

MongoDB 101: Getting Started | Glossary

argument: in programming, a value that is passed between programs, subroutines or functions. Arguments are independent items, or variables, that contain data or codes. ([source](#))

cluster: the term MongoDB Atlas uses to refer to the MongoDB deployments managed by its cloud service ([source](#))

data type: an attribute that tells what kind of data that value can have. Common data types include: integers, strings, floating point values ([source](#))

embedded document: related data attached in a single structure or document ([source](#))

graphical user interface (GUI): an interface through which a user interacts with electronic devices such as computers, hand-held devices and other appliance ([source](#))

instance: while a database is a collection of files that reside on the server, an instance is the allocated memory and collection of processes running on the server (in this case, on your local machine) ([source](#))

integrated development environment (IDE): combines common activities of writing software into a single application, like editing source code, building executables, and debugging, which enables programmers to consolidate the different aspects of writing a computer program ([source](#))

JavaScript Object Notation (JSON): a lightweight data-interchange format that is easy for humans to read and write, and easy for machines to parse and generate. ([source](#))

name-value pair: a common way of giving data meaning, whereby one half of the pair holds the data and the other half of the pair holds an attribute that describes the data. One common example might be an attribute, or name of “First Name” and the data, or value of “Thomas” ([source](#))

namespace: name for a collection or index in MongoDB. The namespace is a combination of the database name and the name of the collection or index ([source](#))

NoSQL database: originally referring to “non SQL” or “non-relational”, a database that provides a mechanism for storage and retrieval of data that is modeled in means other than the tabular relations used in relational databases ([source](#))

on-premises (also known as on-premise, and abbreviated “on-prem”): on-premise software that is installed and runs on computers on the premises of the person or organization using the software, rather than at a remote facility such as a server farm or cloud ([source](#))

scalar value: a variable that holds one value at a time. It is a single component that assumes a range of number or string values ([source](#))

SQL database (also known as relational database): a collection of data items with pre-defined relationships between them. These items are organized as a set of tables with columns and rows. ([source](#))