Graphene Documentation

Release 1.0

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The documentation below is for the dev (prerelease) version of Graphene. To view the documentation for the latest stable Graphene version go to the v2 docs.

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CHAPTER 1

Getting started

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 What is GraphQL?

GraphQL is a query language for your API.

It provides a standard way to:

- describe data provided by a server in a statically typed Schema
- request data in a Query which exactly describes your data requirements and
- receive data in a Response containing only the data you requested.

For an introduction to GraphQL and an overview of its concepts, please refer to the official GraphQL documentation.

1.1.2 What is Graphene?

Graphene is a library that provides tools to implement a GraphQL API in Python using a *code-first* approach.

Compare Graphene's *code-first* approach to building a GraphQL API with *schema-first* approaches like Apollo Server (JavaScript) or Ariadne (Python). Instead of writing GraphQL **Schema Definition Language** (**SDL**), we write Python code to describe the data provided by your server.

Graphene is fully featured with integrations for the most popular web frameworks and ORMs. Graphene produces schemas that are fully compliant with the GraphQL spec and provides tools and patterns for building a Relay-Compliant API as well.

1.2 An example in Graphene

Let's build a basic GraphQL schema to say "hello" and "goodbye" in Graphene.

When we send a Query requesting only one Field, hello, and specify a value for the firstName Argument...

```
{
  hello(firstName: "friend")
}
```

...we would expect the following Response containing only the data requested (the goodbye field is not resolved).

```
{
  "data": {
    "hello": "Hello friend!"
    }
}
```

1.2.1 Requirements

- Python (3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, pypy)
- Graphene (3.0)

1.2.2 Project setup

```
pip install "graphene>=3.0"
```

1.2.3 Creating a basic Schema

In Graphene, we can define a simple schema using the following code:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String, Schema

class Query(ObjectType):
    # this defines a Field `hello` in our Schema with a single Argument `first_name`
    # By default, the argument name will automatically be camel-based into firstName_
    in the generated schema
    hello = String(first_name=String(default_value="stranger"))
    goodbye = String()

# our Resolver method takes the GraphQL context (root, info) as well as
    # Argument (first_name) for the Field and returns data for the query Response
    def resolve_hello(root, info, first_name):
        return f'Hello (first_name)!'

def resolve_goodbye(root, info):
        return 'See ya!'

schema = Schema(query=Query)
```

A GraphQL **Schema** describes each **Field** in the data model provided by the server using scalar types like *String*, *Int* and *Enum* and compound types like *List* and *Object*. For more details refer to the Graphene *Types Reference*.

Our schema can also define any number of **Arguments** for our **Fields**. This is a powerful way for a **Query** to describe the exact data requirements for each **Field**.

For each **Field** in our **Schema**, we write a **Resolver** method to fetch data requested by a client's **Query** using the current context and **Arguments**. For more details, refer to this section on *Resolvers*.

1.2.4 Schema Definition Language (SDL)

In the GraphQL Schema Definition Language, we could describe the fields defined by our example code as shown below.

```
type Query {
  hello(firstName: String = "stranger"): String
  goodbye: String
}
```

Further examples in this documentation will use SDL to describe schema created by ObjectTypes and other fields.

1.2.5 Querying

Then we can start querying our **Schema** by passing a GraphQL query string to execute:

```
# we can query for our field (with the default argument)
query_string = '{ hello }'
result = schema.execute(query_string)
print(result.data['hello'])
# "Hello stranger!"

# or passing the argument in the query
query_with_argument = '{ hello(firstName: "GraphQL") }'
result = schema.execute(query_with_argument)
print(result.data['hello'])
# "Hello GraphQL!"
```

1.2.6 Next steps

Congrats! You got your first Graphene schema working!

Normally, we don't need to directly execute a query string against our schema as Graphene provides many useful Integrations with popular web frameworks like Flask and Django. Check out *Integrations* for more information on how to get started serving your GraphQL API.

CHAPTER 2

Types Reference

2.1 Schema

A GraphQL Schema defines the types and relationships between Fields in your API.

A Schema is created by supplying the root *ObjectType* of each operation, query (mandatory), mutation and subscription.

Schema will collect all type definitions related to the root operations and then supply them to the validator and executor.

```
my_schema = Schema(
   query=MyRootQuery,
   mutation=MyRootMutation,
   subscription=MyRootSubscription
)
```

A Root Query is just a special *ObjectType* that defines the fields that are the entrypoint for your API. Root Mutation and Root Subscription are similar to Root Query, but for different operation types:

- · Query fetches data
- Mutation changes data and retrieves the changes
- Subscription sends changes to clients in real-time

Review the GraphQL documentation on Schema for a brief overview of fields, schema and operations.

2.1.1 Querying

To query a schema, call the execute method on it. See *Executing a query* for more details.

```
query_string = 'query whoIsMyBestFriend { myBestFriend { lastName } }'
my_schema.execute(query_string)
```

2.1.2 Types

There are some cases where the schema cannot access all of the types that we plan to have. For example, when a field returns an Interface, the schema doesn't know about any of the implementations.

In this case, we need to use the types argument when creating the Schema:

```
my_schema = Schema(
    query=MyRootQuery,
    types=[SomeExtraObjectType, ]
)
```

2.1.3 Auto camelCase field names

By default all field and argument names (that are not explicitly set with the name arg) will be converted from snake_case to camelCase (as the API is usually being consumed by a js/mobile client)

For example with the ObjectType the <code>last_name</code> field name is converted to <code>lastName</code>:

```
class Person(graphene.ObjectType):
    last_name = graphene.String()
    other_name = graphene.String(name='_other_Name')
```

In case you don't want to apply this transformation, provide a name argument to the field constructor. other_name converts to other Name (without further transformations).

Your query should look like:

```
{
    lastName
    _other_Name
}
```

To disable this behavior, set the auto_camelcase to False upon schema instantiation:

```
my_schema = Schema(
    query=MyRootQuery,
    auto_camelcase=False,
)
```

2.2 Scalars

Scalar types represent concrete values at the leaves of a query. There are several built in types that Graphene provides out of the box which represent common values in Python. You can also create your own Scalar types to better express values that you might have in your data model.

All Scalar types accept the following arguments. All are optional:

name: string

Override the name of the Field.

description: string

A description of the type to show in the GraphiQL browser.

required: boolean

If True, the server will enforce a value for this field. See NonNull. Default is False.

