

Phoenix Frequently Asked Questions

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Can I see the individual cell timestamps in Phoenix tables? Is this something that's commonly used?

You can map HBase's native row timestamp to a Phoenix column. By doing this, you can take advantage of the various optimizations that HBase provides for time ranges on the store files as well as various query optimization capabilities built within Phoenix.

For more information, see <https://phoenix.apache.org/rowtimestamp.html>

What if the Phoenix index is being built asynchronously and data is added to a table during indexing?

Phoenix does local Indexing for deadlock prevention during global index maintenance.: Phoenix also atomically rebuild index partially when index update fails (PHOENIX-1112).

How do sequences work in Phoenix?

Sequences are a standard SQL feature that allows for generating monotonically increasing numbers typically used to form an ID.

For more information, see <https://phoenix.apache.org/sequences.html>.

What happens to a Phoenix write when a RegionServer fails?

Writes are durable and durability is defined by a WRITE that is committed to disk (in the Write Ahead Log). So in case of a RegionServer failure, the write is recoverable by replaying the WAL. A “complete” write is one that has been flushed from the WAL to an HFile. Any failures will be represented as exceptions.

Can I do bulk data loads in Phoenix?

Yes, you can do bulk inserts in Phoenix. For more information see https://phoenix.apache.org/bulk_dataload.html.

Can I access a table created by Phoenix using the standard HBase API?

Yes, but it is not recommended or supported. Data is encoded by Phoenix, so you have to decode the data for reading. Writing to the HBase tables directly would result in corruption in Phoenix.

Can I map a Phoenix table over an existing HBase table?

Yes, as long as Phoenix data types are used. You have to use asynchronous indexes and manually update them since Phoenix won't be aware of any updates.

What are guideposts?

For information about guideposts, see https://phoenix.apache.org/update_statistics.html.