

Database Design

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Overview

The best choice for my application is MongoDB. I have chosen to use this system because the parts of my application that will be stored, bits of information such as first and last names and sentence for the backgrounds, will not need to share relationships among themselves. I plan to make each bit of data type contain an identifier where needed to allow the correct type of information to be picked up, and that should be more than sufficient.

In this case the information created by the application will be saved to the user's computer rather than to any online service so the actual calculations will be handled on the PHP side.

Data Specifications

I will have several different tables for my data as there are a few types of information I want to fill in. Names, childhood backgrounds, and adult backgrounds are three that are crucial for the application. Names will need to have three types in it as well, surnames, male first names, and female first names.

Structures

Names Table

```
{  
  
  "_id": int  
  
  "type": string (first or surname)  
  
  "region": string (for allowing the user to choose a region of the world for the character)  
  
  "gender": string (male, female, or neutral)  
  
  "name": string  
  
}
```

Childhood Backstories

```
{  
  
  "_id": int  
  
    "region": string  
  
  "sentence": string  
  
}
```

Adult Backstories

```
{  
  
  "_id": int
```

```
“region”: string  
  
“sentence”: string  
  
}
```

Purpose, Implementation, and Interactions

Names

Finding an appropriate name for a character is one of the most difficult things for me. Being able to automate that is necessary to streamline the process of creating a character. This is therefore a vital part of the application. I have personally used existing name generators quite often when that was all that I needed because hunting through naming websites takes so much time.

For this I want to fully automate the process of providing a full name for the character. I do want to give the user the option to choose a region for the name and how many middle names to give the character, but by default it should only give them one first and one last. I also want to have the option to choose more than just male or female characters, in which case the application will be able to search both male and female first names as well as neutrals for the character.

Backstories

This is where the character is fleshed out. Childhood and adulthood backstories together should combine to give the character the bones of a backstory that will prompt the user to invent ways in which to connect the two, thus giving the character a fully unique background.

A good example of what I hope will happen would be if the character were given a childhood backstory of being an orphan from a small town, and an adult story of being a banker. The author would then be able to consider how these two might have occurred, as well as their own intentions for the character, to decide how this young orphan became a banker. If they need a villain, they could say the character became a crime boss, or if they need a generic background character, they could say he was adopted into a family of bankers.

The idea here is to spark creativity and allow the user to customize the character further for whatever they might need. For that reason, I would like to implement the ability to choose how many details from each life stage are given for the character. More may prove difficult to connect, but it also becomes a creative exercise on its own trying to connect multiple backstory prompts into a cohesive character.