

Redis Datatypes – Uses and Misuses

Datatype	Uses	Misuses
Strings	Caches, counters, and clever bit-operations: strings values are extremely versatile and have many novel use-cases.	Be careful about extremely large values, the GETting or SETting of which can introduce hard-to-find failures in certain networks and Redis clients. It is easy to hurt yourself by using SETNX to build a locking system.
Lists	Queues, stacks and cyclical lists.	Many, many developers try to do random access on extremely large lists. Don't try to do random access on large lists.
Hashes	Blacklists and rate-limiting; space-efficient storage for many small values	Just like Redis itself, one of the largest problems users encounter with Hashes is key accounting. Be sure you have a system in place to ensure you don't fill up your hashes with keys and values you don't need.
Sets	Folksonomies, buckets for time-series data.	Intersections and unions must be used with care - keep your sets small.
Sorted Sets	Scoreboards, random-access lists	Zsets are one of the most versatile structures, and also one of the most expensive. Keep a close eye on your big O!
Pubsub	Publish/Subscribe pattern	Many developers try to use pubsub where they need a queue. Pubsub is a way to broadcast information about events, not to pass instructions to someone. Remember that if you send a message on a pubsub channel and no one is listening, it is discarded.