# MONGODB DESIGN PATTERNS 1



### YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: A FLEXIBLE SCHEMA

- Unlike SQL databases, collections do not require its documents to have the same schema, i.e., the following properties might change:
  - the set of fields and
  - the data type for the same field
- In practice, however, documents in a collection share a similar structure
  - Which is the best document structure?
  - Are there patterns to address common applications?
- It is possible to enforce **document validation** rules for a collection during update and insert operations

### EMBEDDED VS REFERENCE

```
_id: <0bjectId1>,
                                                    username: "123xyz"
_id: <0bjectId1>,
username: "123xyz",
contact: {
                                            Embedded sub-
            phone: "123-456-7890",
                                           document
            email: "xyz@example.com"
access: {
           level: 5,
                                            Embedded sub-
           group: "dev"
                                            document
```

user document

```
contact document

{
    _id: <0bjectId2>,
    user_id: <0bjectId1>,
    phone: "123-456-7890",
    email: "xyz@example.com"
}

access document

{
    _id: <0bjectId3>,
    user_id: <0bjectId1>,
    level: 5,
    group: "dev"
}
```

### ATOMICITY OF WRITE OPERATIONS

- A write operation is atomic on the level of a single document, even if the operation modifies multiple embedded documents within a single document
- When a single write operation (e.g. db.collection.updateMany()) modifies multiple documents, the modification of each document is atomic, but the operation as a whole is not atomic
- For situations requiring atomicity of reads and writes to multiple documents (in a single or multiple collections), MongoDB supports **multi-document transactions**:
  - in version 4.0, MongoDB supports multi-document transactions on replica sets
  - in version 4.2, MongoDB introduces distributed transactions, which adds support for multi-document transactions on sharded clusters and incorporates the existing support for multi-document transactions on replica sets

### SCHEMA VALIDATION

MongoDB can perform schema validation during updates and insertions. Existing documents do not undergo validation checks until modification.

- validator: specify validation rules or expressions for the collection
- validationLevel: determines how strictly MongoDB applies validation rules to existing documents during an update
  - *strict*, the default, applies to all changes to any document of the collection
  - moderate, applies only to existing documents that already fulfill the validation criteria or to inserts
- validationAction: determines whether MongoDB should raise error and reject documents that violate the validation rules or warn about the violations in the log but allow invalid documents

### JSON SCHEMA VALIDATOR

- Starting in version 3.6, MongoDB supports JSON Schema validation (recommended)
- To specify JSON Schema validation, use the \$jsonSchema operator

```
db.createCollection("students",
           { validator: {
                      $jsonSchema:{
                                  bsonType: "object",
                                  required: [ "name", "year" ],
                                  properties: {
                                             name: {
                                                         bsonType: "string",
                                                         description: "must be a string and is required"
                                             year: {
                                                         bsonType: "int",
                                                         minimum: 2000.
                                                         maximum: 2099,
                                                         description: "must be an integer in [2000, 2099] and is required»
```

### QUERY EXPRESSION SCHEMA VALIDATOR

In addition to JSON Schema validation that uses the \$jsonSchema query operator, MongoDB supports validation with **other query operators**, except for:

- *\$near, \$nearSphere, \$text*, and *\$where* operators
- Note: users can bypass document validation with bypassDocumentValidation option.

### DESIGNING FACTORS

- Atomicity
  - Embedded Data Model vs Multi-Document Transaction
- Sharding
  - selecting the proper shard key has significant implications for performance, and can enable or prevent query isolation and increased write capacity
- Indexes
  - each index requires at least 8 kB of data space.
  - adding an index has some negative performance impact for write operations
  - collections with high read-to-write ratio often benefit from additional indexes
  - when active, each index consumes disk space and memory
- Data Lifecycle Management
  - the Time to Live feature of collections expires documents after a period of time

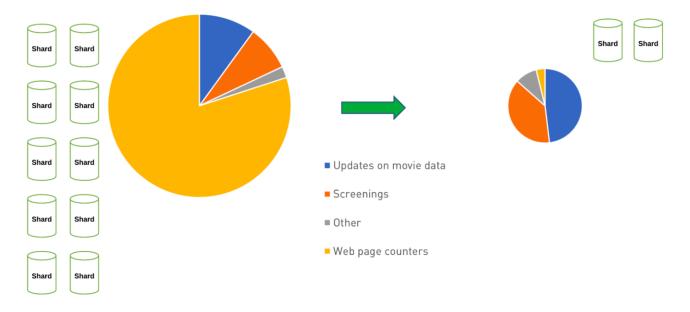
### BUILDING WITH PATTERNS

- Approximation
- Attribute
- Bucket
- Computed
- Document Versioning
- Extended Reference
- Outlier
- Pre-allocation
- Polymorphic
- Schema Versioning
- Subset
- Tree

