



# Advanced Querying

# Exact Searches

- We already know about basic retrieves:

- `find(id)` or `find(id1, id2)`
- `find_by(hash)`
- `where(hash)`

These are nice if you know  
EXACTLY what you are looking for...

```
hazink1-ml1:advanced_ar hazink1$ rails c
Loading development environment (Rails 4.1.1)
irb(main):001:0> bron = Person.find_by last_name: "James"
  Person Load (0.1ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE "people"."last_name" = 'James' LIMIT 1
=> #<Person id: 7, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:14:44", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:14:44">
```

# Including SQL fragments

- Can specify a SQL fragment (as opposed to hash) inside the `where` and `find_by`

```
irb(main):001:0> Person.where("age BETWEEN 30 and 33").to_a
  Person Load (2.6ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (age BETWEEN 30 and 33)
=> [#<Person id: 8, first_name: "Kalman", last_name: "Smith", age: 33, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", login: "kalman", pass: "abc123">,
    person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">]
```

```
irb(main):002:0> Person.find_by("first_name LIKE '%man'")
  Person Load (0.3ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (first_name LIKE '%man') LIMIT 1
=> #<Person id: 1, first_name: "Kalman", last_name: "Smith", age: 33, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:14:44", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:14:44">
```

- Very powerful, but beware of SQL injection!

# What is a SQL injection?

- Manipulating raw SQL to hack into a database.
- This includes maliciously dropping/deleting tables or gaining access to confidential information
- Wow! That sounds like fun – how easy is it to hack a database with one of these?

# Modify people table

- Add login and pass fields to people table

```
hazink1-ml1:advanced_ar hazink1$ rails g migration add_login_and_pass_to_people login pass && rake db:migrate
  invoke  active_record
  create  db/migrate/20140617034221_add_login_and_pass_to_people.rb
== 20140617034221 AddLoginAndPassToPeople: migrating =====
-- add_column(:people, :login, :string)
   -> 0.0427s
-- add_column(:people, :pass, :string)
   -> 0.0004s
== 20140617034221 AddLoginAndPassToPeople: migrated (0.0432s) =====
```

The screenshot shows a code editor with a file explorer on the left and a code editor on the right. The file explorer shows the project structure with folders 'advanced\_ar', 'bin', 'config', 'db', and 'migrate'. The 'migrate' folder is expanded, showing two files: '20140617030159\_create\_people.rb' and '20140617034221\_add\_login\_and\_pass\_to\_people.rb'. The code editor shows the content of '20140617034221\_add\_login\_and\_pass\_to\_people.rb'.

```
1 class AddLoginAndPassToPeople < ActiveRecord::Migration
2   def change
3     add_column :people, :login, :string
4     add_column :people, :pass, :string
5   end
6 end
7
```

# Reload data

```
1 Person.destroy_all
2
3 Person.create [
4   { first_name: "Kalman", last_name: "Smith", age: 33, login: "kalman", pass: "abc123" },
5   { first_name: "John", last_name: "Whatever", age: 27, login: "johnw", pass: "123abc" },
6   { first_name: "Michael", last_name: "Smith", age: 15, login: "michael", pass: "password" },
7   { first_name: "Josh", last_name: "Oreck", age: 57, login: "josh", pass: "not_telling" },
8   { first_name: "John", last_name: "Smith", age: 27, login: "john", pass: "secret" },
9   { first_name: "Bill", last_name: "Gates", age: 75, login: "bill", pass: "no_idea" },
10  { first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, login: "lebron", pass: "lejames" }
11 ]
```

```
hazink1-m11:advanced_ar hazink1$ rake db:seed
hazink1-m11:advanced_ar hazink1$ _
```

# Verifying the new data

```
sqlite> select * from people;
```

id	first_name	last_name	age	created_at	updated_at	login	pass
8	Kalman	Smith	33	2014-06-17 03:51:50.771038	2014-06-17 03:51:50.771038	kalman	abc123
9	John	Whatever	27	2014-06-17 03:51:50.822071	2014-06-17 03:51:50.822071	johnw	123abc
10	Michael	Smith	15	2014-06-17 03:51:50.825872	2014-06-17 03:51:50.825872	michael	password
11	Josh	Oreck	57	2014-06-17 03:51:50.829914	2014-06-17 03:51:50.829914	josh	not_tellin
12	John	Smith	27	2014-06-17 03:51:51.040107	2014-06-17 03:51:51.040107	john	secret
13	Bill	Gates	75	2014-06-17 03:51:51.147159	2014-06-17 03:51:51.147159	bill	no_idea
14	LeBron	James	30	2014-06-17 03:51:51.187347	2014-06-17 03:51:51.187347	lebron	lejames



