View Helpers KIEI-925 Survival Guide

\* Rails provides many **view helpers** so you can write HTML tags in Ruby!

```
<%= link_to "Google", "http://google.com" %>
<a href="http://google.com">Google</a>

<%= image_tag "starwars.jpg" %>
<img src="/assets/starwars.jpg">
```

\* There are also **URL** helpers that help you generate the paths to all the URLs in your application, so you don't have to remember them. Find out what routes are in your application using **rake routes**, then use the prefix to determine the URL helper, which is always the **prefix + \_url** 

```
Prefix Verb
                  URI Pattern
                                              Controller#Action
                  /movies(.:format)
    movies GET
                                              movies#index
                  /movies(.:format)
           P<sub>0</sub>ST
                                              movies#create
                  /movies/new(.:format)
                                              movies#new
new_movie GET
                  /movies/:id/edit(.:format) movies#edit
edit_movie GET
                                              movies#show
     movie GET
                  /movies/:id(.:format)
           PATCH /movies/:id(.:format)
                                              movies#update
           PUT
                  /movies/:id(.:format)
                                              movies#update
           DELETE /movies/:id(.:format)
                                              movies#destrov
      root GET
                                              movies#index
```

Read this as:

The URL to my movies#index page (the list of all the movies) is **/movies**, and the URL helper is **movies url**.

The URL to my movies#show page (a single movie's page) is /movies/:id (e.g. /movies/123), and the URL helper is movie url(123).

The URL to my movies#new page (the form to input a new movie) is /movies/new, and the URL helper is new\_movie\_url.

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❖ There are also **form helpers** that help you write forms and their inputs without having to remember the crazy HTML.

## With Rails helpers

**HTML** equivalent

With Bootstrap

Knowing what you know already, if I asked you for the name of the studio that produced the movie with ID 3, you'd do this:

```
@movie = Movie.find_by(id: 3)
@studio = Studio.find_by(id: @movie.studio_id)
@studio.name
=> "Paramount"
```

This works well enough, but as it turns out, there's an even better way! Rails supports a DSL (domain-specific language) for associating models. Wouldn't it be nice if we could do:

```
@movie = Movie.find_by(id: 3)
@movie.studio.name
=> "Paramount"
```

❖ We can! By keeping our domain model exactly the way it is, but add just a little bit of DSL code to our models:

```
class Movie < ActiveRecord::Base
  belongs_to :studio
end</pre>
```

```
class Studio < ActiveRecord::Base
  has_many :movies
end</pre>
```

- Many-to-many associations are common
- \* They can always be modeled as 2 one-to-many associations
- ❖ The trick is to identify the real-world "join model" in the middle
- \* You can use has many : through to have Rails "connect the dots" for you

## class Movie < ActiveRecord::Base</pre>

```
has many :roles
```

has many :actors, through: :roles

end

class Role < ActiveRecord::Base This is the "join model"

belongs to :movie belongs to :actor

end

class Actor < ActiveRecord::Base</pre>

has many :roles

has many :movies, through: :roles

end