

TASK

Introduction to Databases and MongoDB

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Introduction

WELCOME TO THE INTRODUCTION TO DATABASES AND MONGODB!

Dynamic web applications rely on data. If you want to make a web application truly dynamic, storing data about your users is a good starting point. In this task, you will learn about the various types of databases. You will also be introduced to MongoDB, a very popular database and how to use MongoDB to create a database as a service.



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The best way to get help is to log in to Discord at https://discord.com/invite/hyperskills where our specialist team is ready to support you.

Our team is happy to offer you support that is tailored to your individual career or education needs. Do not hesitate to ask a question or for additional support!

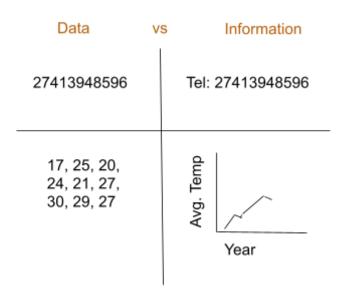
DATABASES

Data is core to software development. Programs are designed to manipulate, create and visualise data. Therefore, it is important for all software developers to be able to access, manipulate, and store data.

Databases are used to store data. A database is simply a large container of data, with the ability to order the data in multiple ways while providing easy access to the data itself. Web developers often have to manipulate the data stored in databases. For example, you may need to store your users' usernames, passwords, names, addresses, and telephone numbers, etc. Therefore, full stack web developers need to be able to work proficiently with databases.

DATA VS. INFORMATION

In order to properly understand databases, you must first understand the difference between data and information. Simply put, data are raw facts. The word raw indicates that the facts have not yet been processed to create meaning. Information, on the other hand, is the result of processing raw data to make it meaningful. Data processing can be as simple as organising data to reveal patterns or as complex as making forecasts or drawing inferences using statistical modelling.

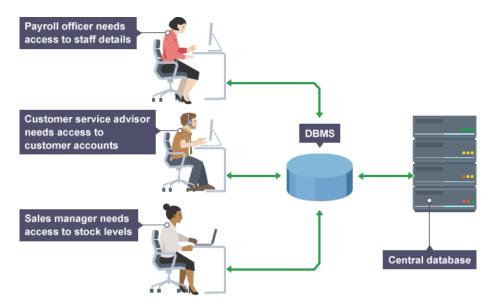


The production of accurate, relevant and timely information is the key to good decision-making and, in turn, good decision-making is the key to a business' survival in a competetive global environment. Timely and useful information requires accurate data which must be generated properly and stored in a format

that is easy to access and process. The data environment should be carefully managed.

DATABASE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A database can be thought of as a well-organised electronic filing cabinet where powerful software, known as a database management system (DBMS), helps manage the contents of the cabinet. A database management system is a collection of programs that manage the database structure and control access to the data stored in the database.



The DBMS manages the interaction between the end user and the database (bbc.co.uk)

The illustration above shows how the DBMS serves as an intermediary between the user and the database. The DBMS receives all application requests and translates them into the complex operations required to fulfil those requests.

Much of the database's internal complexity is hidden from the application programs and end users by the DBMS. There are some very important advantages to having a DBMS between the end user's application and the database. Firstly, the DBMS allows the data in the database to be shared among multiple applications or users. Secondly, the DBMS integrates many different users' views of the data into a single data repository.

The DBMS helps make data management much more efficient and effective and provides advantages such as:

- Improved data sharing: the DBMS helps create an environment in which end users have better access to more and better-managed data.
- **Better data integration:** an integrated view of the organisation's operations and a clearer view of the big picture is promoted by wider access to well-managed data.
- **Minimised data inconsistency:** data inconsistency occurs when different versions of the same data appear in different places. A properly designed database greatly reduces the probability of data inconsistency.
- **Improved data access:** a query is a specific request for data manipulation (e.g. to read or update the data) sent to the DBMS. The DBMS makes it possible to produce quick answers to spur-of-the-moment queries.
- Improved decision-making: better-quality information (on which to base decisions) is generated, due to better-managed data and improved data access.
- **Increased end-user productivity:** the availability of data and the tools that transform data into usable information encourages end users to make quick, informed decisions.

SPOT CHECK 1

Let's see what you can remember from this section.

- 1. What is the difference between data and information?
- 2. What are 3 advantages of using a database management system?

