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ActionDispatch – New Routing System

Routes in Rails have often been a source of frustration for developers, so the Rails core team did something about it. Routes have been totally redesigned for Rails 3, sporting a new syntax and some useful new features.

To illustrate by example, examine the following code:

```
# Rails 2.3
ActionController::Routing::Routes.draw do |map|
  # All REST actions under /items
  map.resources :items

  # Set the default "home" route
  map.root :controller => "dashboard"

  # These routes will make all actions/controllers accessible via GET
  # which is usually less than optimal.
  map.connect ':controller/:action/:id'
  map.connect ':controller/:action/:id.:format'
end

# Rails 3.0
AppName::Application.routes do
  # All REST actions under /items
  resources :items

  # Set the default "home" route
  root :to => 'dashboard#index'

  # This route is commented out by default in a new Rails 3 project,
  # because it will make all controllers accessible via GET requests
  # which is less than optimal when using RESTful controllers.
  # match ':controller(/:action(/:id(.:format)))'
end
```

Perhaps the most evident difference in the Rails 3 version of routes is the fact that they're now scoped under your application, which has a class of its own. Additionally, there are options for URL-based constraints (using a regular expression to protect controllers and actions), a "scope" method that allows you to namespace routes according to different languages or actions, and using parenthesised elements in a route definition to specify optional variables to be passed to the controller.

ActionMailer

Sending email from your application has been greatly simplified in this release of Rails by the ActionMailer class. This allows you to generate a mailer class (inherited from ActionMailer::Base), and create simple methods and corresponding views (located under app/views/mailer_name) to set up your specific mail system.

Sending a multipart/alternative mail message is really easy now. After generating your mailer class and creating a method (ex. "welcome_user"), you can create views for the method name ending in either .html.erb, or .text.erb. When ActionMailer begins to form the message for delivery, it will detect both files and "automagically" create the multipart/alternative email with both HTML and plain text parts.

To illustrate, consider the following scenario: a user forgets his or her password and enters the necessary information to reset it. After the proper database flags are set, an email is sent to the user with a specific URL for them to visit to reset their password.

First, generate a mailer:

```
$ rails g mailer user_mailer
```

Next, open the newly created app/mailers/user_mailer.rb file, and add a method called "forgot_password":

Rails 2.3 - 3.0



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Kernel Log: Coming in 3.10 (Part 4) - Drivers



Linux 3.10 will be able to use the video acceleration features offered by Radeon graphics cores. Systems with Intel graphics will wake from standby faster. Linux now has an input device driver for Apple's infrared receiver [more »](#)

The trouble with "Business Source"



The problem of creating funding in a new software business is a major one, and doubly so for open source based companies. Michael Widenius recently described his solution to the problem, "Business Source", claiming it delivers "most of the benefits of open source". The H took a look to see how that held up [more »](#)

Kernel Log: Coming in 3.10 (Part 3) - Infrastructure



Kernel developers have toned down an over-eager feature for protecting against the Samsung UEFI bug and added a function for reducing timer interrupt overhead. Improvements have also been made to Hyper-V support and instructions for reporting errors [more »](#)

Whatever happened to Google?

```
class UserMailer < ActionMailer::Base
  default :from => "do-not-reply@example.com"

  def forgot_password(user)
    @user = user
    mail(:to => user.email, :subject => "Reset Your Password")
  end
end
```

In this sample of code, we've defined a method called "forgot_password", which accepts a user object. The @user instance variable is set so that the views (shown in the next step) are able to access it to provide dynamic output.

Next, create two views: one for plain-text, and one for HTML. If named correctly, they'll both be automatically picked up and factored into a multipart email.

```
# app/views/user_mailer/forgot_password.html.erb
<!DOCTYPE html>
<head>
<title>Reset Your Password</title>
<!-- ... rest of the html ... -->

# app/views/user_mailer/forgot_password.text.erb
Dear <%= @user.name %>,
```

```
Someone recently requested that your password be reset
at example.com. We're sending you this email so you
can reset your password. Just visit the URL below
within the next *60 minutes* to reset your password.
This link will be inactive after that time, and you'll
have to re-submit another password reset request after
that.
```

```
<%= @user.password_reset_url %>
```

Finally, triggering the mail action could be done in either a controller or a model. If you follow the "skinny controller, fat model" theory, this may be done in a method on the User class called "reset_password". For example:

```
# app/models/user.rb
class User < ActiveRecord::Base
  # ... associations, other code ...

  def reset_password
    # Make the old password no longer work
    self.password = self.password_confirmation = SecureRandom.base64(8)
    if self.save
      UserMailer.forgot_password(self).deliver
    end
  end
end
```

(Note: [SecureRandom](#) is a part of ActiveSupport that's suitable for creating secure random strings. In this case we're using it to create a new password.)

