

17625: API Design

Assignment 2.2: GraphQL API

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1. Testing

- Identifier: BookAppointmentSuccess

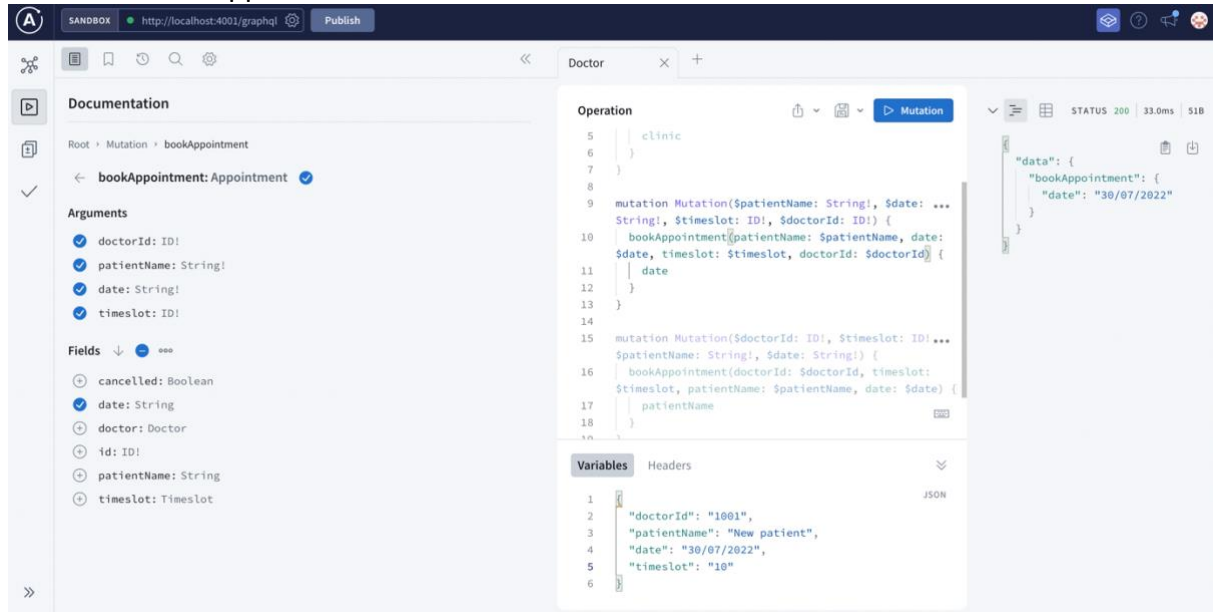


Figure 1: Successful appointment booking

- Identifier: BookAppointmentFail

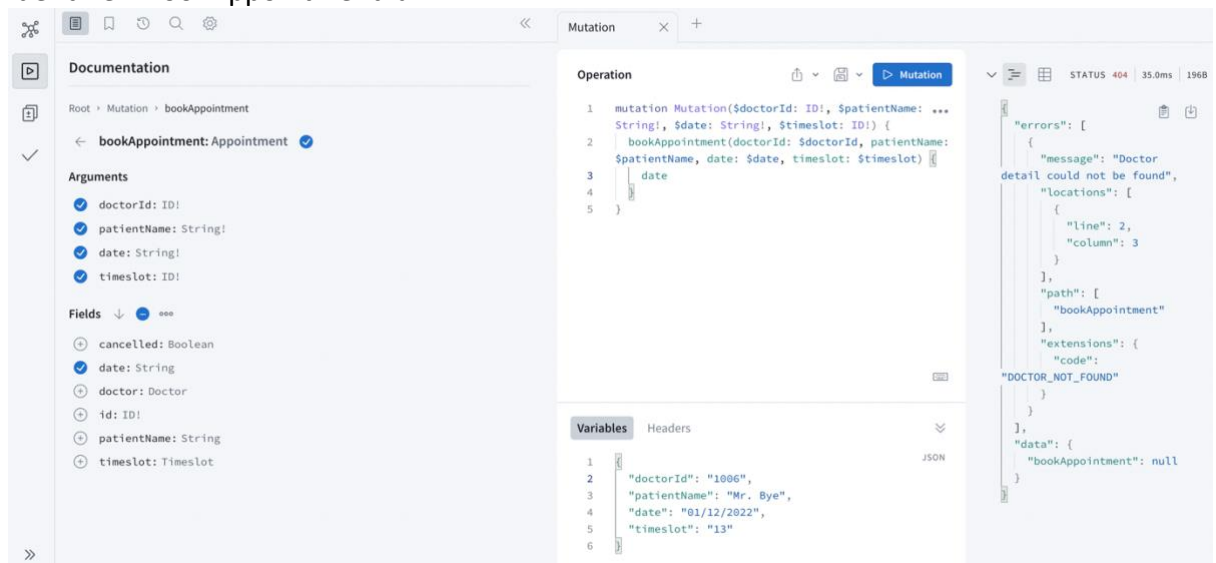


Figure 2: Unsuccessful appointment booking

- Identifier: UpdateAppointmentSuccess

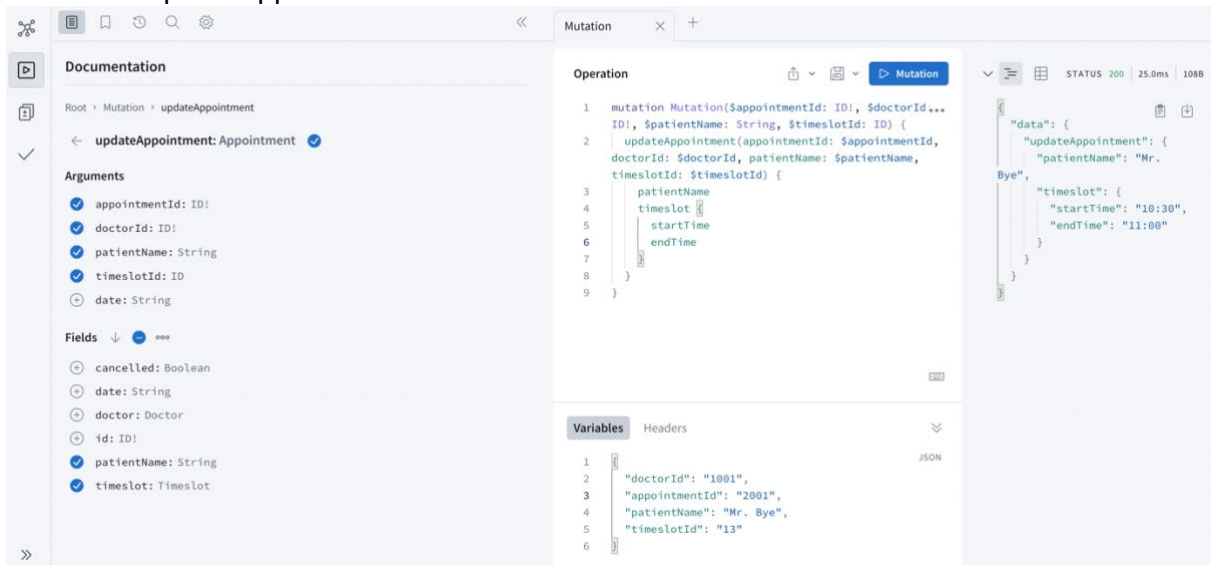


Figure 3: Successful appointment update

- Identifier: UpdateAppointmentFail

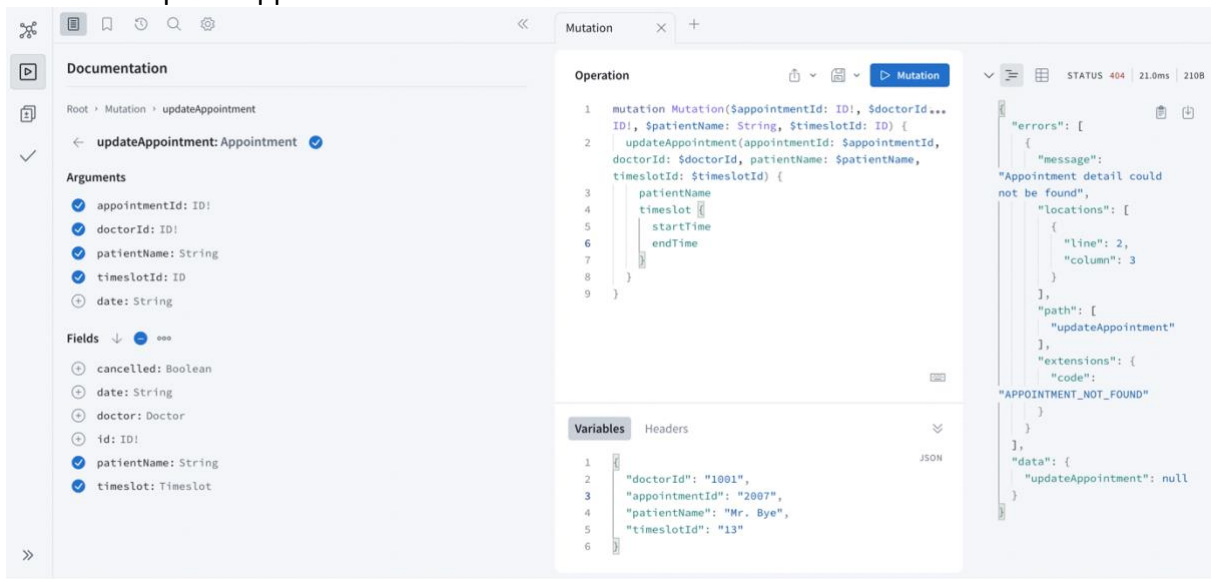


Figure 4: Unsuccessful appointment update

- Identifier: CancelAppointmentSuccess

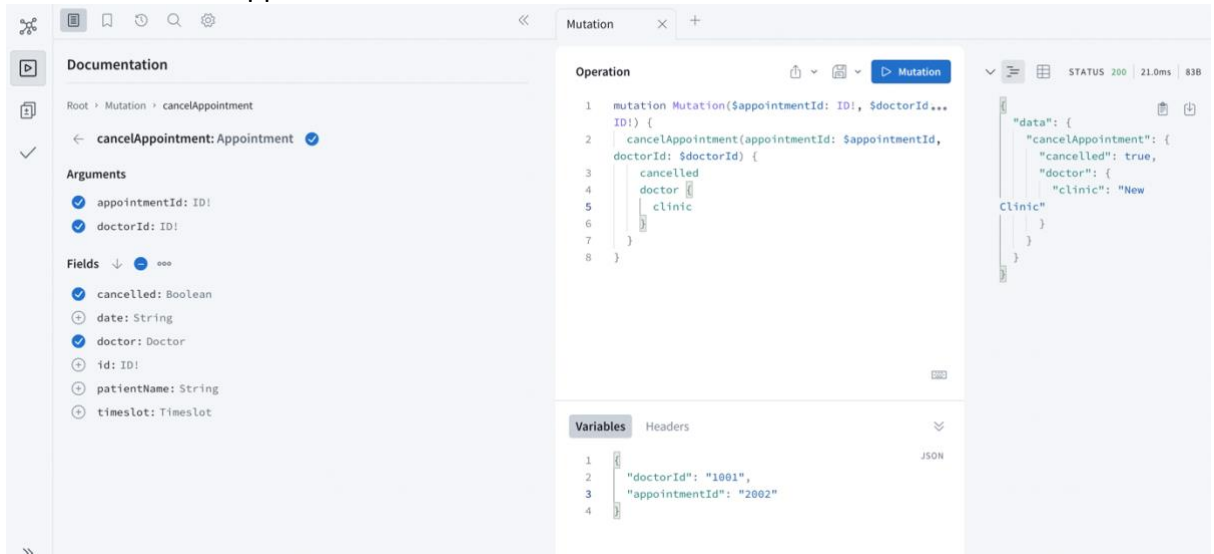


Figure 5: Successful appointment cancellation