```
deprecation_reason: string
```

Provide a deprecation reason for the Field.

```
default_value: any
```

Provide a default value for the Field.

2.2.1 Built in scalars

Graphene defines the following base Scalar Types that match the default GraphQL types:

graphene.String

Represents textual data, represented as UTF-8 character sequences. The String type is most often used by GraphQL to represent free-form human-readable text.

graphene. Int

Represents non-fractional signed whole numeric values. Int is a signed 32-bit integer per the GraphQL spec

graphene.Float

Represents signed double-precision fractional values as specified by IEEE 754.

graphene.Boolean

Represents true or false.

graphene.ID

Represents a unique identifier, often used to refetch an object or as key for a cache. The ID type appears in a JSON response as a String; however, it is not intended to be human-readable. When expected as an input type, any string (such as "4") or integer (such as 4) input value will be accepted as an ID.

Graphene also provides custom scalars for common values:

graphene.Date

Represents a Date value as specified by iso8601.

```
import datetime
from graphene import Schema, ObjectType, Date

class Query(ObjectType):
    one_week_from = Date(required=True, date_input=Date(required=True))
```

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```
def resolve_one_week_from(root, info, date_input):
    assert date_input == datetime.date(2006, 1, 2)
    return date_input + datetime.timedelta(weeks=1)

schema = Schema(query=Query)

results = schema.execute("""
    query {
        oneWeekFrom(dateInput: "2006-01-02")
    }

""")

assert results.data == {"oneWeekFrom": "2006-01-09"}
```

graphene.DateTime

Represents a DateTime value as specified by iso8601.

```
import datetime
from graphene import Schema, ObjectType, DateTime

class Query(ObjectType):
    one_hour_from = DateTime(required=True, datetime_input=DateTime(required=True))

def resolve_one_hour_from(root, info, datetime_input):
    assert datetime_input == datetime.datetime(2006, 1, 2, 15, 4, 5)
    return datetime_input + datetime.timedelta(hours=1)

schema = Schema(query=Query)

results = schema.execute("""
    query {
        oneHourFrom(datetimeInput: "2006-01-02T15:04:05")
    }

""")

assert results.data == {"oneHourFrom": "2006-01-02T16:04:05"}
```

graphene.Time

Represents a Time value as specified by iso8601.

```
import datetime
from graphene import Schema, ObjectType, Time

class Query(ObjectType):
    one_hour_from = Time(required=True, time_input=Time(required=True))

def resolve_one_hour_from(root, info, time_input):
    assert time_input == datetime.time(15, 4, 5)
    tmp_time_input = datetime.datetime.combine(datetime.date(1, 1, 1), time_input)
    return (tmp_time_input + datetime.timedelta(hours=1)).time()

schema = Schema(query=Query)
```

```
results = schema.execute("""
    query {
        oneHourFrom(timeInput: "15:04:05")
    }
""")
assert results.data == {"oneHourFrom": "16:04:05"}
```

graphene.Decimal

Represents a Python Decimal value.

```
import decimal
from graphene import Schema, ObjectType, Decimal

class Query(ObjectType):
    add_one_to = Decimal(required=True, decimal_input=Decimal(required=True))

    def resolve_add_one_to(root, info, decimal_input):
        assert decimal_input == decimal.Decimal("10.50")
        return decimal_input + decimal.Decimal("1")

schema = Schema(query=Query)

results = schema.execute("""
    query {
        addOneTo(decimalInput: "10.50")
    }
""")

assert results.data == {"addOneTo": "11.50"}
```

graphene.JSONString

Represents a JSON string.

```
from graphene import Schema, ObjectType, JSONString, String

class Query(ObjectType):
    update_json_key = JSONString(
        required=True,
        json_input=JSONString(required=True),
        key=String(required=True),
        value=String(required=True)
)

def resolve_update_json_key(root, info, json_input, key, value):
    assert json_input == {"name": "Jane"}
    json_input[key] = value
    return json_input

schema = Schema(query=Query)

results = schema.execute("""
    query {
```

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```
updateJsonKey(jsonInput: "{\\"name\\": \\"Jane\\"}", key: "name", value: "Beth

""")

assert results.data == {"updateJsonKey": "{\"name\": \"Beth\"}"}
```

graphene.Base64

Represents a Base64 encoded string.

```
from graphene import Schema, ObjectType, Base64

class Query(ObjectType):
    increment_encoded_id = Base64(
        required=True,
        base64_input=Base64(required=True),
)

def resolve_increment_encoded_id(root, info, base64_input):
    assert base64_input == "4"
    return int(base64_input) + 1

schema = Schema(query=Query)

results = schema.execute("""
    query {
        incrementEncodedId(base64Input: "NA==")
    }
""")

assert results.data == {"incrementEncodedId": "NQ=="}
```

2.2.2 Custom scalars

You can create custom scalars for your schema. The following is an example for creating a DateTime scalar:

```
def parse_value(value):
    return datetime.datetime.strptime(value, "%Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%S.%f")
```

2.2.3 Mounting Scalars

Scalars mounted in a ObjectType, Interface or Mutation act as Fields.

```
class Person(graphene.ObjectType):
    name = graphene.String()

# Is equivalent to:
class Person(graphene.ObjectType):
    name = graphene.Field(graphene.String)
```

Note: when using the Field constructor directly, pass the type and not an instance.

Types mounted in a Field act as Arguments.