"a driving force in what your schema should look like, is what the data access patterns for that data are"

### **APPROXIMATION**

- Let's say that our city planning strategy is based on needing one fire engine per 10,000 people.
- instead of updating the population in the database with every change, we could build in a counter and only update by 100, 1% of the time.
- Another option might be to have a function that returns a random number. If, for example, that function returns a number from 0 to 100, it will return 0 around 1% of the time. When that condition is met, we increase the counter by 100.
- Our writes are significantly reduced here, in this example by 99%.
- when working with large amounts of data, the impact on performance of write operations is large too.



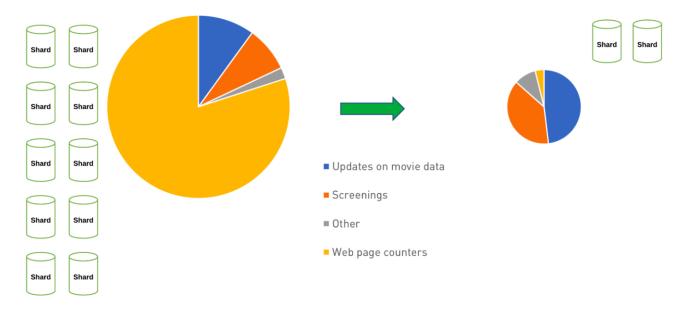
#### Examples

- population counter
- movie website counter

source: https://www.mongodb.com/blog/post/building-with-patterns-the-approximation-pattern

### **APPROXIMATION**

- Useful when
  - expensive calculations are frequently done
  - the precision of those calculations is not the highest priority
- Pros
  - fewer writes to the database
  - no schema change required
- Cons
  - exact numbers aren't being represented
  - implementation must be done in the application



#### Examples

- population counter
- movie website counter

source: https://www.mongodb.com/blog/post/building-with-patterns-the-approximation-pattern

### ATTRIBUTE

- Let's think about a collection of movies.
- The documents will likely have similar fields involved across all the documents:
  - title, director, producer, cast, etc.
- Let's say we want to search on the release date: which release date? Movies are often released on different dates in different countries.
- A search for a release date will require looking across many fields at once, we'd need several indexes on our movies collection.

```
title: "Star Wars",
    director: "George Lucas",
    ...
    release_US: ISODate("1977-05-20T01:00:00+01:00"),
    release_France: ISODate("1977-10-19T01:00:00+01:00"),
    release_Italy: ISODate("1977-10-20T01:00:00+01:00"),
    release_UK: ISODate("1977-12-27T01:00:00+01:00"),
    ...
}
```

 Move this subset of information into an array and reduce the indexing needs. We turn this information into an array of key-value pairs

### ATTRIBUTE

- Useful when
  - there is a subset of fields that share common characteristics
  - the fields we need to sort on are only found in a small subset of documents

#### Pros

- fewer indexes are needed, e.g., {"releases.location": 1, "releases.date": 1}
- queries become simpler to write and are generally faster
- Example
  - product catalog

title: "Star Wars", director: "George Lucas", releases: [ location: "USA", date: ISODate("1977-05-20T01:00:00+01:00") }, location: "France", date: ISODate("1977-10-19T01:00:00+01:00") location: "Italy", date: ISODate("1977-10-20T01:00:00+01:00") }, location: "UK", date: ISODate("1977-12-27T01:00:00+01:00") },

### BUCKET

- With data coming in as a stream over a period of time (time series data) we may be inclined to store each measurement in its own document, as if we were using a relational database.
- We could end up having to index sensor\_id and timestamp for every single measurement to enable rapid access.
- We can "bucket" this data, by time, into documents that hold the measurements from a particular time span. We can also programmatically add additional information to each of these "buckets".
- Benefits in terms of index size savings, potential query simplification, and the ability to use that pre-aggregated data in our documents.

```
sensor id: 12345,
timestamp: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:00:00.000Z"),
temperature: 40
sensor id: 12345,
timestamp: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:01:00.000Z"),
temperature: 40
sensor id: 12345,
timestamp: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:02:00.000Z"),
temperature: 41
```