TYPES OF DATABASES

There are many different types of databases. These databases can be classified according to the number of users supported, where the data are located, the type of data stored, the intended data usage and the degree to which the data are structured.

A database can be classified as either **single-user** or **multi-user**. A database that only supports one user at a time is known as a single-user database. With a single-user database, if user A is using the database, users B and C must wait until user A is done. A desktop database is a single-user database that runs on a personal computer. A multi-user database, on the other hand, supports multiple users at the same time. A workgroup database is a multi-user database that supports a relatively small number of users (usually less than 50) or a specific department within an organisation. When a multi-user database supports many users (more than 50) and is used by the entire organisation, across many departments, it is known as an enterprise database.

A database can also be classified based on location. A **centralised database** is a database that supports data located at a single site, while a **distributed database** supports data distributed across several different sites.

A popular way of classifying databases is based on how they will be used and on the time sensitivity of the information gathered from them. An example of this is an **operational database**, which is a database that is designed to primarily support a company's day-to-day operations. Operational databases are also known as online transaction processing (OLTP), transactional, or production databases.

The degree to which data is structured is another way of classifying databases. Data that exist in their original, or raw, state are known as **unstructured data**. In other words, they are in the format in which they were collected. **Structured data** are the result of formatting unstructured data to facilitate the storage, use, and generation of information. You apply structure based on the type of processing that you intend to perform on the data. For example, imagine that you have a stack of printed invoices. If you just want to store these invoices so that you are able to retrieve them or display them later, you can scan them and save them in a graphical format. However, if you want to derive information from them, such as monthly totals or average sales, having the invoices in a graphical format will not be useful. You could instead store the invoice data in a structured spreadsheet format so that you can perform the desired computations.

Analytical databases focus on storing historical data and business metrics used exclusively for tactical or strategic decision making. They typically comprise two components; a data warehouse and online analytical processing (OLAP) front end. Analytical databases allow the end-user to perform advanced data analysis of business data using sophisticated tools. A data warehouse, on the other hand, focuses on storing data used to generate the information required to make tactical or strategic decisions.

There are many ways of storing data, each with its own benefits and limitations. Therefore, databases can be designed differently to meet different needs. We are going to consider two of the most popular types of databases: relational databases and NoSQL databases.

Relational databases

Relational databases store information about different entities and the relationships between them. The image below is an example of an entity-relationship diagram (ERD) that is used to describe the relationships between certain entities.

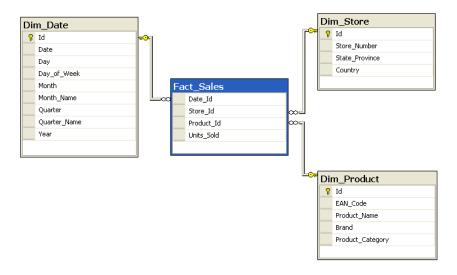


Image source:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Star_schema#/media/File:Star-schema-example.png

In a relational database, an entity is a table that stores all the data about a certain thing. For example, you may want to store information about all your customers in a database. You would then create a customer table (customer entity), which could look something like the one shown below:

ſ	C_NAME	C_PHO	C_ADDRE	C_POS	A_NAM	A_PHO	TP	AMT	REN
		NE	SS	TCOD	Е	NE			
				Е					
ı									

Alfred Smith	082 345 2341	207 Willow St, Port Elizabeth	6390	Leah Hahn	084 259 2073	Т	R100.00	05-Apr-2 021
Kathy Dunne	083 567 9012	556 Bad St, Cape Town	7100	Alex Alby	085 785 3938	S2	R250.00	16-Jun-2 021
Paul Farris	076 782 1232	2148 High St,Benoni	1522	Leah Hahn	084 259 2073	T2	R850.00	22-sep-2 021

<u>Customer entity key</u>

C_NAME = customer name

C_PHONE = customer phone

C_ADDRESS = customer address

C_POSTCODE = customer postcode

A_NAME = agent name

A_PHONE = agent phone

TP = insurance type

AMT = insurance policy amount in thousands of R

REN = Insurance renewal date

The CUSTOMER table contains 3 records. Each record is composed of 9 fields: C_NAME, C_PHONE, C_ADDRESS, C_POSTCODE, A_NAME, A_PHONE, TP, AMT, and REN. Each record describes a specific customer; each customer is an instance of the customer entity.