- Identifier: CancelAppointmentFail

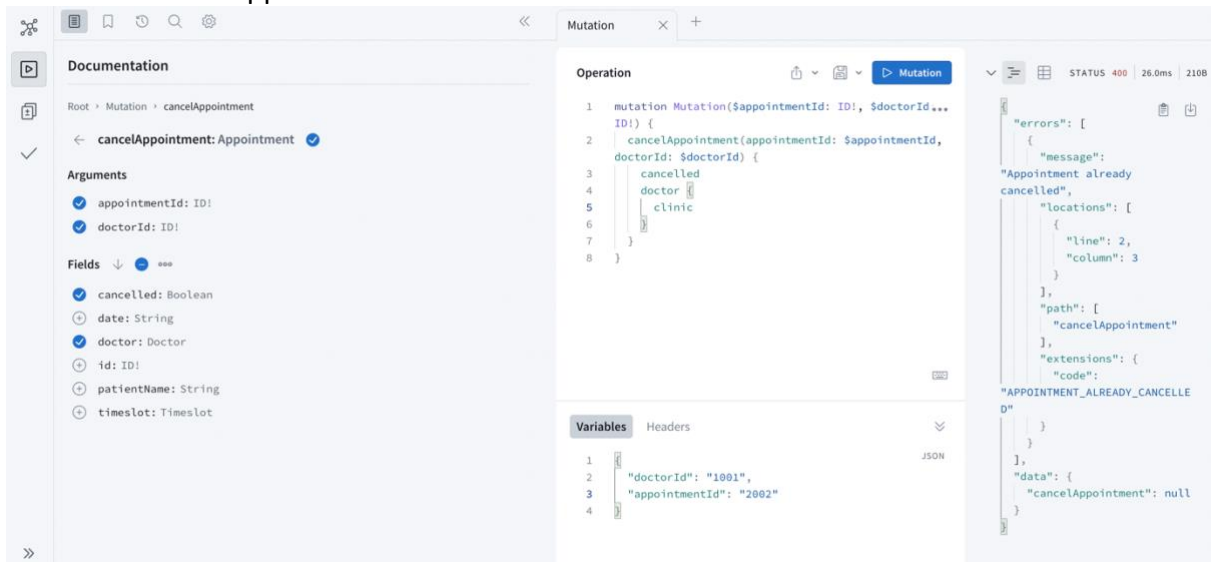


Figure 6: Unsuccessful appointment cancellation

- Identifier: DoctorQuerySuccess

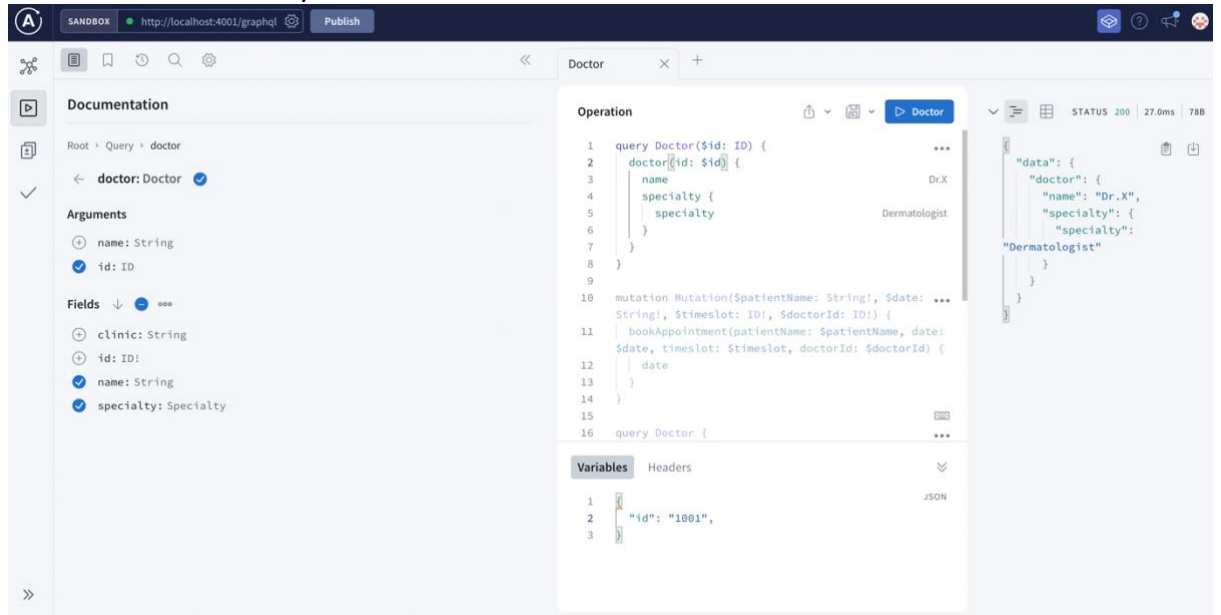


Figure 7: Successful doctor query

- Identifier: DoctorQueryFail

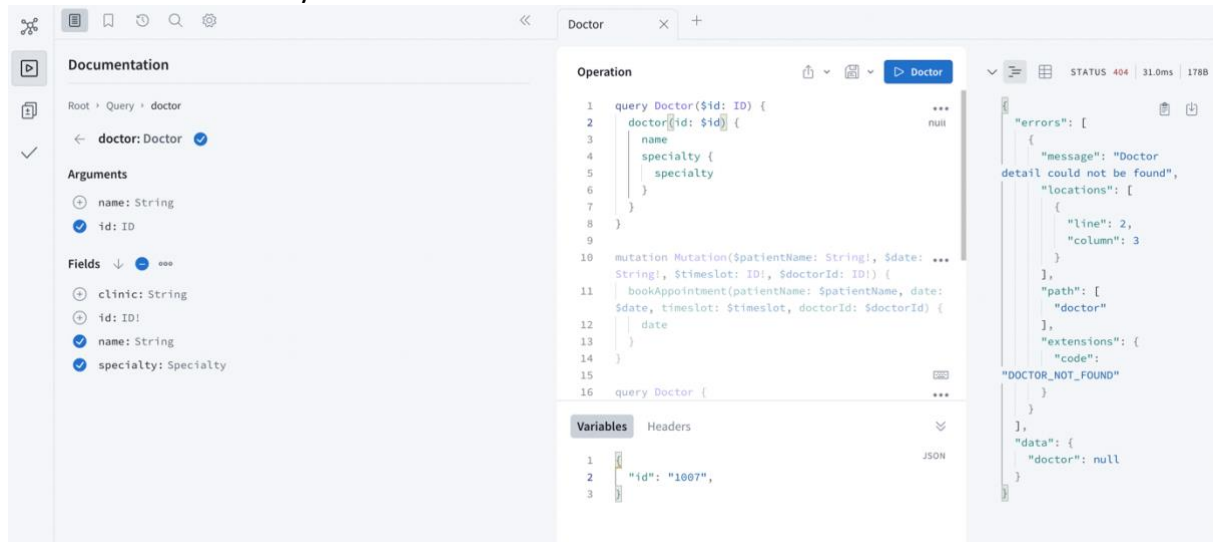


Figure 8: Unsuccessful doctor query

- Identifier: AppointmentQuerySuccess

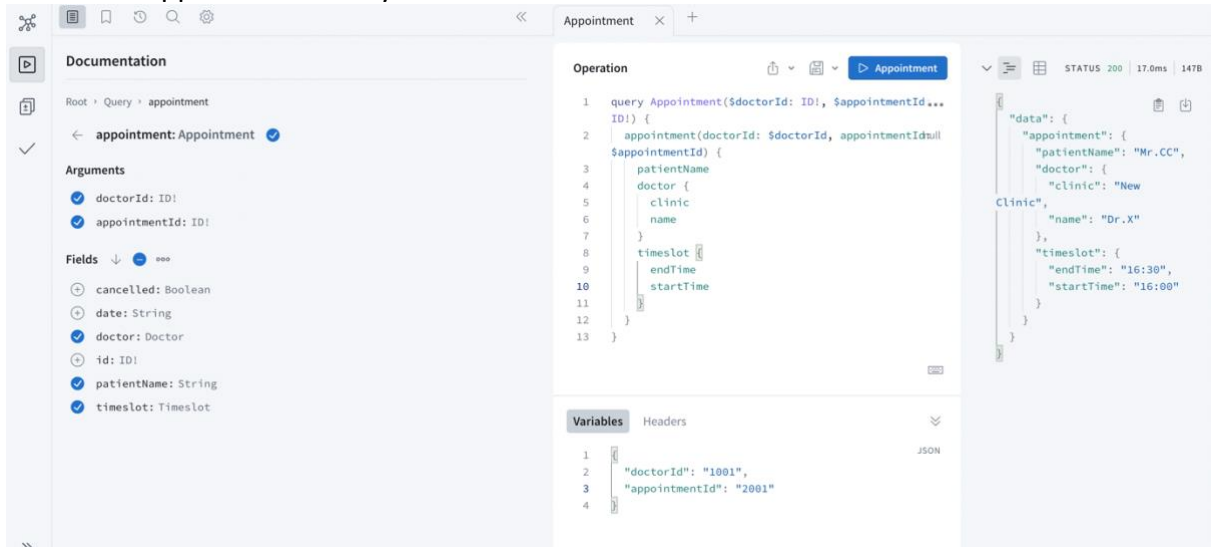


Figure 9: Successful appointment query

- Identifier: AppointmentQueryFail

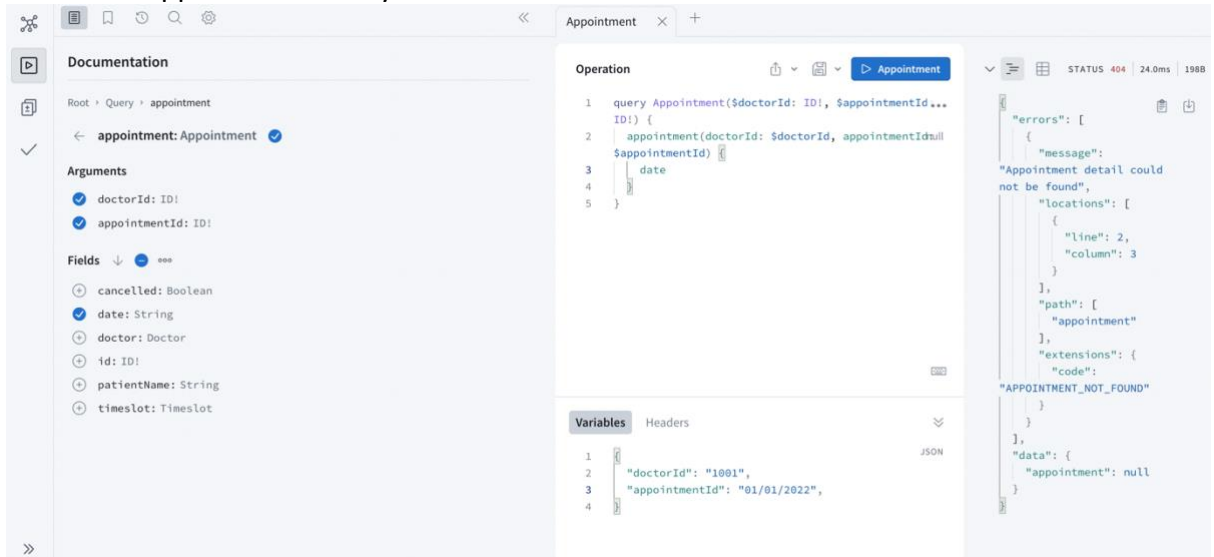


Figure 10: Unsuccessful appointment query

- Identifier: CalendarQuerySuccess