```
graphene.Field(graphene.String, to=graphene.String())
# Is equivalent to:
graphene.Field(graphene.String, to=graphene.Argument(graphene.String))
```

2.3 Lists and Non-Null

Object types, scalars, and enums are the only kinds of types you can define in Graphene. But when you use the types in other parts of the schema, or in your query variable declarations, you can apply additional type modifiers that affect validation of those values.

2.3.1 NonNull

```
import graphene

class Character(graphene.ObjectType):
   name = graphene.NonNull(graphene.String)
```

Here, we're using a String type and marking it as Non-Null by wrapping it using the NonNull class. This means that our server always expects to return a non-null value for this field, and if it ends up getting a null value that will actually trigger a GraphQL execution error, letting the client know that something has gone wrong.

The previous NonNull code snippet is also equivalent to:

```
import graphene
class Character(graphene.ObjectType):
   name = graphene.String(required=True)
```

2.3.2 List

```
import graphene

class Character(graphene.ObjectType):
    appears_in = graphene.List(graphene.String)
```

Lists work in a similar way: We can use a type modifier to mark a type as a List, which indicates that this field will return a list of that type. It works the same for arguments, where the validation step will expect a list for that value.

2.3.3 NonNull Lists

By default items in a list will be considered nullable. To define a list without any nullable items the type needs to be marked as NonNull. For example:

```
import graphene
class Character(graphene.ObjectType):
    appears_in = graphene.List(graphene.NonNull(graphene.String))
```

The above results in the type definition:

```
type Character {
   appearsIn: [String!]
}
```

2.4 ObjectType

A Graphene *ObjectType* is the building block used to define the relationship between **Fields** in your **Schema** and how their data is retrieved.

The basics:

- Each ObjectType is a Python class that inherits from graphene. ObjectType.
- Each attribute of the ObjectType represents a Field.
- Each Field has a resolver method to fetch data (or Default Resolver).

2.4.1 Quick example

This example model defines a Person, with a first and a last name:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String

class Person(ObjectType):
    first_name = String()
    last_name = String()
    full_name = String()

def resolve_full_name(parent, info):
    return f"{parent.first_name} {parent.last_name}"
```

This *ObjectType* defines the field **first_name**, **last_name**, and **full_name**. Each field is specified as a class attribute, and each attribute maps to a Field. Data is fetched by our resolve_full_name *resolver method* for full_name field and the *Default Resolver* for other fields.

The above Person ObjectType has the following schema representation:

```
type Person {
  firstName: String
  lastName: String
  fullName: String
}
```

2.4.2 Resolvers

A Resolver is a method that helps us answer Queries by fetching data for a Field in our Schema.

Resolvers are lazily executed, so if a field is not included in a query, its resolver will not be executed.

Each field on an *ObjectType* in Graphene should have a corresponding resolver method to fetch data. This resolver method should match the field name. For example, in the Person type above, the full_name field is resolved by the method resolve_full_name.

Each resolver method takes the parameters:

- Parent Value Object (parent) for the value object use to resolve most fields
- · GraphQL Execution Info (info) for query and schema meta information and per-request context
- GraphQL Arguments (**kwargs) as defined on the Field.

Resolver Parameters

Parent Value Object (parent)

This parameter is typically used to derive the values for most fields on an *ObjectType*.

The first parameter of a resolver method (*parent*) is the value object returned from the resolver of the parent field. If there is no parent field, such as a root Query field, then the value for *parent* is set to the root_value configured while executing the query (default None). See *Executing a query* for more details on executing queries.

Resolver example

If we have a schema with Person type and one field on the root query.

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String, Field

class Person(ObjectType):
    full_name = String()

    def resolve_full_name(parent, info):
        return f" (parent.first_name) (parent.last_name)"

class Query(ObjectType):
    me = Field(Person)

    def resolve_me(parent, info):
```

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```
# returns an object that represents a Person
return get_human(name="Luke Skywalker")
```

When we execute a query against that schema.

```
schema = Schema(query=Query)
query_string = "{ me { fullName } }"
result = schema.execute(query_string)

assert result.data["me"] == {"fullName": "Luke Skywalker"}
```

Then we go through the following steps to resolve this query:

- parent is set with the root_value from query execution (None).
- Query.resolve_me called with parent None which returns a value object Person("Luke", "Skywalker").
- This value object is then used as parent while calling Person.resolve_full_name to resolve the scalar String value "Luke Skywalker".
- The scalar value is serialized and sent back in the query response.

Each resolver returns the next *Parent Value Object (parent)* to be used in executing the following resolver in the chain. If the Field is a Scalar type, that value will be serialized and sent in the **Response**. Otherwise, while resolving Compound types like *ObjectType*, the value be passed forward as the next *Parent Value Object (parent)*.

Naming convention

This Parent Value Object (parent) is sometimes named obj, parent, or source in other GraphQL documentation. It can also be named after the value object being resolved (ex. root for a root Query or Mutation, and person for a Person value object). Sometimes this argument will be named self in Graphene code, but this can be misleading due to Implicit staticmethod while executing queries in Graphene.

GraphQL Execution Info (info)

The second parameter provides two things:

- reference to meta information about the execution of the current GraphQL Query (fields, schema, parsed query, etc.)
- access to per-request context which can be used to store user authentication, data loader instances or anything else useful for resolving the query.

Only context will be required for most applications. See *Context* for more information about setting context.

GraphQL Arguments (kwargs)**

Any arguments that a field defines gets passed to the resolver function as keyword arguments. For example:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, Field, String

class Query(ObjectType):
   human_by_name = Field(Human, name=String(required=True))
```

```
def resolve_human_by_name(parent, info, name):
    return get_human(name=name)
```

You can then execute the following query:

```
query {
    humanByName(name: "Luke Skywalker") {
        firstName
        lastName
    }
}
```

Note: There are several arguments to a field that are "reserved" by Graphene (see *Fields (Mounted Types)*). You can still define an argument that clashes with one of these fields by using the args parameter like so:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, Field, String

class Query(ObjectType):
    answer = String(args={'description': String()})

def resolve_answer(parent, info, description):
    return description
```

Convenience Features of Graphene Resolvers

Implicit staticmethod

One surprising feature of Graphene is that all resolver methods are treated implicitly as staticmethods. This means that, unlike other methods in Python, the first argument of a resolver is *never* self while it is being executed by Graphene. Instead, the first argument is always *Parent Value Object (parent)*. In practice, this is very convenient as, in GraphQL, we are almost always more concerned with the using the parent value object to resolve queries than attributes on the Python object itself.

The two resolvers in this example are effectively the same.

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```
return parent.last_name
# ...
```

If you prefer your code to be more explicit, feel free to use @staticmethod decorators. Otherwise, your code may be cleaner without them!

Default Resolver

If a resolver method is not defined for a **Field** attribute on our *ObjectType*, Graphene supplies a default resolver.

If the *Parent Value Object (parent)* is a dictionary, the resolver will look for a dictionary key matching the field name. Otherwise, the resolver will get the attribute from the parent value object matching the field name.

