Laravel News

20 Laravel Eloquent Tips and Tricks

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Eloquent ORM seems like a simple mechanism, but under the hood, there's a lot of semi-hidden functions and less-known ways to achieve more with it. In this article, I will show you a few tricks.

1. Increments and Decrements

Instead of this:

```
$article = Article::find($article_id);
$article->read_count++;
$article->save();
```

You can do this:

```
$article = Article::find($article_id);
$article->increment('read_count');
```

Also these will work:

```
Article::find($article_id)->increment('read_count');
Article::find($article_id)->increment('read_count', 10); // +10
Product::find($produce_id)->decrement('stock'); // -1
```

---

2. XorY methods

Eloquent has quite a few functions that combine two methods, like "please do X, otherwise do Y".

Example 1 – **`findOrFail()`**:

Instead of:

```
$user = User::findOrFail($id);
```

Example 2 – `firstOrCreate()`:

Instead of:

```
$user = User::where('email', $email)->first();
if (!$user) {
  User::create([
    'email' => $email
  ]);
}
```

Do just this:

```
$user = User::firstOrCreate(['email' => $email]);
```

---

3. Model boot() method

There is a magical place called `boot()` in an Eloquent model where you can override default behavior:

```
class User extends Model
{
    public static function boot()
    {
        parent::boot();
        static::updating(function($model)
        {
```

generate UUID field at that moment.

```
public static function boot()
{
  parent::boot();
  self::creating(function ($model) {
    $model->uuid = (string)Uuid::generate();
  });
}
```

---

4. Relationship with conditions and ordering

This is a typical way to define relationship:

```
public function users() {
    return $this->hasMany('App\User');
}
```

But did you know that at this point we can already add **`where`** or **`orderBy`**?
For example, if you want a specific relationship for some type of users, also ordered by email, you can do this:

```
public function approvedUsers() {
```

```
class User extends Model {
    protected $table = 'users';
    protected $fillable = ['email', 'password']; // which fielc
    protected $dates = ['created_at', 'deleted_at']; // which f
    protected $appends = ['field1', 'field2']; // additional va
}
```

But wait, there's more:

```
protected $primaryKey = 'uuid'; // it doesn't have to be "id"
public $incrementing = false; // and it doesn't even have to be
protected $perPage = 25; // Yes, you can override pagination cc
const CREATED_AT = 'created_at';
const UPDATED_AT = 'updated_at'; // Yes, even those names can b
public $timestamps = false; // or even not used at all
```

And there's even more, I've listed the most interesting ones, for more please check out the code of default abstract Model class and check out all the traits used.

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6. Find multiple entries

```
$users = User::where('approved', 1)->get();
```

Into this:

```
$users = User::whereApproved(1)->get();
```

Yes, you can change the name of any field and append it as a suffix to "where" and it will work by magic.

Also, there are some pre-defined methods in Eloquent, related to date/time:

```
User::whereDate('created_at', date('Y-m-d'));
User::whereDay('created_at', date('d'));
User::whereMonth('created_at', date('m'));
User::whereYear('created_at', date('Y'));
```

9. Eloquent::when() – no more if-else's

Many of us write conditional queries with "if-else", something like this:

```
if (request('filter_by') == 'likes') {
    $query->where('likes', '>', request('likes_amount', 0));
}
if (request('filter_by') == 'date') {
    $query->orderBy('created_at', request('ordering_rule', 'des
}
```

But there's a better way – to use **`when()`**:

```
$query = Author::query();
```

But what if the author is deleted, or isn't set for some reason? You will get an error, something like “property of non-object”.

Of course, you can prevent it like this:

```
{{ $post->author->name ?? '' }}
```

But you can do it on Eloquent relationship level:

```
public function author()
{
    return $this->belongsTo('App\Author')->withDefault();
```

```
1  $clients = Client::orderBy('full_name')->get(); // doesn't work
```

The solution is quite simple. We need to order the results **after** we get them.

```
1  $clients = Client::get()->sortBy('full_name'); // works!
```

```
    ->whereRaw('price > IF(state = "TX", ?, 100)', [200])
    ->get();

```

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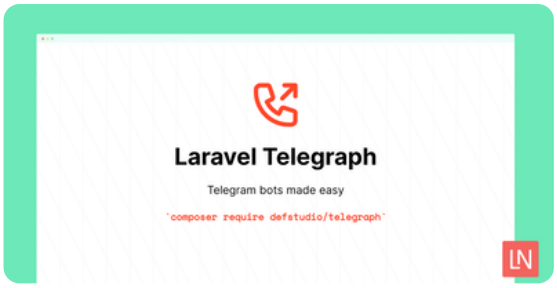

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