The screenshot shows the GraphQL Studio interface. On the left, the 'Documentation' pane displays the schema for the 'calendar' type, which includes arguments 'date: String!' and 'doctorId: ID!', and fields 'availableTimeslots: [Timeslot]', 'bookedTimeslots: [Timeslot]', 'date: String', 'doctor: Doctor', and 'id: ID!'. The 'Arguments' section is expanded, showing 'date: String!' and 'doctorId: ID!' as required. The 'Operation' pane in the center shows a query for 'Appointment' with variables 'doctorId: "1001"' and 'date: "01/12/2022"'. The 'Variables' section below the query shows these values. The right pane displays the JSON response, which includes a 'data' object with 'calendar' containing 'bookedTimeslots' and 'availableTimeslots'.

Figure 11: Successful calendar query

- Identifier: CalendarQueryFail

The screenshot shows the GraphQL Studio interface. On the left, the 'Documentation' pane displays the schema for the 'calendar' type. The 'Operation' pane in the center shows a query for 'Calendar' with variables 'doctorId: "1006"' and 'date: ""'. The 'Variables' section below the query shows these values. The right pane displays the JSON response, which includes an 'errors' array with a message: 'Incorrect arguments passed for calendar', and a 'data' object with 'calendar: null'.

Figure 12: Unsuccessful calendar query

2. Reflection

I. What were some of the alternative schema and query design options you considered? Why did you choose the selected options?

Answer:

