CSPP 52553: Web Development Winter 2013

Week 2

- Ruby Classes, Objects, & Instances
- JSON APIs
- Rails 101
- MVC Architecture
- User Input



Get The Code

```
cd ~/dev/uc
```

git clone git://github.com/cspp52553/week2.git

Demo + Lab

Goal: Display a list of Chicago landmarks

Each landmark should have two attributes:

- Name
- Admission Fee

Use an Array of Landmark instances.
Use puts statements to display the data.

Consuming JSON APIs

What is an API?

JSON notation

Converting JSON into a Ruby hash



What is an API?

An Application Programming Interface enables computer-to-computer communication.



What is an API?

An Application Programming Interface

is an agreement that enables

computer-to-computer

communication.



Broad Categories of APIs

XML-RPC
SOAP
"RESTful"

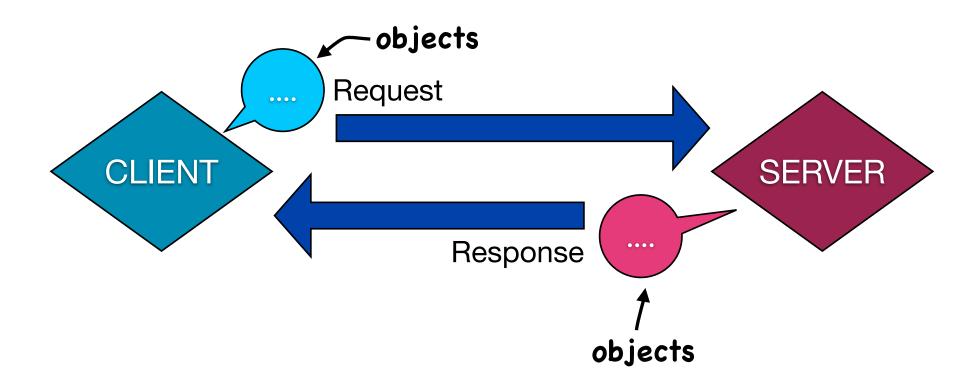


Broad Categories of APIs



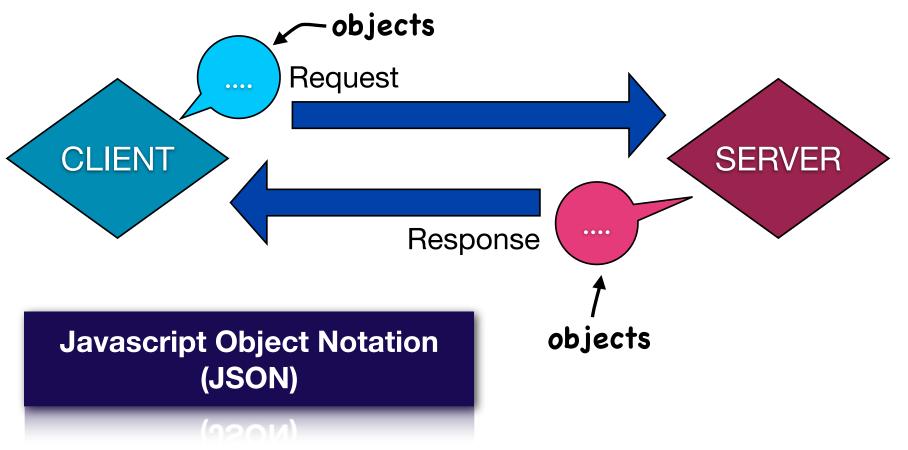


How Does An API Work?





JSON APIs



Calling an HTTP API with Ruby

```
require 'json'
require 'open-uri'

data = open("http:...").read

h = JSON.parse(data)
```