If you were designing a database for a store, you might also have a product entity that stores all the information about the products you sell. Your database would then contain a product table and a customer table. The database would also save information about the relationship between the two entities. For example, it would store information about which products a particular customer bought on a particular date. How this is implemented in a relational database, however, is beyond the scope of this course.

NoSQL databases

A problem with relational databases is that their performance degrades as the volume of data increases. Many web applications have to store massive amounts of data. Imagine the amount of data that companies like Amazon and Google have to store, for example. Addressing this problem led to the development of NoSQL databases. You are using a NoSQL database every time you search for a product on



Amazon, watch a video on Youtube, or send a message to a friend on Facebook. NoSQL databases generally have the following characteristics:

- They are not based on the relational model
- They support distributed database architectures i.e. servers in different areas
- They provide high scalability, high availability, and fault tolerance
- They support very large amounts of sparse data
- They are geared toward performance rather than transaction consistency

There are several types of NoSQL databases. Some of these are briefly described below:

1. **Key-value store databases**: This is the simplest form of NoSQL database. Every item in the database is stored as a key (used to identify the value) and its value.

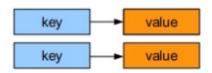


Image source:

https://www.slideshare.net/arangodb/introduction-to-column-oriented-databases

2. **Column-oriented databases**: Like key-value store databases, a key is used to identify values but instead of the key identifying only one value, it can be used to identify multiple values.

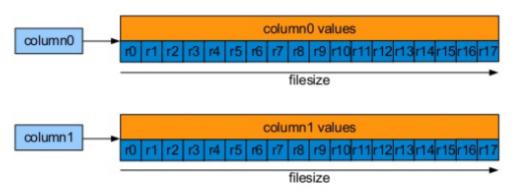


Image source:

https://www.slideshare.net/arangodb/introduction-to-column-oriented-datab ases

3. **Document store databases**: With this type of database, a key is used to identify a particular document. Documents are stored in recognised formats like XML, JSON, PDF, etc.

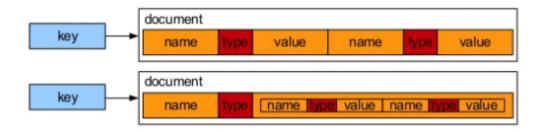
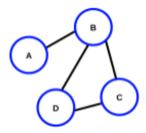


Image source:

https://www.slideshare.net/arangodb/introduction-to-column-oriented-datab ases

4. **Graph databases**: This database uses the graph data structure to store data. Graphs contain nodes (A, B, C, and D in the image below) and edges (the lines connecting the nodes, so AB, BD, BC, and DC in the image below). In graph databases, nodes are objects and edges are the relationships between these objects. Social networking applications, like Facebook, often store data using graph databases because this model is good for tracking the relationships between objects.



5. **Object-oriented databases**: These databases combine object-oriented programming (OOP) and database principles. These databases are tied to specific programming languages.

MONGODB

In this bootcamp you will be working with MongoDB, a document store and NoSQL database. A MongoDB is made up of collections and documents.

- **Collection:** A collection is a group of documents. It is similar to an entity or table when working with relational databases.
- **Documents:** In relational databases, records are stored in tables. An example of a record in the CUSTOMER table we considered earlier would be Alfred Smith. MongoDB uses documents instead of records (or rows in a table) to store data (i.e. with a MongoDB database, Alfred Smith's data would be stored in a document instead of in a row in the CUSTOMER table).

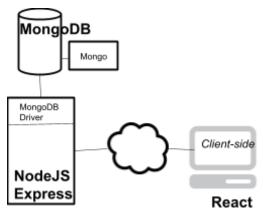
MongoDB uses BSON documents. BSON stands for Binary JSON. BSON uses JSON files and stores type information. JSON files are just text information; this means that it has to be parsed if you want to program with it. Since BSON stores type information it is quicker and more efficient to use than JSON (see an example below).





MONGODB IN A FULL STACK WEB APPLICATION

Before we start using MongoDB, it is important to first see how MongoDB fits into full-stack web development and what other tools are needed to get it to work properly.



Consider the image above. As you already know, to use your app, clients will interact with a web server that will be running Node.js. Node.js will route all requests and perform whatever server-side logic is needed by our app. If our user wants to access, add, or change information that needs to persist, they will need access to the MongoDB database. An important component of MongoDB is Mongo, its administrative shell. Mongo is a C++ program that allows you to execute instructions on the database from a command line interface. Mongo allows you to use the MongoDB query language.

