

Development Techniques

Automatic Code Reloading

Restarting an application manually after every code change is both slow and painful. It can easily be avoided by using a tool for automatic code reloading.

Shotgun

Shotgun will actually restart your application on every request. This has the advantage over other reloading techniques of always producing correct results. However, since it actually restarts your application, it is rather slow compared to the alternatives. Moreover, since it relies on `fork`, it is not available on Windows and JRuby.

Usage is rather simple:

```
gem install shotgun # run only once, to install shotgun
shotgun my_app.rb
```

If you want to run a modular application, create a file named `config.ru` with similar content:

```
require 'my_app'
run MyApp
```

And run it by calling `shotgun` without arguments.

The `shotgun` executable takes arguments similar to those of the `rackup` command, run `shotgun --help` for more information.