Send Email In Your Rails App

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Things to go over

- What's SMTP?
- How to setup SMTP in rails?
- How to generate a mailer?
- How to create an email?
- How to style it?
- How to preview it?
- SMTP services

What's SMTP?

- Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
- use to send outgoing email messages
  - retrieving and storing email use POP3 and IMAP
- provides a set of codes that simplify the communication of email messages between servers.
- setup communication rules between server

How to setup SMTP in rails

- add configuration in your config/environments/$RAILS_ENV.rb
- configuration for gmail
  - *config.action_mailer.delivery_method = :smtp*

    config.action_mailer.smtp_settings = {

        address: 'smtp.gmail.com',

        port: 587,

        domain: 'brianlu.com',

        user_name: 'brianlu123',

        password: 'lvrug911',

        authentication: :plain,

        enable_starttls_auto: true }

How to generate a mailer?

- rails g mailer <name>
- following will be created
  - app/mailers/<name>.rb
  - app/views/<name>
  - test/mailers/<name>_test.rb

How to create an email?

- define a method in your mailer class
  - create instance variable if you want to access some info in your view.
  - action mailer methods
    - headers
    - attachments
      - e.g. attachments['filename.jpg'] = File.read('/path/to/filename.jpg')
    - mail
      - subject, to, from, cc, bcc, reply_to, date
      - if no block passed, it sends all the views with the same name as the method

Mailer view

- create view
  - views should have the same name as the method in your mailer class
    - \<name>.text.erb
    - \<name>.html.haml
  - hostname should be specified for links
    - add default hostname in $RAILS_ENV.rb

      config.action_mailer.default_url_options = {

         host: 'localhost',

         port: 3000}

How to style it?

- inline css styling

Preview email without sending it

Email preview gems

- LetterOpener
- MailCatcher
- MailView
- RailsEmailPreview

MailCatcher

- gem install mailcatcher
- mailcatcher
- change smtp configuration
  - *config.action_mailer.smtp_settings = { :address => "localhost", :port => 1025 }*
- go to http://localhost:1080

STMP services

- Sendgrid   www.sendgrid.com
  - send up to 200 emails a day FREE!
- Mailgun   www.mailgun.com
  - product of Rackspace
  - send up to 10,000 emails a month FREE!
- Mailjet   www.mailjet.com
  - send up to 6000 emails a month FREE!

More information

http://guides.rubyonrails.org/action_mailer_basics.html
http://railscasts.com/episodes/206-action-mailer-in-rails-3
http://api.rubyonrails.org/classes/ActionMailer/Base.html