For Node.js to be able to communicate with MongoDB, it also makes use of *MongoDB drivers*. The official MongoDB driver can be installed using NPM (more on this later).

MONGODB AS A SERVICE

A few years ago, in order to run a database, you had to have a server (or servers) with all the necessary software installed and configured. You would also need someone who would act as the database administrator. In many organisations, this is still the case and this may be a justified expense and effort. Today though, there is an attractive alternative: database as a service.

Since cloud computing has become more popular, there are more cloud-based options for developers. You can host your web app on the cloud (HEROKU, Azure, etc) instead of on your own dedicated server. You can also use a database hosted by a cloud service provider (as in the case of MongoDB's Atlas), rather than having the hassle of setting up and maintaining your own database server. Below are some key benefits of this approach:

- 1. It is often cheaper than having your own database server because you only pay for what you use.
- 2. The cloud service provider deals with all the hassle of ensuring the configuration, backup, maintenance, and security of the database server.
- 3. It is quick and easy to start using a database with minimal configuration.

In this bootcamp, we will be using MongoDB's database as a service solution: Atlas.

In this task, you are going to create your first database using MongoDB. Before you can do this though, you are first going to:

1. download and install MongoDB on your local machine so that you can use Mongo, the administrative shell,

- 2. use Atlas to create and host a MongoDB on the cloud, and
- 3. use Mongo to access and manipulate your database cluster on Atlas.

INSTALL MONGODB

We will be installing MongoDB's free Community Server for this course. Your other main option is the Enterprise Server which you can download as a free trial. Follow the steps linked below to get started with MongoDB.

• MongoDB Community Edition Installation Steps

The steps to set up and configure MongoDB differ slightly depending on the OS you are using. The installation instructions given above contain instructions for running MongoDB on your specific operating system.

Your Mongo shell is now ready to be used to connect to a database server. In this bootcamp, we will be using MongoDB Atlas which will provide the platform and infrastructure we need for a database server on the cloud.



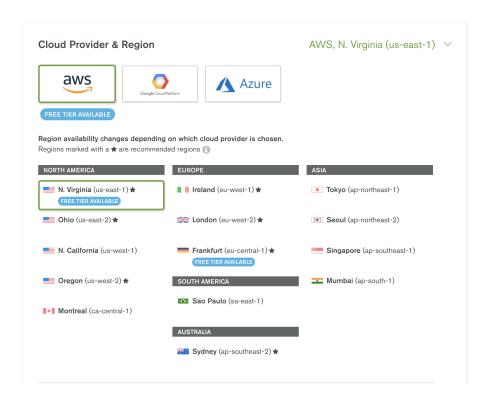
Mongo is MongoDB's administrative shell. It is a C++ program that allows you to execute instructions on the database from a command line interface. Mongo allows you to use the MongoDB query language.

SETUP MONGODB ATLAS

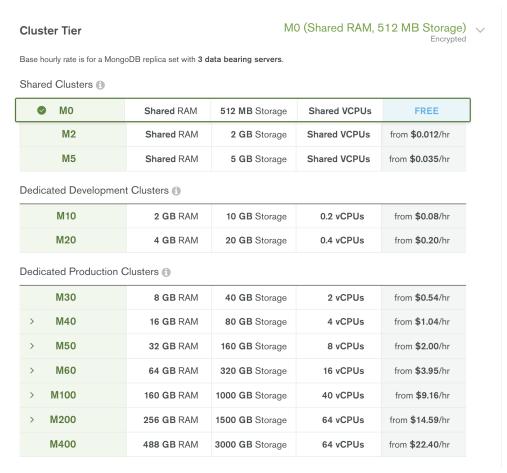
In this bootcamp, we will be using MongoDB's Database as a service solution: Atlas. To get a quick (2-minute) overview of what Atlas is and why we are using it, watch this **short video**.

To configure MongoDB Atlas, do the following:

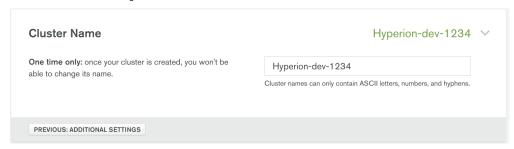
- Go <u>here</u> and enter your information to get started with Atlas.
- You will then be taken to the 'Create New Cluster' page.
 - o Under Cloud provider & Region select AWS and any free tier region.



o Under 'Cluster Tier' select the free M0 option.

