CouchDB
The Definitive Guide

J. Chris Anderson, Jan Lehnardt & Noah Slater
CouchDB: The Definitive Guide

Three of CouchDB’s creators show you how to use this document-oriented database as a standalone application framework or with high-volume, distributed applications. With its simple model for storing, processing, and accessing data, CouchDB is ideal for web applications that handle huge amounts of loosely structured data. That alone would stretch the limits of a relational database, yet CouchDB offers an open source solution that’s reliable, scales easily, and responds quickly.

CouchDB works with self-contained data that has loose or ad-hoc connections. It’s a model that fits many real-world items, such as contacts, invoices, and receipts, but you’ll discover that this database can easily handle data of any kind. With this book, you’ll learn how to work with CouchDB through its RESTful web interface, and you’ll become familiar with key features such as simple document CRUD (create, read, update, delete), advanced MapReduce, deployment tuning, and more.

- Understand the basics of document-oriented storage and manipulation
- Interact with CouchDB entirely through HTTP, using its RESTful interface
- Model data as self-contained JSON documents
- Handle evolving data schemas naturally
- Query and aggregate data in CouchDB, using MapReduce views
- Replicate data between nodes
- Tune CouchDB for increased performance and reliability

“This is a great book. Clean, clear writing with helpful examples.”
—Shelley Powers
Author, Learning JavaScript

J. Chris Anderson is an Apache CouchDB committer and cofounder of Relaxed, Inc. Chris is obsessed with JavaScript CouchApps and bending the physics of the Web to give control back to users.

Jan Lehnardt is an Apache CouchDB committer and cofounder of Relaxed, Inc. Jan hacks on all parts of the web technology stack and focuses on making developers’ lives easier.

Noah Slater is an Apache CouchDB committer and release manager. He works with the community to get CouchDB running in as many places as possible.

Experience with Internet programming is recommended.

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J. Chris Anderson, Jan Lehnardt, and Noah Slater
For the Web, and all the people who helped me along the way. Thank you.

—J. Chris

Für Marita und Kalle.

—Jan

For my parents, God and Damien Katz.

—Noah
Table of Contents

Foreword ................................................................. xv
Preface ..................................................................... xvii

Part I. Introduction

1. Why CouchDB? ...................................................... 3
   Relax ........................................................................ 3
   A Different Way to Model Your Data .......................... 4
   A Better Fit for Common Applications ...................... 5
      Self-Contained Data .............................................. 5
      Syntax and Semantics ........................................... 6
   Building Blocks for Larger Systems ......................... 6
      CouchDB Replication ........................................... 8
   Local Data Is King .................................................. 8
   Wrapping Up .......................................................... 9

2. Eventual Consistency .............................................. 11
   Working with the Grain .......................................... 11
   The CAP Theorem .................................................. 12
   Local Consistency ................................................... 13
      The Key to Your Data .......................................... 13
      No Locking ......................................................... 14
      Validation .......................................................... 15
   Distributed Consistency ......................................... 16
      Incremental Replication ....................................... 16
   Case Study ........................................................... 17
   Wrapping Up ........................................................ 20
### Part III. Example Application

#### 10. Standalone Applications
- Use the Correct Version
- Portable JavaScript
- Applications Are Documents
- Standalone
- In the Wild
- Wrapping Up

#### 11. Managing Design Documents
- Working with the Example Application
- Installing CouchApp
- Using CouchApp
### 16. Replication
- The Magic 150
- Simple Replication with the Admin Interface 150
- Replication in Detail 151
- Continuous Replication 152
- That’s It? 152

### 17. Conflict Management
- The Split Brain 154
- Conflict Resolution by Example 155
- Working with Conflicts 158
- Deterministic Revision IDs 161
- Wrapping Up 161

### 18. Load Balancing
- Having a Backup 163

### 19. Clustering
- Introducing CouchDB Lounge 165
- Consistent Hashing 166
  - Redundant Storage 167
  - Redundant Proxies 167
  - View Merging 167
- Growing the Cluster 168
  - Moving Partitions 169
  - Splitting Partitions 170

### Part V. Reference

### 20. Change Notifications
- Polling for Changes 174
- Long Polling 175
- Continuous Changes 176
- Filters 177
- Wrapping Up 178

### 21. View Cookbook for SQL Jockeys
- Using Views 179
  - Defining a View 179
  - Querying a View 180
  - MapReduce Functions 180
- Look Up by Key 181
Look Up by Prefix 182
Aggregate Functions 183
Get Unique Values 185
Enforcing Uniqueness 187

22. Security ................................................. 189
The Admin Party 189
   Creating New Admin Users 190
   Hashing Passwords 191
Basic Authentication 191
   Update Validations Again 192
Cookie Authentication 193
Network Server Security 194

23. High Performance ..................................... 195
Good Benchmarks Are Non-Trivial 195
High Performance CouchDB 197
   Hardware 197
   An Implementation Note 197
Bulk Inserts and Mostly Monotonic DocIDs 198
   Optimized Examples: Views and Replication 198
Bulk Document Inserts 198
Batch Mode 199
Single Document Inserts 200
Hovercraft 201
Trade-Offs 201
   But...My Boss Wants Numbers! 202
   A Call to Arms 202

24. Recipes ................................................. 205
Banking 205
   Accountants Don’t Use Erasers 205
   Wrapping Up 208
Ordering Lists 208
   A List of Integers 208
   A List of Floats 210
Pagination 211
   Example Data 211
   A View 212
   Setup 213
   Slow Paging (Do Not Use) 213
   Fast Paging (Do Use) 215
Jump to Page 216
About the Authors

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Colophon

The animal on the cover of *CouchDB: The Definitive Guide* is a Pomeranian dog (*Canis familiaris*), a small variety of the generally larger German Spitz breed, named for the Baltic region of Pomerania (today spilt between northeastern Germany and northern Poland) where it was first bred.

Originally, Pomeranians were closer in size to their German Spitz relatives—weighing 30–50 pounds—and were bred as herding dogs because of their intelligence, energy, and loyalty. From the late 19th century, however, breeders began to favor increasingly smaller dogs, a move caused in large part by Queen Victoria’s affinity for that variety. Today, Pomeranians are classed as “toy dogs,” weighing only 4–7 pounds, and are particularly kept as small pets and show dogs.

The Pomeranian exhibits many of the physical and behavioral characteristics of its larger ancestors and relatives. It has a short, pointed muzzle, upright and pointed ears, a large bushy tail carried curled over the back, and is especially spirited and friendly. Pomeranians are also particularly noted for their double coat—a soft and dense undercoat and a long, straight and harshly textured outer coat—and come in a wide variety of colors, including white, black, brown, red, orange, sable, spotted, or any combination thereof. Because of their small size, Pomeranians are able to exercise sufficiently in small indoor spaces if taken for a daily walk, and consequently make excellent apartment pets.

The cover image is from Lydekker’s *Royal Natural History*. The cover font is Adobe ITC Garamond. The text font is Linotype Birka; the heading font is Adobe Myriad Condensed; and the code font is LucasFont’s TheSansMonoCondensed.