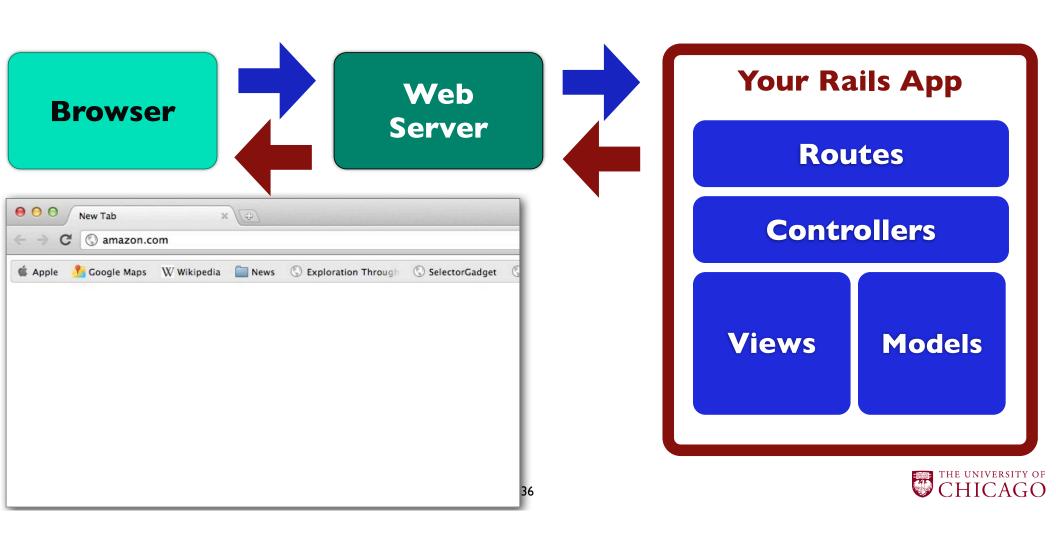
Challenge: HTTP APIs

- → require 'open-uri'
- → require 'json'
- → f = open("http://cspp52553.com/scrabble/hello.json")
- → data = f.read
- Try to display the number of scrabble points