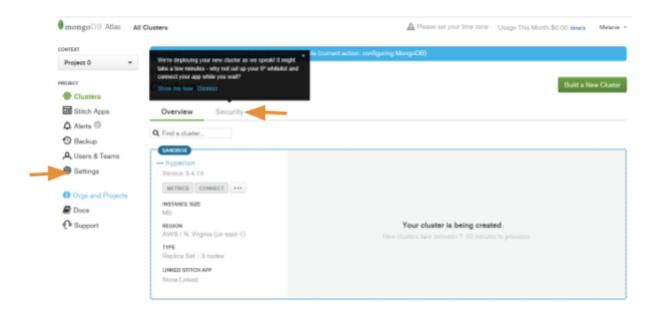


You can rename your cluster under 'Cluster Name'.



• Click on the 'Create Cluster' button at the bottom of the page to create your cluster.

Once you have created your cluster, you will be taken to a page similar to the one shown below. You can change the name and other settings for your default project by selecting settings as shown in the image below.

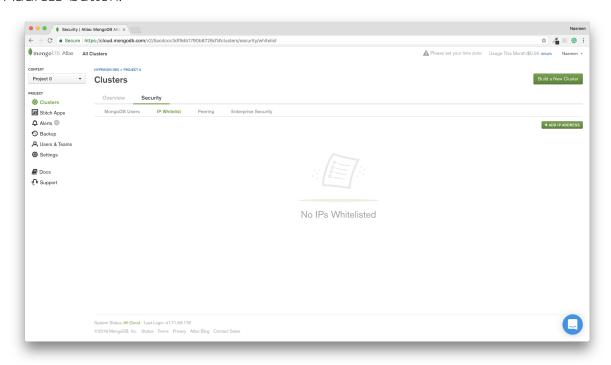


You have now successfully created a database cluster. You will now use the administrative shell, Mongo, to add a database to this cluster. Before you do this though, there are some security settings you need to tweak to make sure that you can access the Atlas cluster from your computer.

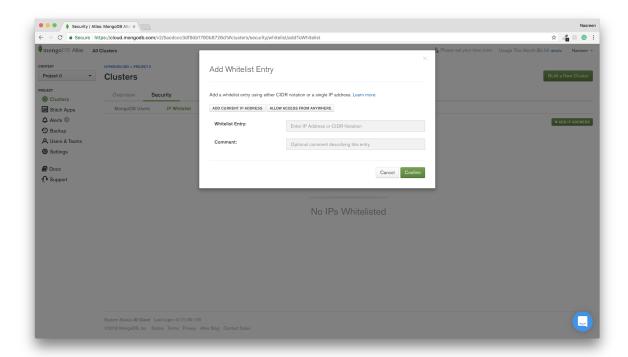
Security settings

One of the ways that MongoDB ensures security is by only allowing certain machines (IP addresses) access to your cluster. The IPs that are allowed to access your cluster are listed under the 'Security' tab in the 'IP Whitelist'. Click on the

'Security' tab and select 'IP Whitelist' from the menu, then click on the '+ Add IP Address' button.



In the 'Add Whitelist Entry' popup window, click on the 'Allow Access From Anywhere' button and then click 'Confirm'.



It is not good practice to allow all IP addresses to access your database for obvious security reasons, but for the purposes of the next few tasks, we are going to ask you to do this. The reason for this is that we are going to ask you to give a mentor access to your database and you won't know their IP address ahead of time. In practice, however, it is advisable to have a limited IP whitelist.



Take note:

You should remember to configure this IP whitelist when you deploy your app. Remember that you will ultimately write code to access your database in your Express app (which you will soon learn to do). Therefore, your application server will be making requests to your database. If you deploy your back-end app to the cloud (e.g. deploy to Heroku) you do not necessarily know what the IP address of your web server will be! This could obviously be a problem - if your web server IP address isn't added to the Atlas IP whitelist, your Express app won't be allowed to communicate with your database!

To address this problem you can create a Heroku Private Space. According to an **article by Heroku**, "Private Spaces are dedicated environments for running dynos and certain types of add-ons within an isolated network. Access to apps in a Private Space can be controlled at the network level. Outbound requests from apps in a Private Space originate from a set of stable IP addresses, which allows you to securely communicate with IP white-listed services on-premise or on other networks."