```
from collections import namedtuple
from graphene import ObjectType, String, Field, Schema
PersonValueObject = namedtuple("Person", ["first_name", "last_name"])
class Person(ObjectType):
   first_name = String()
   last_name = String()
class Query(ObjectType):
   me = Field(Person)
   my_best_friend = Field(Person)
   def resolve_me(parent, info):
        # always pass an object for `me` field
        return PersonValueObject(first_name="Luke", last_name="Skywalker")
   def resolve_my_best_friend(parent, info):
        # always pass a dictionary for `my_best_fiend_field`
        return {"first_name": "R2", "last_name": "D2"}
schema = Schema(query=Query)
result = schema.execute('''
       me { firstName lastName }
       myBestFriend { firstName lastName }
''')
# With default resolvers we can resolve attributes from an object..
assert result.data["me"] == {"firstName": "Luke", "lastName": "Skywalker"}
# With default resolvers, we can also resolve keys from a dictionary..
assert result.data["myBestFriend"] == {"firstName": "R2", "lastName": "D2"}
```

Advanced

GraphQL Argument defaults

If you define an argument for a field that is not required (and in a query execution it is not provided as an argument) it will not be passed to the resolver function at all. This is so that the developer can differentiate between a undefined

value for an argument and an explicit null value.

For example, given this schema:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String

class Query(ObjectType):
   hello = String(required=True, name=String())

def resolve_hello(parent, info, name):
    return name if name else 'World'
```

And this query:

```
query {
   hello
}
```

An error will be thrown:

```
TypeError: resolve_hello() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```

You can fix this error in several ways. Either by combining all keyword arguments into a dict:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String

class Query(ObjectType):
   hello = String(required=True, name=String())

def resolve_hello(parent, info, **kwargs):
    name = kwargs.get('name', 'World')
    return f'Hello, {name}!'
```

Or by setting a default value for the keyword argument:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String

class Query(ObjectType):
   hello = String(required=True, name=String())

def resolve_hello(parent, info, name='World'):
    return f'Hello, {name}!'
```

One can also set a default value for an Argument in the GraphQL schema itself using Graphene!

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String

class Query(ObjectType):
   hello = String(
       required=True,
       name=String(default_value='World')
   )

   def resolve_hello(parent, info, name):
      return f'Hello, {name}!'
```

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Resolvers outside the class

A field can use a custom resolver from outside the class:

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String

def resolve_full_name(person, info):
    return f"{person.first_name} {person.last_name}"

class Person(ObjectType):
    first_name = String()
    last_name = String()
    full_name = String(resolver=resolve_full_name)
```

Instances as value objects

Graphene ObjectTypes can act as value objects too. So with the previous example you could use Person to capture data for each of the *ObjectType*'s fields.

```
peter = Person(first_name='Peter', last_name='Griffin')

peter.first_name # prints "Peter"
peter.last_name # prints "Griffin"
```

Field camelcasing

Graphene automatically camelcases fields on *ObjectType* from field_name to fieldName to conform with GraphQL standards. See *Auto camelCase field names* for more information.

2.4.3 ObjectType Configuration - Meta class

Graphene uses a Meta inner class on *ObjectType* to set different options.

GraphQL type name

By default the type name in the GraphQL schema will be the same as the class name that defines the ObjectType. This can be changed by setting the name property on the Meta class:

```
from graphene import ObjectType

class MyGraphQlSong(ObjectType):
    class Meta:
    name = 'Song'
```

GraphQL Description

The schema description of an *ObjectType* can be set as a docstring on the Python object or on the Meta inner class.

Interfaces & Possible Types

Setting interfaces in Meta inner class specifies the GraphQL Interfaces that this Object implements.

Providing possible_types helps Graphene resolve ambiguous types such as interfaces or Unions.

See *Interfaces* for more information.

```
from graphene import ObjectType, Node

Song = namedtuple('Song', ('title', 'artist'))

class MyGraphQlSong(ObjectType):
    class Meta:
        interfaces = (Node, )
        possible_types = (Song, )
```

2.5 Enums

An Enum is a special GraphQL type that represents a set of symbolic names (members) bound to unique, constant values.

2.5.1 Definition

You can create an Enum using classes:

```
import graphene

class Episode(graphene.Enum):
    NEWHOPE = 4
    EMPIRE = 5
    JEDI = 6
```

But also using instances of Enum:

```
Episode = graphene.Enum('Episode', [('NEWHOPE', 4), ('EMPIRE', 5), ('JEDI', 6)])
```

2.5.2 Value descriptions

It's possible to add a description to an enum value, for that the enum value needs to have the description property on it.

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```
class Episode(graphene.Enum):
    NEWHOPE = 4
    EMPIRE = 5
    JEDI = 6

@property
    def description(self):
        if self == Episode.NEWHOPE:
            return 'New Hope Episode'
        return 'Other episode'
```

2.5.3 Usage with Python Enums

In case the Enums are already defined it's possible to reuse them using the Enum.from_enum function.

```
graphene.Enum.from_enum(AlreadyExistingPyEnum)
```

Enum.from_enum supports a description and deprecation_reason lambdas as input so you can add description etc. to your enum without changing the original:

```
graphene.Enum.from_enum(
    AlreadyExistingPyEnum,
    description=lambda v: return 'foo' if v == AlreadyExistingPyEnum.Foo else 'bar'
)
```

2.5.4 Notes

graphene. Enum uses enum. Enum internally (or a backport if that's not available) and can be used in a similar way, with the exception of member getters.

In the Python Enum implementation you can access a member by initing the Enum.

```
from enum import Enum

class Color(Enum):
    RED = 1
    GREEN = 2
    BLUE = 3

assert Color(1) == Color.RED
```

However, in Graphene Enum you need to call .get to have the same effect:

```
from graphene import Enum

class Color(Enum):
    RED = 1
    GREEN = 2
    BLUE = 3

assert Color.get(1) == Color.RED
```

2.6 Interfaces

An Interface is an abstract type that defines a certain set of fields that a type must include to implement the interface.

For example, you can define an Interface Character that represents any character in the Star Wars trilogy:

```
import graphene

class Character(graphene.Interface):
   id = graphene.ID(required=True)
   name = graphene.String(required=True)
   friends = graphene.List(lambda: Character)
```

Any ObjectType that implements Character will have these exact fields, with these arguments and return types.