# SQL Injection example

- **We want:** Pull out the information for a particular user based on his/her credentials
- **Hacker wants:** ALL users/passwords!

```
hazink1-ml1:advanced_ar hazink1$ rails c
Loading development environment (Rails 4.1.1)
irb(main):001:0> login = "lebron"; pass = "lejames"
=> "lejames"
irb(main):002:0> Person.where("login = '#{login}' AND pass = '#{pass}'")
  Person Load (0.8ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (login = 'lebron' AND pass = 'lejames')
=> #<ActiveRecord::Relation [#<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">]>
irb(main):003:0> pass = "gotyou" OR 'x' = 'x'
=> "gotyou" OR 'x' = 'x'
irb(main):004:0> Person.where("login = '#{login}' AND pass = '#{pass}'")
  Person Load (0.2ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (login = 'lebron' AND pass = 'gotyou' OR 'x' = 'x')
=> #<ActiveRecord::Relation [#<Person id: 8, first_name: "Kalman", last_name: "Smith", age: 33, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", login: "kalman", pass: "abc123">, #<Person id: 9, first_name: "John", last_name: "Whatever", age: 27, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", login: "johnw", pass: "123abc">, #<Person id: 10, first_name: "Michael", last_name: "Smith", age: 15, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", login: "michael", pass: "password">, #<Person id: 11, first_name: "Josh", last_name: "Oreck", age: 57, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:50", login: "josh", pass: "not_telling">, #<Person id: 12, first_name: "John", last_name: "Smith", age: 27, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "john", pass: "secret">, #<Person id: 13, first_name: "Bill", last_name: "Gates", age: 75, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "bill", pass: "no_idea">, #<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">]>
```



# Array Condition Syntax

- Lets you specify SQL fragment with ? followed by values
- Automagically performs conversions on the input values and escapes strings in the SQL
- Immune to SQL injection
- Similar to a PreparedStatement in Java

# Array Condition Syntax

```
hazink1-ml1:advanced_ar hazink1$ rails c
Loading development environment (Rails 4.1.1)
irb(main):001:0> Person.find_by "age BETWEEN ? AND ?", 28, 32
  Person Load (1.0ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (age BETWEEN 28 AND 32) LIMIT 1
=> #<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">
irb(main):002:0> Person.where "age BETWEEN ? AND ?", 28, 32
  Person Load (0.3ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (age BETWEEN 28 AND 32)
=> #<ActiveRecord::Relation [#<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">]>
irb(main):003:0> Person.where("age BETWEEN ? AND ?", 28, 32).first
  Person Load (0.2ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (age BETWEEN 28 AND 32) ORDER BY "people"."id" ASC LIMIT 1
=> #<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">
```

# Array Condition Syntax issues

- Array Condition Syntax is “SQL Injection safe” and easy to use, but there are now 2 (small) problems:
  1. You have to keep track of the order of parameters “hiding” behind the “?”.
  2. If you have  $n$  “?” – you need to pass in  $n$  values, even if they are a reference to the same value

# Hash Condition Syntax

- Instead of “?”, you specify symbols which map to the values in the hash passed in as a second parameter

```
irb(main):001:0> Person.find_by "last_name = :name OR first_name = :name", name: "James"
  Person Load (0.9ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (last_name = 'James' OR first_name = 'James') LIMIT 1
=> #<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at:
-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">
irb(main):002:0> Person.find_by "last_name = ? OR first_name = ?", "James", "James"
  Person Load (0.2ms) SELECT "people".* FROM "people" WHERE (last_name = 'James' OR first_name = 'James') LIMIT 1
=> #<Person id: 14, first_name: "LeBron", last_name: "James", age: 30, created_at: "2014-06-17 03:51:51", updated_at:
-17 03:51:51", login: "lebron", pass: "lejames">
```