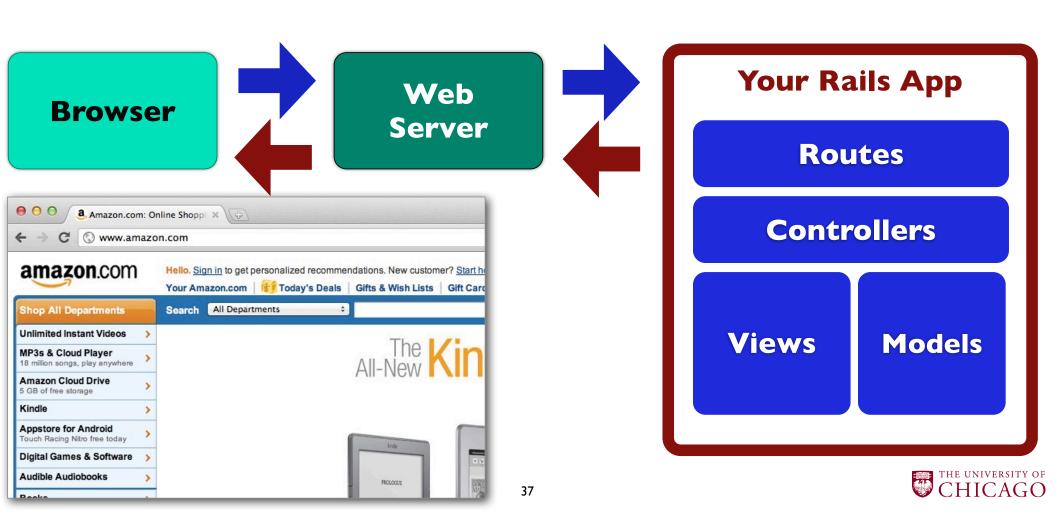
HTTP



HTTP Overview



HTTP Overview



HTTP Request

Host
Method
Location (URL)
Content
Content Type
Cookies
Accept Type

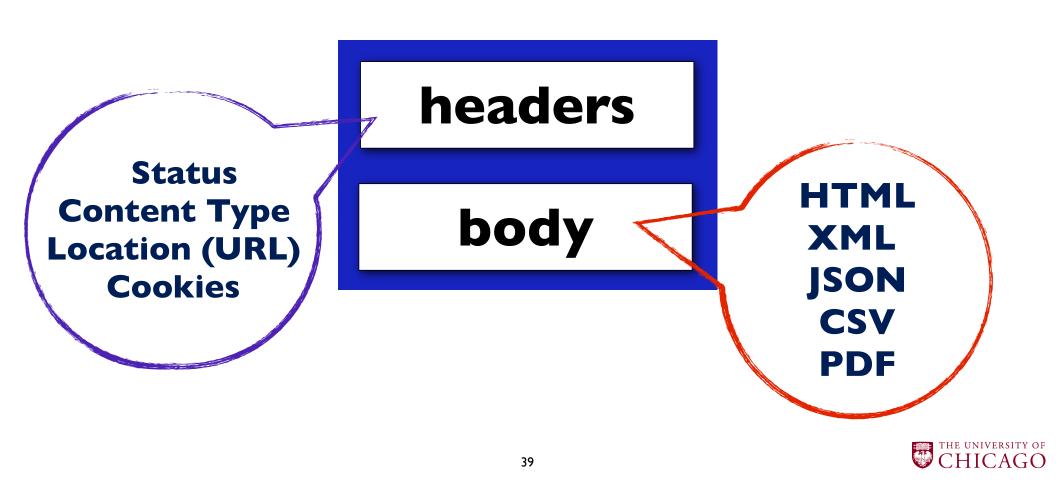
headers

body

form fields misc data



HTTP Response



HTTP Playground

Playing is the best way to learn!

- * curl
- Chrome Inspector
- * search for "http sniffer"



Ruby on Rails





Why Rails?

Database-Backed Web Applications

Convention Over Configuration

Agile Development



Why Rails?

STTCPW

YAGNI

DRY

SRP



Why Rails?

Responsibility



Rails QuickStart

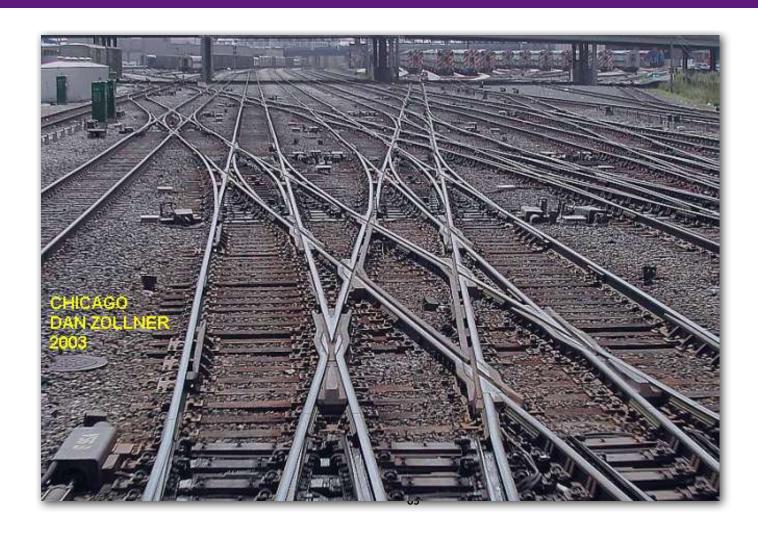
- 1. cd ~/dev/uc/week2
- 2. rails new myapp
- 3. cd myapp
- 4. rails server
- 5. Go to http://localhost:3000 THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Domain Specific Languages

omg lol i can haz ur speech



Rails: Routes





Basic Definition

A route connects a URL to a specific web page in your app.



A Better Definition

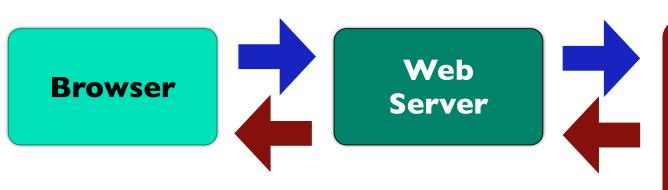
A route connects an http request to a specific Ruby method in your app.



Best Definition

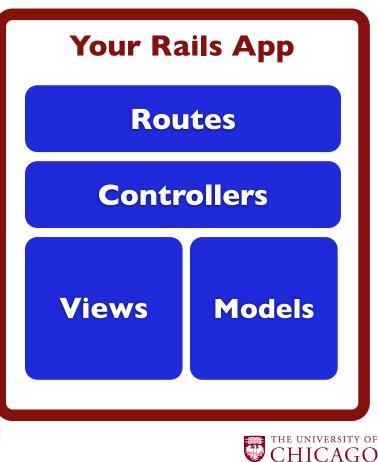
A route connects an http request to a Rails Action in your app.