### BUCKET

- Useful when
  - needing to manage streaming data
  - time-series
  - real-time analytics
  - Internet of Things (IoT)

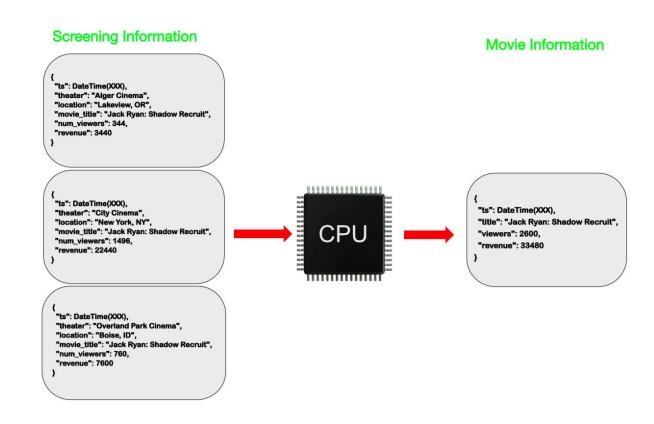
#### Pros

- reduces the overall number of documents in a collection
- improves index performance
- can simplify data access by leveraging pre-aggregation, e.g., average temperature = sum/count
- Example
  - IoT, time series

```
sensor_id: 12345,
start_date: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:00:00.000Z"),
end date: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:59:59.000Z"),
measurements: [
   timestamp: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:00:00.000Z"),
   temperature: 40
   timestamp: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:01:00.000Z"),
    temperature: 40
    timestamp: ISODate("2019-01-31T10:42:00.000Z"),
    temperature: 42
transaction_count: 42,
sum_temperature: 2413
```

### COMPUTED

- The usefulness of data becomes much more apparent when we can compute values from it.
  - What's the total sales revenue of ...?
  - How many viewers watched …?
- These types of questions can be answered from data stored in a database but must be computed.
- Running these computations every time they're requested though becomes a highly resource-intensive process, especially on huge datasets.
- Example: a movie review website, every time we visit a movie webpage, it provides information about the number of cinemas the movie has played in, the total number of people who've watched the movie, and the overall revenue.



### COMPUTED

- Useful when
  - very read-intensive data access patterns
  - data needs to be repeatedly computed by the application
  - computation done in conjunction with any update or at defined intervals - every hour for example

#### Pros

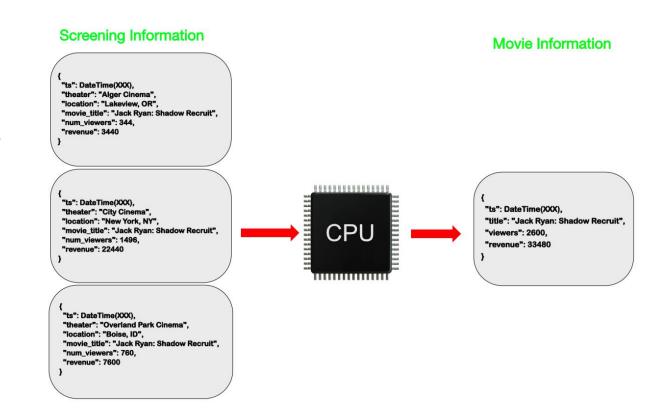
reduction in CPU workload for frequent computations

#### Cons

it may be difficult to identify the need for this pattern

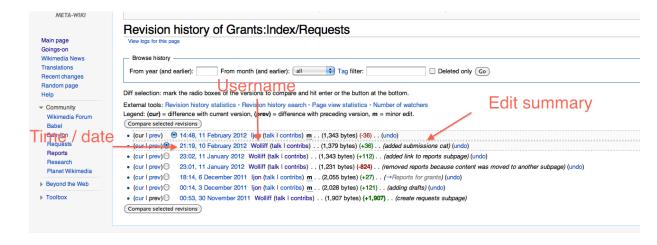
#### Examples

- revenue or viewer
- time series data
- product catalogs



### DOCUMENT VERSIONING

- In most cases we query only the latest state of the data.
  - What about situations in which we need to query previous states of the data?
  - What if we need to have some functionality of version control of our documents?
- Goal: keeping the version history of documents available and usable
- Assumptions about the data in the database and the data access patterns that the application makes
  - Limited number of revisions
  - Limited number of versioned documents
  - Most of the queries performed are done on the most recent version of the document