For example, here are some types that might implement Character:

```
class Human(graphene.ObjectType):
    class Meta:
        interfaces = (Character, )

    starships = graphene.List(Starship)
    home_planet = graphene.String()

class Droid(graphene.ObjectType):
    class Meta:
        interfaces = (Character, )

    primary_function = graphene.String()
```

Both of these types have all of the fields from the Character interface, but also bring in extra fields, home_planet, starships and primary_function, that are specific to that particular type of character.

The full GraphQL schema definition will look like this:

```
interface Character {
    id: ID!
    name: String!
    friends: [Character]
}

type Human implements Character {
    id: ID!
    name: String!
    friends: [Character]
    starships: [Starship]
    homePlanet: String
}

type Droid implements Character {
    id: ID!
    name: String!
    friends: [Character]
    primaryFunction: String
}
```

Interfaces are useful when you want to return an object or set of objects, which might be of several different types.

For example, you can define a field hero that resolves to any Character, depending on the episode, like this:

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```
class Query(graphene.ObjectType):
    hero = graphene.Field(
        Character,
        required=True,
        episode=graphene.Int(required=True)
)

def resolve_hero(root, info, episode):
    # Luke is the hero of Episode V
    if episode == 5:
        return get_human(name='Luke Skywalker')
    return get_droid(name='R2-D2')

schema = graphene.Schema(query=Query, types=[Human, Droid])
```

This allows you to directly query for fields that exist on the Character interface as well as selecting specific fields on any type that implements the interface using inline fragments.

For example, the following query:

```
query HeroForEpisode($episode: Int!) {
    hero(episode: $episode) {
        __typename
        name
        ... on Droid {
            primaryFunction
        }
        ... on Human {
            homePlanet
        }
    }
}
```

Will return the following data with variables { "episode": 4 }:

And different data with the variables { "episode": 5 }:

```
{
    "data": {
        "hero": {
            "__typename": "Human",
            "name": "Luke Skywalker",
            "homePlanet": "Tatooine"
        }
    }
}
```

2.6.1 Resolving data objects to types

As you build out your schema in Graphene it's common for your resolvers to return objects that represent the data backing your GraphQL types rather than instances of the Graphene types (e.g. Django or SQLAlchemy models). This works well with ObjectType and Scalar fields, however when you start using Interfaces you might come across this error:

This happens because Graphene doesn't have enough information to convert the data object into a Graphene type needed to resolve the Interface. To solve this you can define a resolve_type class method on the Interface which maps a data object to a Graphene type:

```
class Character(graphene.Interface):
    id = graphene.ID(required=True)
    name = graphene.String(required=True)

@classmethod
def resolve_type(cls, instance, info):
    if instance.type == 'DROID':
        return Droid
    return Human
```

2.7 Unions

Union types are very similar to interfaces, but they don't get to specify any common fields between the types.

The basics:

- Each Union is a Python class that inherits from graphene. Union.
- Unions don't have any fields on it, just links to the possible ObjectTypes.

2.7.1 Quick example

This example model defines several ObjectTypes with their own fields. SearchResult is the implementation of Union of this object types.

```
class Human(graphene.ObjectType):
    name = graphene.String()
    born_in = graphene.String()

class Droid(graphene.ObjectType):
    name = graphene.String()
    primary_function = graphene.String()

class Starship(graphene.ObjectType):
    name = graphene.String()
    length = graphene.Int()
class SearchResult(graphene.Union):
```

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```
class Meta:
    types = (Human, Droid, Starship)
```

Wherever we return a SearchResult type in our schema, we might get a Human, a Droid, or a Starship. Note that members of a union type need to be concrete object types; you can't create a union type out of interfaces or other unions.

The above types have the following representation in a schema:

```
type Droid {
  name: String
  primaryFunction: String
}

type Human {
  name: String
  bornIn: String
}

type Ship {
  name: String
  length: Int
}

union SearchResult = Human | Droid | Starship
```

2.8 Mutations

A Mutation is a special ObjectType that also defines an Input.

2.8.1 Quick example

This example defines a Mutation:

```
import graphene

class CreatePerson(graphene.Mutation):
    class Arguments:
        name = graphene.String()

    ok = graphene.Boolean()
    person = graphene.Field(lambda: Person)

def mutate(root, info, name):
        person = Person(name=name)
        ok = True
    return CreatePerson(person=person, ok=ok)
```

person and ok are the output fields of the Mutation when it is resolved.

Arguments attributes are the arguments that the Mutation CreatePerson needs for resolving, in this case **name** will be the only argument for the mutation.

mutate is the function that will be applied once the mutation is called. This method is just a special resolver that we can change data within. It takes the same arguments as the standard query *Resolver Parameters*.

So, we can finish our schema like this:

```
# ... the Mutation Class

class Person(graphene.ObjectType):
    name = graphene.String()
    age = graphene.Int()

class MyMutations(graphene.ObjectType):
    create_person = CreatePerson.Field()

# We must define a query for our schema
class Query(graphene.ObjectType):
    person = graphene.Field(Person)

schema = graphene.Schema(query=Query, mutation=MyMutations)
```

2.8.2 Executing the Mutation

Then, if we query (schema.execute (query_str)) the following:

```
mutation myFirstMutation {
    createPerson(name:"Peter") {
        person {
            name
        }
        ok
    }
}
```

We should receive:

2.8.3 InputFields and InputObjectTypes

InputFields are used in mutations to allow nested input data for mutations.

To use an InputField you define an InputObjectType that specifies the structure of your input data:

```
import graphene

class PersonInput (graphene.InputObjectType):
    name = graphene.String(required=True)
    age = graphene.Int(required=True)

class CreatePerson(graphene.Mutation):
    class Arguments:
        person_data = PersonInput(required=True)
```

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```
person = graphene.Field(Person)

def mutate(root, info, person_data=None):
    person = Person(
        name=person_data.name,
        age=person_data.age
    )
    return CreatePerson(person=person)
```

Note that **name** and **age** are part of **person_data** now.

Using the above mutation your new query would look like this:

```
mutation myFirstMutation {
    createPerson(personData: {name:"Peter", age: 24}) {
        person {
            name,
            age
        }
    }
}
```

InputObjectTypes can also be fields of InputObjectTypes allowing you to have as complex of input data as you need:

```
import graphene

class LatLngInput (graphene.InputObjectType):
    lat = graphene.Float()
    lng = graphene.Float()

#A location has a latlng associated to it
class LocationInput (graphene.InputObjectType):
    name = graphene.String()
    latlng = graphene.InputField(LatLngInput)
```

2.8.4 Output type example

To return an existing ObjectType instead of a mutation-specific type, set the **Output** attribute to the desired ObjectType:

```
import graphene

class CreatePerson(graphene.Mutation):
    class Arguments:
        name = graphene.String()

Output = Person

def mutate(root, info, name):
    return Person(name=name)
```

Then, if we query (schema.execute (query_str)) with the following:

```
mutation myFirstMutation {
    createPerson(name:"Peter") {
```

```
name
__typename
}
```

We should receive:

```
{
    "createPerson": {
        "name": "Peter",
        "__typename": "Person"
    }
}
```

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CHAPTER 3

Execution

3.1 Executing a query

For executing a query against a schema, you can directly call the execute method on it.