We recommend that you read **this guide** by MongoDB to see how to integrate Atlas with Heroku. At the time of writing this task, this was not possible with a free Atlas account. In such a case you would have to allow access to your database from any IP address to allow your back-end deployed on Heroku to communicate with your database on MongoDB Atlas.

Although Heroku provides <u>add-ons</u> for accessing databases hosted by <u>mLab</u> (another Database as a Service for MongoDB), mLab was, at the time of writing, migrating to MongoDB Atlas. Thus the decision was made to base the content on MongoDB Atlas instead of mLab.

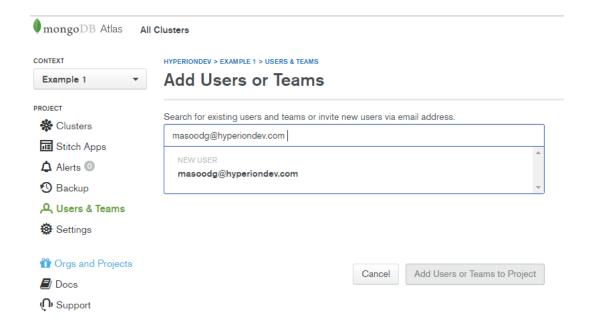
If your machine is protected by a firewall, you also have to ensure that this doesn't block access to Atlas. Atlas servers run on **port 27017** on Amazon AWS. Check **here** to see if this port is blocked on your machine or not. If **this page** doesn't load, your firewall is probably blocking port 27017. If it is blocked, make sure to unblock it before you proceed. How this is done will depend on the firewall you are using.

Google the appropriate instruction to unblock port 27017 for the firewall you are running.

From the Security tab, you can also add users and manage the rights of the users you allow to access your database.

Manage users and teams

As the database administrator, you have to manage who is able to access your database and what they can do with your database. For your next MongoDB tasks, you are required to give a mentor access to your database. To do this, select "Users and teams" and then click on the "Add users and teams" button. You can then invite a mentor to be a user of your database by entering an email address as indicated in the image below. Please the email address use allreviewers@hyperiondev.com.

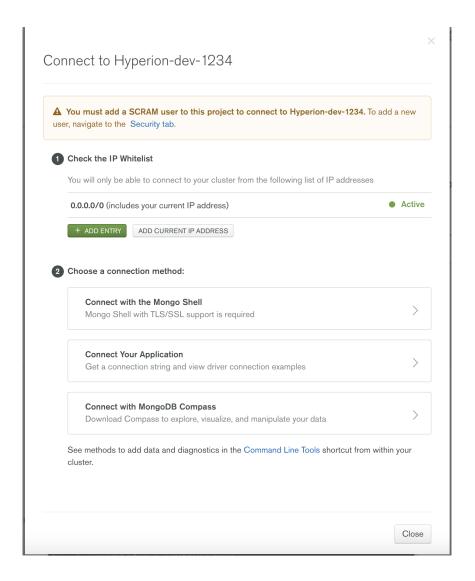


ACCESS THE DATABASE ON THE CLOUD USING THE MONGO SHELL

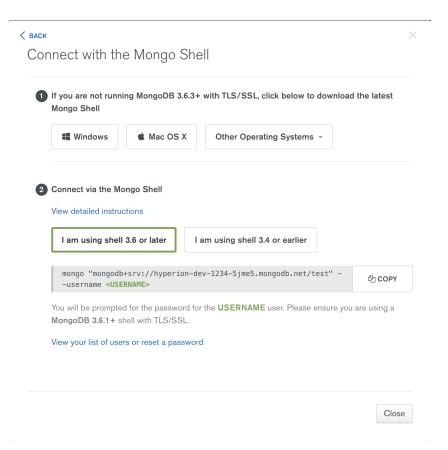
You are now ready to access the database server you have configured on MongoDB Atlas using the Mongo shell on your local machine. Remember that Mongo is the administrative shell used to run instructions on your MongoDB server.

To connect to the database server using Mongo you need a connection string that specifies everything needed for this connection. Atlas provides this connection string for you. Select "Connect" as shown below to find the connection string.

The following popup window will appear:



From the window above select 'Connect with the Mongo shell'.