Version history				
Delete All Versions				
No.↓	Modified	Modified By	Size	Comments
3.0	10/4/2018 2:56 PM *	☐ Megan Bowen	339.5 KB	Updated title and intro
2.0	9/26/2018 12:50 PM	☐ Megan Bowen	339.1 KB	Copy edit
1.0	5/18/2018 1:23 PM	☐ Megan Bowen	338.2 KB	

### DOCUMENT VERSIONING

- An insurance company might make use of this pattern.
  - Each customer has a "standard" policy and a second portion that is specific to that customer.
  - This second portion would contain a list of policy add-ons and a list of specific items that are being insured.
- As the customer changes what specific items are insured, this information needs to be updated while the historical information needs to be available as well.
- When a customer purchases a new item and wants it added to their policy, a new policy\_revision document is created using the current\_policy document.
- A version field in the document is then incremented to identify it as the latest revision and the customer's changes added.

```
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>,
    name: 'Bilbo Baggins',
    revision: 1,
    items_insured: ['Elven-sword'],
    ...
}
```

Original current\_policy document

```
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>,
    name: 'Bilbo Baggins',
    revision: 1,
    items_insured: [
        'Elven-sword'
    ],
    ...
}
```

New policy\_revision document

```
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>,
    name: 'Bilbo Baggins',
    revision: 2,
    items_insured: [
        'Elven-sword',
        'One Ring',
    ],
    ...
}
```

New current\_policy document

### DOCUMENT VERSIONING

The newest revision will be stored in the *current\_policies* collection and the old version will be written to the *policy\_revisions* collection.

- Pros
  - easy to implement, even on existing systems
  - no performance impact on queries on the latest revision
- Cons
  - doubles the number of writes
  - queries need to target the correct collection
- Examples
  - financial industries
  - healthcare industries

```
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>
    name: 'Bilbo Baggins',
    revision: 2,
    ...
}

{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>
    name: 'Gandalf',
    revision: 12,
    ...
}
```

current policies collection

```
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>
    name: 'Bilbo Baggins',
    revision: 1,
    ...
}
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>
    name: 'Gandalf',
    revision: 11,
    ...
}
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>
    name: 'Gandalf',
    revision: 10,
    ...
}
{
    _id: ObjectId<ObjectId>
    name: 'Gandalf',
    revision: 9,
    ...
}
```

policy revisions collection

 ${\color{red} \textbf{source:}} \ \underline{\textbf{https://www.mongodb.com/blog/post/building-with-patterns-the-document-versioning-pattern}}$ 

### EXTENDED REFERENCE

In an e-commerce application

- the order
- the customer
- the inventory

are separate logical entities

#### **Order Collection**

#### **Customer Collection**

```
__id: 123,
    __name: "Katrina Pope",
    street: "123 Main St",
    city: "Somewhere",
    country: "Someplace",
    ...
}
```

#### **Inventory Collection**

```
{
    _id: ObjectId("507f1f77bcf86cd111111111"),
    name: "widget",
    cost: {
       value: NumberDecimal("11.99"),
       currency: "USD"
    },
    on_hand: 98325,
    ...
}
```

- However, the full retrieval of an order requires to join data from different entities
- A customer can have N orders, creating a 1-N relationship
- Embedding all the customer information inside each order
  - reduce the JOIN operation
  - results in a lot of duplicated information
  - not all the customer data may be actually needed

### EXTENDED REFERENCE

Instead of embedding (i.e., duplicating) all the data of an external entity (i.e., another document), we only copy the fields we access frequently.

Instead of including a reference to join the information, we only embed those fields of the highest priority and most frequently accessed.

- Useful when
  - your application is experiencing lots of JOIN operations to bring together frequently accessed data

#### Pros

- improves performance when there are a lot of join operations
- faster reads and a reduction in the complexity of data fetching

#### Cons

- data duplication, it works best if such data rarely change (e.g., user-id, name)
- Sometimes duplication of data is better because you keep the historical values (e.g., shipping address of the order)

#### **Customer Collection**

#### **Order Collection**

## ICINOVIED GNENT

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

For further information on the content of these slides, please refer to the book

### "Design with MongoDB"

Best Models for Applications

by Alessandro Fiori

https://flowygo.com/en/projects/design-with-mongodb/