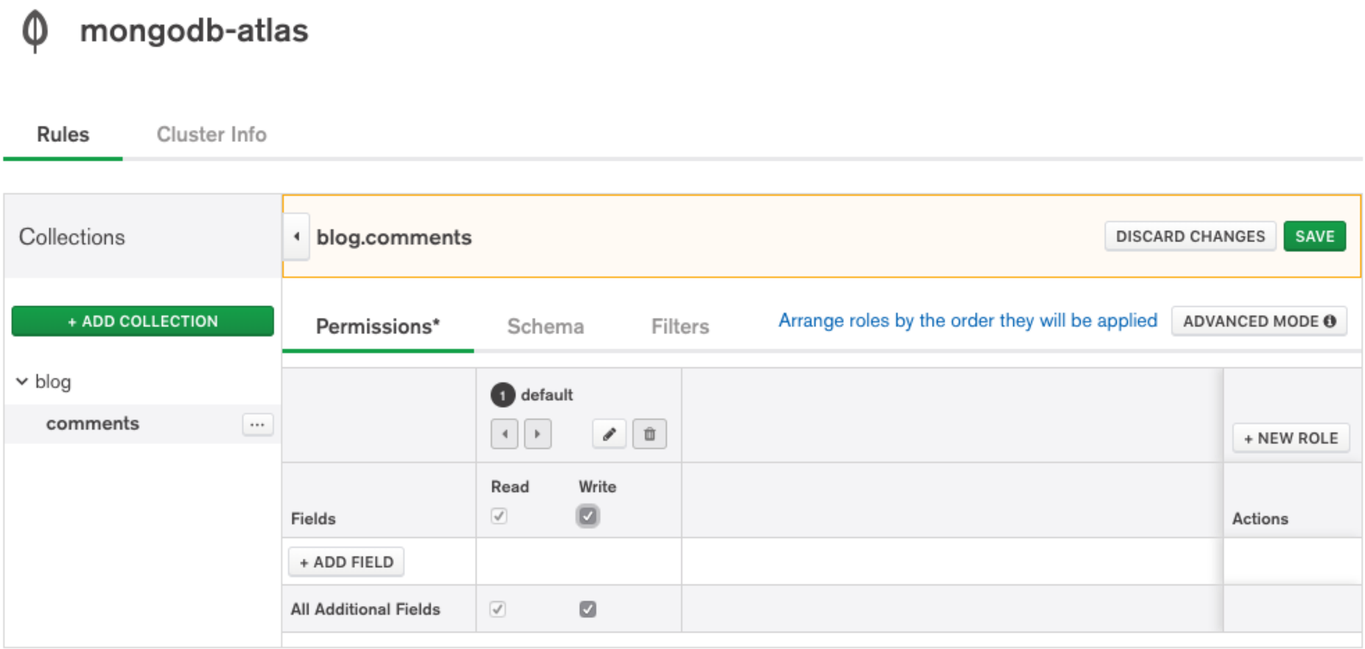
To configure the collection:

1. Click **Rules** under **MongoDB Atlas** in the left-hand navigation of the Stitch UI.
2. Click **Add Collection**.
3. Enter `blog` for the **Database Name**.
4. Enter `comments` for the **Collection Name**.
5. Select **No Template**
6. Click **Add Collection**.

You should now see the **Permissions** tab of the rules for the `comments` collection. The default role doesn't allow any user to read or write to the collection.

To enable reading and writing to the `comments` collection:

1. Click the **Read** and **Write** checkboxes for the **default** role.
2. Click **Save**.



click to enlarge

4 Deploy Your Application

Stitch saves changes that you make in a draft state that is not immediately available to client applications. To give client applications access, you must deploy your draft changes. To deploy changes, click **Review & Deploy Changes** in the banner at the top of the Stitch UI and then click **Deploy**.

Summary

Congratulations, the blog backend is all set up in Stitch so users can view and comment on your blog!

What's Next

Use the Blog App: Create a Web Client guide to step through the process of building the web frontend.