While developing the schema and query for the given problem, the focus was kept on the ease of data retrieval and delivery. The data was designed as it would exist in a real-world environment as entities having relations. As such, the query design was developed keeping in mind how to connect those entities. For instance, the *appointments* data includes id for *doctor* but the query for appointments includes the resolved field of doctor, matching all the data for that doctor to the id and then delivering it to the end user. Similarly, the mutations were also developed keeping this design choice in mind.

Another factor that influenced this design choice was the requirements of the system. The queries and mutations are designed as such that they can be easily conveyed to the client and are easy to adopt. At a given instance, the user might need all or some data from a query as per the requirement, as such all the data regarding a particular field has been provided. For instance, in when fetching calendar information, we provide all the available and booked timeslots, and along with that the start time and end time of each timeslot is also included. The customer might choose to see these details for instance in a dashboard to quickly see the schedule for a given date.

The queries and mutations also have been parameterized to enable accurate data retrieval. Using the unique identity in arguments help exact data match and to return accurate response codes. It is designed with expectations that each user interface will have access to these ids which it will use to query the data.

Alternative design choices which were considered included not including nested details of individual entities. This would have increased query time but have sacrificed the purpose of developing an expansive query API. It would have required multiple queries to fetch multiple data which is now being handled on the server end. This also helps in evaluating entity relationships on the server side rather than leaving its responsibility on the client side.

II. Consider the case where, in future, the 'Event' structure is changed to have more fields e.g., reference to patient details, consultation type (first time/follow-up etc.) and others.