```
from graphene import Schema

schema = Schema(...)
result = schema.execute('{ name }')
```

result represents the result of execution. result.data is the result of executing the query, result.errors is None if no errors occurred, and is a non-empty list if an error occurred.

3.1.1 Context

You can pass context to a query via context.

```
from graphene import ObjectType, String, Schema

class Query(ObjectType):
    name = String()

    def resolve_name(root, info):
        return info.context.get('name')

schema = Schema(Query)
result = schema.execute('{ name }', context={'name': 'Syrus'})
assert result.data['name'] == 'Syrus'
```

3.1.2 Variables

You can pass variables to a query via variables.

3.1.3 Root Value

Value used for Parent Value Object (parent) in root queries and mutations can be overridden using root parameter.

```
from graphene import ObjectType, Field, Schema
class Query(ObjectType):
   me = Field(User)
    def resolve_user(root, info):
        return {'id': root.id, 'firstName': root.name}
schema = Schema(Query)
user_root = User(id=12, name='bob')
result = schema.execute(
    query getUser {
       user {
            id
            firstName
            lastName
    · · · ,
   root=user_root
assert result.data['user']['id'] == user_root.id
```

3.1.4 Operation Name

If there are multiple operations defined in a query string, operation_name should be used to indicate which should be executed.

```
from graphene import ObjectType, Field, Schema
class Query(ObjectType):
   user = Field(User)
   def resolve_user(root, info):
        return get_user_by_id(12)
schema = Schema(Query)
query_string = '''
   query getUserWithFirstName {
        user {
            id
            firstName
            lastName
    }
   query getUserWithFullName {
       user {
            id
            fullName
result = schema.execute(
   query_string,
   operation_name='getUserWithFullName'
assert result.data['user']['fullName']
```

3.2 Middleware

You can use middleware to affect the evaluation of fields in your schema.

A middleware is any object or function that responds to resolve (next_middleware, *args).

Inside that method, it should either:

- Send resolve to the next middleware to continue the evaluation; or
- Return a value to end the evaluation early.

3.2.1 Resolve arguments

Middlewares resolve is invoked with several arguments:

- next represents the execution chain. Call next to continue evaluation.
- root is the root value object passed throughout the query.
- info is the resolver info.
- args is the dict of arguments passed to the field.

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3.2.2 Example

This middleware only continues evaluation if the field_name is not 'user'

```
class AuthorizationMiddleware(object):
    def resolve(self, next, root, info, **args):
        if info.field_name == 'user':
            return None
        return next(root, info, **args)
```

And then execute it with:

```
result = schema.execute('THE QUERY', middleware=[AuthorizationMiddleware()])
```

If the middleware argument includes multiple middlewares, these middlewares will be executed bottom-up, i.e. from last to first.

3.2.3 Functional example

Middleware can also be defined as a function. Here we define a middleware that logs the time it takes to resolve each field:

```
from time import time as timer

def timing_middleware(next, root, info, **args):
    start = timer()
    return_value = next(root, info, **args)
    duration = round((timer() - start) * 1000, 2)
    parent_type_name = root._meta.name if root and hasattr(root, '_meta') else ''
    logger.debug(f"{parent_type_name}.{info.field_name}: {duration} ms")
    return return_value
```

And then execute it with:

```
result = schema.execute('THE QUERY', middleware=[timing_middleware])
```

3.3 Dataloader

DataLoader is a generic utility to be used as part of your application's data fetching layer to provide a simplified and consistent API over various remote data sources such as databases or web services via batching and caching. It is provided by a separate package *aiodataloader https://pypi.org/project/aiodataloader/*.

3.3.1 Batching

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Batching is not an advanced feature, it's DataLoader's primary feature. Create loaders by providing a batch loading function.

```
from aiodataloader import DataLoader

class UserLoader(DataLoader):
    async def batch_load_fn(self, keys):
        # Here we call a function to return a user for each key in keys
    return [get_user(id=key) for key in keys]
```

A batch loading async function accepts a list of keys, and returns a list of values.

DataLoader will coalesce all individual loads which occur within a single frame of execution (executed once the wrapping event loop is resolved) and then call your batch function with all requested keys.

```
user_loader = UserLoader()

user1 = await user_loader.load(1)
user1_best_friend = await user_loader.load(user1.best_friend_id))

user2 = await user_loader.load(2)
user2_best_friend = await user_loader.load(user2.best_friend_id))
```

A naive application may have issued *four* round-trips to a backend for the required information, but with DataLoader this application will make at most *two*.

Note that loaded values are one-to-one with the keys and must have the same order. This means that if you load all values from a single query, you must make sure that you then order the query result for the results to match the keys:

```
class UserLoader(DataLoader):
    async def batch_load_fn(self, keys):
        users = {user.id: user for user in User.objects.filter(id__in=keys)}
    return [users.get(user_id) for user_id in keys]
```

DataLoader allows you to decouple unrelated parts of your application without sacrificing the performance of batch data-loading. While the loader presents an API that loads individual values, all concurrent requests will be coalesced and presented to your batch loading function. This allows your application to safely distribute data fetching requirements throughout your application and maintain minimal outgoing data requests.

3.3.2 Using with Graphene

DataLoader pairs nicely well with Graphene/GraphQL. GraphQL fields are designed to be stand-alone functions. Without a caching or batching mechanism, it's easy for a naive GraphQL server to issue new database requests each time a field is resolved.

Consider the following GraphQL request:

```
{
  me {
    name
    bestFriend {
     name
    }
  friends(first: 5) {
    name
    bestFriend {
     name
     }
  }
}
```

If me, bestFriend and friends each need to send a request to the backend, there could be at most 13 database requests!

When using DataLoader, we could define the User type using our previous example with leaner code and at most 4 database requests, and possibly fewer if there are cache hits.

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```
class User(graphene.ObjectType):
   name = graphene.String()
   best_friend = graphene.Field(lambda: User)
   friends = graphene.List(lambda: User)

async def resolve_best_friend(root, info):
    return await user_loader.load(root.best_friend_id)

async def resolve_friends(root, info):
    return await user_loader.load_many(root.friend_ids)
```

3.4 File uploading

File uploading is not part of the official GraphQL spec yet and is not natively implemented in Graphene.