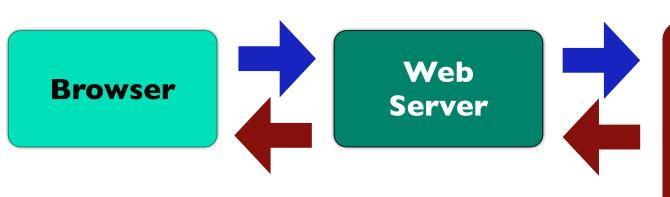




A route connects an http request to a Rails Action in your app.

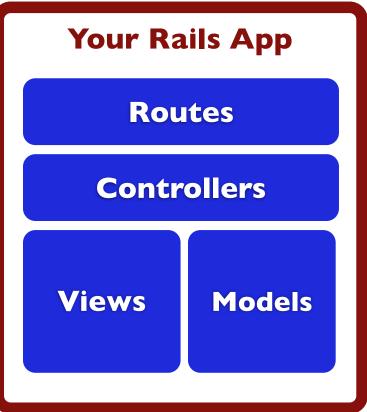
An "action" is just a moniker for a Ruby method of a "controller".



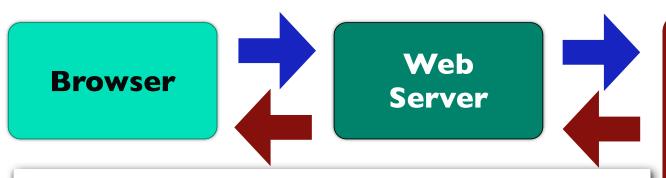


A route connects an http request to a Rails Action in your app.

A "controller" is just a moniker for a Ruby class.







- 1. Define a route in routes.rb
- 2. Create the Ruby class
- 3. Create the instance method
- 4. Call render() to generate a response.



Rails: Actions



HTTP Response Headers

HEADER	MEANING
Content-Type	Type of data
Location	Resource location
Status	Response code
Set-Cookie	Cookie data



HTTP Response Headers

An action generates a response by using the render method or an HTML view template.



Rendering in HTTP Response

```
def greeting
  render(:text => "Hello!", :status => 200)
end
```

Generates an HTTP response with a body and header status code.



Rendering in HTTP Response

Generates an HTTP response with a body, header status code, and header location value.

Rails Views



Rendering a view template

```
def greeting
  render 'greeting'
end
```

Generates an HTTP response by using a view template named greeting.html.erb



Rendering conventions

```
def greeting
render
end
```

The filename can be omitted if it's the same as the name of the action method.



Rendering conventions

```
def greeting
end
```

The render statement can be omitted if you want to render a view with the same name as the action method.



Goal: Create a web page of favorite things.

Use an HTML unordered list.

The URL should be: http://localhost:3000/favorites

Data-Driven Views

Instance variables in action methods can be used inside the view template for that action!

```
def greeting
  @salutation = "Wazzzzup!"
end
```



Data-Driven Views

We use embedded Ruby to insert logic and expression evaluation:



Goal: Convert the view into a data template.

Create an array of items in the controller.

Then use ERb to *generate* an HTML unordered list.

The RCAV Recipe

- 1. Define a route
- 2. Create a controller class
- 3. Create an action method
- 4. Create a view template



Goal: Create a web page of your favorite photo.

Use the tag.

The URL should be: http://localhost:3000/photo

Goal: Use the image_tag view helper.

Goal: Add links between each page.

Use <a> tags.

Goal: Use the *link_to* view helper.

Rails Routes: Named Routes

Naming a route makes it possible to do a reverse-lookup, and allows us to answer the question:

Given a route, what's the URL?



User Input



/photos?photo_id=5



/photos?photo_id=5



```
/photos?photo_id=5
```



```
/photos?photo_id=5
```

Use the params hash



Goal: Enhance the web page for one favorite to display the favorite given by the ID in the querystring:

/favorites?id=3