The window above should then appear. Select 'I am using shell 3.6 or later', and copy and paste the connection string that appears there, into your command line interface. You should see output similar to that shown in the image below:

```
::\>mongo "mongodb+srv://hyperion-f78fc.mongodb.net/test" --username hyperionDB
 NongoDB shell version v3.6.2
Enter password:
connecting to: mongodb+srv://hyperion-f78fc.mongodb.net/test
2018-05-09T10:06:44.519+0200 I NETWORK [thread1] Starting new replica set monitor for hyperion-sha
0-00-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017,hyperion-shard-00-01-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017,hyperion-shard-00-02-f7
2018-05-09T10:06:45.554+0200 I NETWORK [ReplicaSetMonitor-TaskExecutor-0] Successfully connected t
0-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017 (1 connections now open to hyperion-shard-00-00-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017
out)
2018-05-09T10:06:45.568+0200 I NETWORK [thread1] Successfully connected to hyperion-shard-00-02-f7
7 (1 connections now open to hyperion-shard-00-02-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017 with a 5 second timeout)
2018-05-09T10:06:45.823+0200 I NETWORK [thread1] changing hosts to hyperion-shard-0/hyperion-shard
net:27017,hyperion-shard-00-01-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017,hyperion-shard-00-02-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017
0/hyperion-shard-00-00-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017,hyperion-shard-00-01-f78fc.mongodb.net.:27017,hyper
.mongodb.net.:27017
2018-05-09T10:06:46.838+0200 I NETWORK [ReplicaSetMonitor-TaskExecutor-0] Successfully connected t
2-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017 (1 connections now open to hyperion-shard-00-02-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017
2018-05-09T10:06:46.848+0200 I NETWORK [thread1] Successfully connected to hyperion-shard-00-00-f
(1 connections now open to hyperion-shard-00-00-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017 with a 5 second timeout)
2018-05-09T10:06:48.132+0200 I NETWORK [ReplicaSetMonitor-TaskExecutor-0] Successfully connected
 .-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017 (1 connections now open to hyperion-shard-00-01-f78fc.mongodb.net:27017 w
./
MongoDB server version: 3.4.14
MARNING: shell and server versions do not match
  ongoDB Enterprise hyperion-shard-0:PRIMARY>
```

You have connected to your MongoDB server hosted by Atlas! You are now able to use the Mongo shell to create and modify databases on your server.



Watch **this short video** to see how easily you can connect to your Atlas database with the Mongo shell.

CREATE A DATABASE

Once you can access your database server (run by Atlas), you can issue instructions using Mongo to change your database. We are going to create a database.

To do this type the following using the Mongo shell: **use test** where *test* is the name of the database. If the database does not already exist, this instruction will create it.

MongoDB Enterprise hyperion-shard-0:PRIMARY> use test switched to db test MongoDB Enterprise hyperion-shard-0:PRIMARY>

MONGODB COMPASS

You may have noticed that when you installed MongoDB, MongoDB Compass was also installed. Compass allows you to interface with your database. You should be able to connect to your database using Compass too. Give it a try.

QUIT MONGO

To quit mongo, type quit() into the Mongo shell.

Compulsory Task 1

Follow these steps:

- Install MongoDB. See appropriate detailed installation instructions on MongoDB's download centre for details.
- Create a cluster on MongoDB Atlas.
- Add a mentor or code reviewer as a user to your cluster on Atlas, using the email address allreviewers@hyperiondev.com.
- Ensure that your firewall isn't blocking access to MongoDB.
- Connect to your cluster using the Mongo shell.
- Make a database called "test"
- Create a document called "myMongoDB" in which you include the following:
 - A screenshot that shows that you have added a mentor or code reviewer as a MongoDB user to your Atlas cluster.
 - A screenshot of your command line interface that shows how you have used the Mongo shell to connect to your MongoDB Atlas cluster.
 - A screenshot of your command line interface that shows that you have successfully created a database called "test" on your MongoDB Atlas cluster.

Completed the task(s)?

Ask an expert code reviewer to review your work!

Review work



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Think that the content of this task, or this course as a whole, can be improved, or think we've done a good job?

<u>Click here</u> to share your thoughts anonymously.

SPOT CHECK 1 ANSWERS

- Data are raw facts that have not yet been processed to reveal their meaning. Information, on the other hand, is the result of processing the raw data to reveal its meaning. Data processing can be as simple as organising data to reveal patterns or as complex as making forecasts or drawing inferences using statistical modelling.
- 2. (any 3)
 - a. Improved data sharing
 - b. Better data integration
 - c. Minimised data inconsistency
 - d. Improved data access
 - e. Improved decision-making
 - f. Increased end-user productivity