If your server needs to support file uploading then you can use the library: graphene-file-upload which enhances Graphene to add file uploads and conforms to the unoffical GraphQL multipart request spec.

3.5 Subscriptions

To create a subscription, you can directly call the subscribe method on the schema. This method is async and must be awaited.

```
import asyncio
from datetime import datetime
from graphene import ObjectType, String, Schema, Field
# Every schema requires a query.
class Query(ObjectType):
   hello = String()
    def resolve_hello(root, info):
        return "Hello, world!"
class Subscription(ObjectType):
   time_of_day = String()
    async def subscribe_time_of_day(root, info):
        while True:
            yield datetime.now().isoformat()
            await asyncio.sleep(1)
schema = Schema(query=Query, subscription=Subscription)
async def main(schema):
    subscription = 'subscription { timeOfDay }'
    result = await schema.subscribe(subscription)
    async for item in result:
        print(item.data['timeOfDay'])
asyncio.run(main(schema))
```

The result is an async iterator which yields items in the same manner as a query.

3.6 Query Validation

GraphQL uses query validators to check if Query AST is valid and can be executed. Every GraphQL server implements standard query validators. For example, there is an validator that tests if queried field exists on queried type, that makes query fail with "Cannot query field on type" error if it doesn't.

To help with common use cases, graphene provides a few validation rules out of the box.

3.6.1 Depth limit Validator

The depth limit validator helps to prevent execution of malicious queries. It takes in the following arguments.

- max_depth is the maximum allowed depth for any operation in a GraphQL document.
- ignore Stops recursive depth checking based on a field name. Either a string or regexp to match the name, or a function that returns a boolean
- callback Called each time validation runs. Receives an Object which is a map of the depths for each operation.

3.6.2 Usage

Here is how you would implement depth-limiting on your schema.

```
from graphql import validate, parse
from graphene import ObjectType, Schema, String
from graphene.validation import depth_limit_validator
class MyQuery(ObjectType):
   name = String(required=True)
schema = Schema(query=MyQuery)
# queries which have a depth more than 20
# will not be executed.
validation errors = validate(
    schema=schema.graphgl_schema,
    document_ast=parse('THE QUERY'),
    rules=(
        depth_limit_validator(
            max_depth=20
        ),
    )
```

3.6.3 Disable Introspection

the disable introspection validation rule ensures that your schema cannot be introspected. This is a useful security measure in production environments.

3.6.4 Usage

Here is how you would disable introspection for your schema.

3.6.5 Implementing custom validators

All custom query validators should extend the ValidationRule base class importable from the graphql.validation.rules module. Query validators are visitor classes. They are instantiated at the time of query validation with one required argument (context: ASTValidationContext). In order to perform validation, your validator class should define one or more of enter_* and leave_* methods. For possible enter/leave items as well as details on function documentation, please see contents of the visitor module. To make validation fail, you should call validator's report_error method with the instance of GraphQLError describing failure reason. Here is an example query validator that visits field definitions in GraphQL query and fails query validation if any of those fields are blacklisted:

```
from graphql import GraphQLError
from graphql.language import FieldNode
from graphql.validation import ValidationRule

my_blacklist = (
    "disallowed_field",
)

def is_blacklisted_field(field_name: str):
    return field_name.lower() in my_blacklist

class BlackListRule(ValidationRule):
    def enter_field(self, node: FieldNode, *_args):
        field_name = node.name.value
        if not is_blacklisted_field(field_name):
            return

        self.report_error(
```

```
GraphQLError(
        f"Cannot query '{field_name}': field is blacklisted.", node,
)
)
```

CHAPTER 4

Relay

Graphene has complete support for Relay and offers some utils to make integration from Python easy.

4.1 Nodes

A Node is an Interface provided by graphene.relay that contains a single field id (which is a ID!). Any object that inherits from it has to implement a get_node method for retrieving a Node by an id.

4.1.1 Quick example

Example usage (taken from the Starwars Relay example):

```
class Ship(graphene.ObjectType):
    '''A ship in the Star Wars saga'''
    class Meta:
        interfaces = (relay.Node, )

    name = graphene.String(description='The name of the ship.')

    @classmethod
    def get_node(cls, info, id):
        return get_ship(id)
```

The id returned by the Ship type when you query it will be a scalar which contains enough info for the server to know its type and its id.

For example, the instance Ship (id=1) will return U2hpcDox as the id when you query it (which is the base64 encoding of Ship:1), and which could be useful later if we want to query a node by its id.

4.1.2 Custom Nodes

You can use the predefined relay. Node or you can subclass it, defining custom ways of how a node id is encoded (using the to_global_id method in the class) or how we can retrieve a Node given a encoded id (with the get_node_from_global_id method).

Example of a custom node:

```
class CustomNode (Node) :
    class Meta:
       name = 'Node'
    @staticmethod
   def to_global_id(type_, id):
        return f"{type_}: {id}"
    @staticmethod
   def get_node_from_global_id(info, global_id, only_type=None):
        type_, id = global_id.split(':')
        if only_type:
            # We assure that the node type that we want to retrieve
            # is the same that was indicated in the field type
            assert type_ == only_type._meta.name, 'Received not compatible node.'
        if type_ == 'User':
            return get_user(id)
        elif type_ == 'Photo':
            return get_photo(id)
```

The get_node_from_global_id method will be called when CustomNode. Field is resolved.

4.1.3 Accessing node types

If we want to retrieve node instances from a global_id (scalar that identifies an instance by it's type name and id), we can simply do Node.get_node_from_global_id(info, global_id).