A. What changes will the clients (API consumer) need to make to their existing queries (if any).

Answer:

In case of any modifications, to the 'Event' structure, or in this assignment known as 'Appointment', the clients would need to change their queries to include a *patient* and *consultationType* key in their query. This change can be communicated easily through updates and will not break any changes. Since, these fields will be added as an additional field, the client need not worry about backward compatibility as previous implementations where these fields are not used in any query will continue to work as normal. New fields, where

they require this data can be queried with updated query structure. For instance, an updated query might have the following structure:

```
query GetAppointmentDetail {
  Appointment(appointmentId: ID!, doctorId: ID!) {
    date
    doctor {
      name
      clinic
      specialty
    }
    patientName
    patientDetail{
      age
      id
      address
    }
    consultationType
    timeslot {
      startTime
      endTime
    }
  }
}
```

B. How will you accommodate the changes in your existing Schema and Query types?

Answer:

The 'Event' structure in the implementation is being referred to as 'Appointment'. In case of any augmentation to the 'Appointment' entity when we augment reference to patient details, expectation is that the patient detail will be stored as a separate table in the database which can have fields like "id", "name", "address", "age", etc. As such, a new schema type for patient will be developed like this:

```
type Patient {
  id: ID!
  name: String
  age: Int
  address: String
}
```

The 'Appointment' or 'Event' schema will then include the reference to 'Patient' schema to cater to the new requirements as shown below:

```
type Appointment {
  id: ID!
  doctor: Doctor
  patientName: String
  patient: Patient
  timeslot: Timeslot
  date: String
  cancelled: Boolean
}
```



```
}
```

Similarly, if consultation types are included in the schema, an 'enum' type schema needs to be developed as follows:

```
enum Consultation {  
    FIRST_TIME  
    FOLLOW_UP  
}
```

To integrate this into our 'Event' or 'Appointment' schema, the schema will be updated as follows:

```
type Appointment {  
    id: ID!  
    doctor: Doctor  
    patientName: String  
    patient: Patient  
    consultationType: Consultation  
    timeslot: Timeslot  
    date: String  
    cancelled: Boolean  
}
```

III. Describe two GraphQL best practices that you have incorporated in your API design.

Answer:

Following best practices were incorporated while designing the GraphQL API for the assignment:

- a. Use of ID type for unique identifiers: The data used in this assignment has been stored in the form of table in a database where each field has a primary key. To use this primary key, ID type provided by GraphQL has been used to help in unique identification of data and its retrieval. For e.g.,

```
type Specialty {  
    id: ID!  
    specialty: String  
}
```

```
type Calendar {  
    id: ID!  
    date: String  
    doctor: Doctor  
    bookedTimeslots: [Timeslot]  
    availableTimeslots: [Timeslot]  
}
```

- b. Object types are used to reduce queries: The schema and resolvers have been designed such that they reduce the effort for the client to retrieve data. For instance, when we query and event, called appointment, which

has doctor associated with it, all the details related to the doctor are also returned instead of returning just a reference or id for the doctor. The schema below illustrates this point:

```
type Appointment {  
  id: ID!  
  doctor: Doctor  
  patientName: String  
  timeslot: Timeslot  
  date: String  
  cancelled: Boolean  
}
```

The highlighted field 'Doctor' is of the type 'Doctor' which in turn has schema as follows:

```
type Doctor {  
  id: ID!  
  name: String  
  specialty: Specialty  
  clinic: String  
}
```

This enables the client to retrieve the entire doctor information from the appointment query if they need to by expanding the doctor field to include doctor detail such as name, specialty, clinic, etc.. The query can be written as follows:

```
query GetAppointmentDetail {  
  Appointment(appointmentId: ID!, doctorId: ID!) {  
    date  
    doctor {  
      name  
      clinic  
      specialty  
    }  
    patientName  
    timeslot {  
      startTime  
      endTime  
    }  
  }  
}
```