When using a mailer class, you first call the method, pass the object it expects (if any) and then call the #deliver method on the resultant object.

Next: [Cross-Site-Scripting Protection](#)

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Also on The H:

- RubyGems 1.5.0 now supports Ruby 1.9.2
- JRuby 1.6.0 nears with first release candidate
- Rails 3 nears with release candidate availability
- JRuby boosted to 1.5.0
- Ruby On Rails Security Guide published as free ebook
- Ruby on Rails 2.2 to be thread safe



Although Google continues to support a variety of open projects and people, Glyn Moody notes that, following recent changes to Google Code and Google Talk, concern is growing that something fundamental has changed [more »](#)



What's new in SUSE Linux Enterprise 11 SP3



Service Pack 3 includes numerous enhancements for virtualisation and, by adding Secure Boot support and new drivers, beefs up support for newer hardware. There are also numerous enhancements relating to server storage and networking [more »](#)

What's new in Fedora 19



In a nod to fans of classic desktop interfaces, the new Fedora includes a MATE variant and classic mode for GNOME. Systemd now takes care of containers and assigning network names. New drivers support 3D acceleration in newer Radeon graphics cards [more »](#)

What's new in Linux 3.10



A second SSD caching framework and support for the new Radeons' video decoder are two of the most important enhancements in Linux 3.10, which is now out. This version also includes several new and improved drivers and a change to the network stack to speed up HTTP connections [more »](#)

Free Software post-PRISM



The news has been full of talk of spying, whistleblowing and data mining. Glyn Moody looks at how open source has been used to threaten freedom and privacy and how it could be used to

defend them [more »](#)

THE H SECURITY

Content Security Policy halts XSS in its tracks



Cross-site scripting (XSS) is one of the biggest problems faced by webmasters. The new Content Security Policy standard should finally provide some relief [more »](#)

Skype's ominous link checking: Facts and speculation



Our associate's discovery that URLs sent through Skype are then visited by Microsoft has caused quite a stir. A little more information has now emerged and leads to even more questions [more »](#)

Password protection for everyone



Those who heed well-intentioned recommendations and use a separate password for every service either require a photographic memory or the right techniques to keep the multitude of passwords under control [more »](#)

Two clicks for more privacy



"Like" buttons for Facebook, Google+ and Twitter present a privacy problem. A 2-click concept developed by heise online addresses this problem [more »](#)

THE H DEVELOPER

Java EE 7 at a glance



The next step for Java EE 6 was planned to be cloud support but the collapse of ambitious developer plans has meant Java EE 7 arrived with few fundamentally new aspects, representing more a consistent effort to round off existing features [more »](#)

Continuous database migration with Liquibase and Flyway



An application's version-controlled source code is stored in the repository. Why not that of the database? To reproduce arbitrary database states in development, test or production environments, two powerful Java libraries are at hand that can be seamlessly integrated into a build for an agile Continuous Delivery [more »](#)

Unit testing with Node.js



Consistent unit testing is a basic quality requirement in modern software development. Mocha is a framework for writing and executing such tests in Node.js [more »](#)

Ruby 2.0 - the 20th birthday present



On 24 February 2013, the Ruby community celebrated the 20th birthday of its programming language. Ruby 2.0, a new major release that includes various exciting new features, was released at the same time and The H looks at some of the major changes [more »](#)

HITS OF THE H

Linux Mint 15: A better Ubuntu for the desktop



The Linux Mint project has announced "the most ambitious release since the start of the project". Linux Mint 15 promises a focus on the desktop that Ubuntu has been neglecting lately. The H investigates whether the release delivers on these ambitions [more »](#)

What's new in Linux 3.9



The Linux kernel is finally able to use SSDs as hard-disk cache. Changes to the network subsystem promise to improve the way server jobs are distributed across multiple processor cores. Linux 3.9 also includes drivers for new AMD graphics chips and soon-expected Wi-Fi components from Intel [more »](#)

Replacing Google Reader



For a large number of internet users the current challenge is finding a replacement for Google Reader. The H's Fabian Scherschel has looked at the functionality that made Google Reader popular and the current best alternatives to the Reader experience [more »](#)

Attacking TrueCrypt



TrueCrypt is considered the software of choice for encrypting data. A small utility called TCHead systematically takes on this encryption [more »](#)

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