In the case we want to restrict the instance retrieval to a specific type, we can do: Node. get_node_from_global_id(info, global_id, only_type=Ship). This will raise an error if the global_id doesn't correspond to a Ship type.

4.1.4 Node Root field

As is required in the Relay specification, the server must implement a root field called node that returns a Node Interface.

For this reason, graphene provides the field relay. Node. Field, which links to any type in the Schema which implements Node. Example usage:

```
class Query(graphene.ObjectType):
    # Should be CustomNode.Field() if we want to use our custom Node
    node = relay.Node.Field()
```

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4.2 Connection

A connection is a vitaminized version of a List that provides ways of slicing and paginating through it. The way you create Connection types in graphene is using relay. Connection and relay. ConnectionField.

4.2.1 Quick example

If we want to create a custom Connection on a given node, we have to subclass the Connection class.

In the following example, extra will be an extra field in the connection, and other an extra field in the Connection Edge.

```
class ShipConnection(Connection):
    extra = String()

class Meta:
    node = Ship

class Edge:
    other = String()
```

The ShipConnection connection class, will have automatically a pageInfo field, and a edges field (which is a list of ShipConnection.Edge). This Edge will have a node field linking to the specified node (in ShipConnection.Meta) and the field other that we defined in the class.

4.2.2 Connection Field

You can create connection fields in any Connection, in case any ObjectType that implements Node will have a default Connection.

```
class Faction(graphene.ObjectType):
   name = graphene.String()
   ships = relay.ConnectionField(ShipConnection)

def resolve_ships(root, info):
    return []
```

4.3 Mutations

Most APIs don't just allow you to read data, they also allow you to write.

In GraphQL, this is done using mutations. Just like queries, Relay puts some additional requirements on mutations, but Graphene nicely manages that for you. All you need to do is make your mutation a subclass of relay. ClientIDMutation.

```
class IntroduceShip(relay.ClientIDMutation):
    class Input:
        ship_name = graphene.String(required=True)
        faction_id = graphene.String(required=True)

        ship = graphene.Field(Ship)
        faction = graphene.Field(Faction)
```

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```
@classmethod
def mutate_and_get_payload(cls, root, info, **input):
    ship_name = input.ship_name
    faction_id = input.faction_id
    ship = create_ship(ship_name, faction_id)
    faction = get_faction(faction_id)
    return IntroduceShip(ship=ship, faction=faction)
```

4.3.1 Accepting Files

Mutations can also accept files, that's how it will work with different integrations:

```
class UploadFile(graphene.ClientIDMutation):
    class Input:
        pass
        # nothing needed for uploading file

# your return fields
        success = graphene.String()

@classmethod
    def mutate_and_get_payload(cls, root, info, **input):
        # When using it in Django, context will be the request
        files = info.context.FILES
        # Or, if used in Flask, context will be the flask global request
        # files = context.files

# do something with files

return UploadFile(success=True)
```

4.4 Useful links

- Getting started with Relay
- Relay Global Identification Specification
- Relay Cursor Connection Specification

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Testing in Graphene

Automated testing is an extremely useful bug-killing tool for the modern developer. You can use a collection of tests – a test suite – to solve, or avoid, a number of problems:

- When you're writing new code, you can use tests to validate your code works as expected.
- When you're refactoring or modifying old code, you can use tests to ensure your changes haven't affected your application's behavior unexpectedly.

Testing a GraphQL application is a complex task, because a GraphQL application is made of several layers of logic – schema definition, schema validation, permissions and field resolution.

With Graphene test-execution framework and assorted utilities, you can simulate GraphQL requests, execute mutations, inspect your application's output and generally verify your code is doing what it should be doing.

5.1 Testing tools

Graphene provides a small set of tools that come in handy when writing tests.

5.1.1 Test Client

The test client is a Python class that acts as a dummy GraphQL client, allowing you to test your views and interact with your Graphene-powered application programmatically.

Some of the things you can do with the test client are:

- Simulate Queries and Mutations and observe the response.
- Test that a given query request is rendered by a given Django template, with a template context that contains certain values.

5.1.2 Overview and a quick example

To use the test client, instantiate graphene.test.Client and retrieve GraphQL responses:

```
from graphene.test import Client

def test_hey():
    client = Client(my_schema)
    executed = client.execute('''{ hey }''')
    assert executed == {
        'data': {
            'hey': 'hello!'
        }
    }
}
```

5.1.3 Execute parameters

You can also add extra keyword arguments to the execute method, such as context, root, variables, ...:

```
from graphene.test import Client

def test_hey():
    client = Client(my_schema)
    executed = client.execute('''{ hey }''', context={'user': 'Peter'})
    assert executed == {
       'data': {
            'hey': 'hello Peter!'
        }
    }
}
```

5.1.4 Snapshot testing

As our APIs evolve, we need to know when our changes introduce any breaking changes that might break some of the clients of our GraphQL app.

However, writing tests and replicating the same response we expect from our GraphQL application can be a tedious and repetitive task, and sometimes it's easier to skip this process.

Because of that, we recommend the usage of SnapshotTest.

SnapshotTest lets us write all these tests in a breeze, as it automatically creates the snapshots for us the first time the test are executed.

Here is a simple example on how our tests will look if we use pytest:

```
def test_hey(snapshot):
    client = Client(my_schema)
    # This will create a snapshot dir and a snapshot file
    # the first time the test is executed, with the response
    # of the execution.
    snapshot.assert_match(client.execute('''{ hey }'''))
```

If we are using unittest:

```
from snapshottest import TestCase
```

```
class APITestCase(TestCase):
    def test_api_me(self):
        """Testing the API for /me"""
        client = Client(my_schema)
        self.assertMatchSnapshot(client.execute('''{ hey }'''))
```

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CHAPTER 6

API Reference

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- 6.2 Object types
- **6.3 Fields (Mounted Types)**
- **6.4 Fields (Unmounted Types)**
- 6.5 GraphQL Scalars
- 6.6 Graphene Scalars
- **6.7 Enum**
- 6.8 Structures
- **6.9 Type Extension**
- 6.10 Execution Metadata

$\mathsf{CHAPTER}\ 7$

Integrations

- Graphene-Django (source)
- Flask-Graphql (source)
- Graphene-SQLAlchemy (source)
- Graphene-GAE (source)
- Graphene-Mongo (source)
- Starlette (source)
- FastAPI (source)