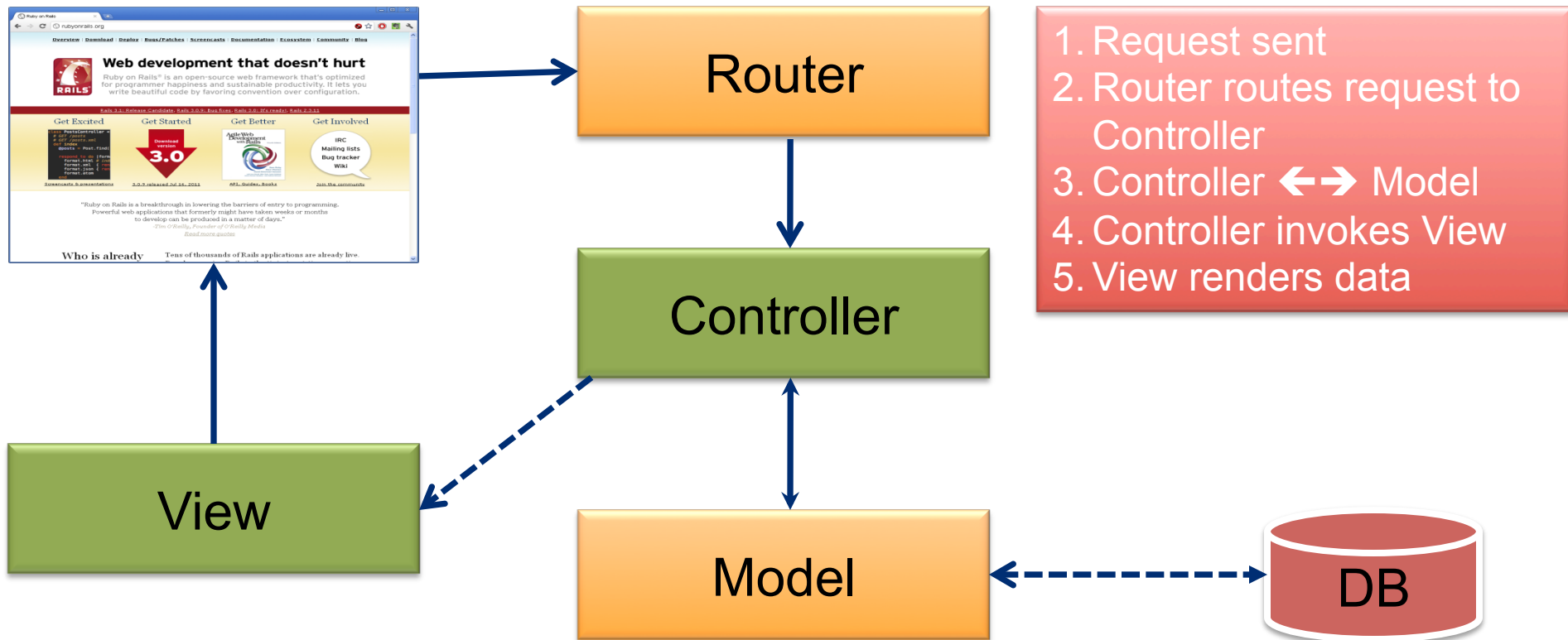


# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ Introduction to Action Pack

# ActionController + ActionView = AP



# Blog Scaffolding

```
~/my_blog$ rails g scaffold post title content:text
  invoke  active_record
  create   db/migrate/20151001131254_create_posts.rb
  create   app/models/post.rb
  invoke   test_unit
  create    test/models/post_test.rb
  create    test/fixtures/posts.yml
  invoke   resource_route
   route   resources :posts
  invoke   scaffold_controller
  create    app/controllers/posts_controller.rb
  invoke    erb
  create    app/views/posts
  create    app/views/posts/index.html.erb
  create    app/views/posts/edit.html.erb
  create    app/views/posts/show.html.erb
  create    app/views/posts/new.html.erb
  create    app/views/posts/_form.html.erb
```

\$rails new my\_blog

```
~/my_blog$ rake db:migrate
== 20151001131254 CreatePosts: migrating =====
-- create_table(:posts)
   -> 0.0009s
== 20151001131254 CreatePosts: migrated (0.0010s)
```



# Scaffolding: Explaining The Magic

✧ Scaffolding creates:

1. Migration
2. Model
3. *Routes*
4. *Restful Controller*
5. *Views*
6. More...



Discuss these now...

# ActionView: ERB

- ✧ HTML file with an .erb extension
- ✧ ERb is a **templating** library (similar to JSP) that lets you **embed** Ruby into your html
- ✧ Two tag patterns to learn:
  - `<% ...ruby code... %>` - evaluate Ruby code
  - `<%= ...ruby code... %>` - output evaluated Ruby code

...And of course, there are many view helpers that assist in code creation, like `link_to...`

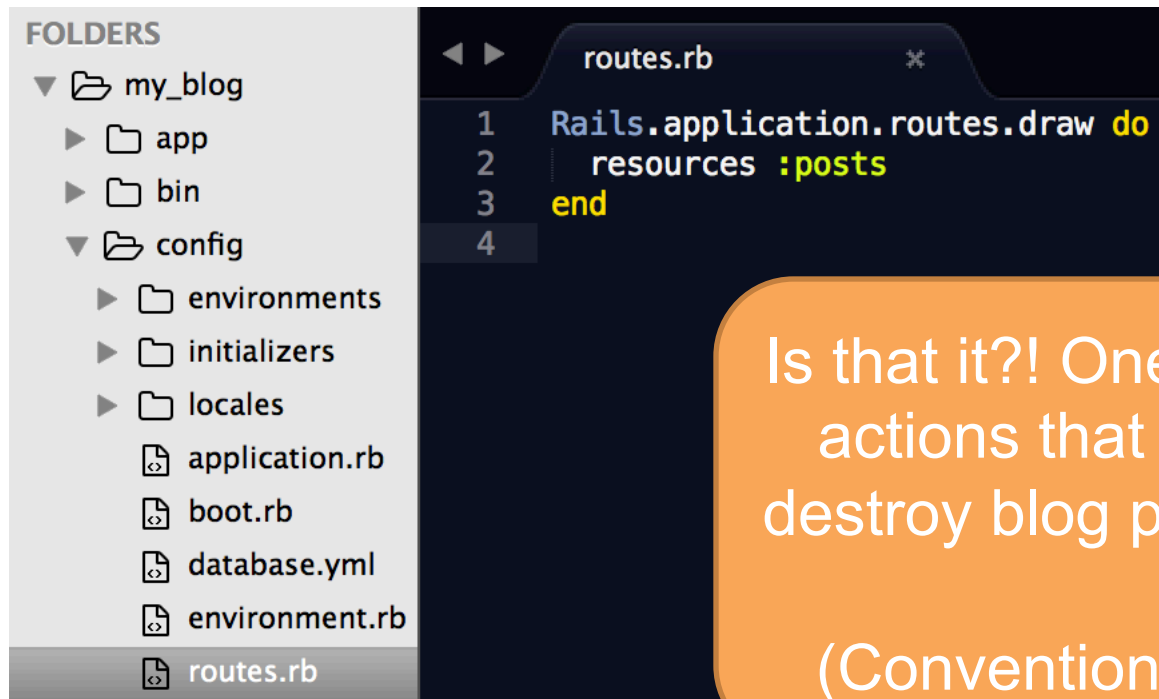
# Action Controller

- ✧ Ruby class containing **one or more** actions
- ✧ Each action is responsible for **responding to a request** to perform some task
- ✧ Unless otherwise stated – when an action is **finished firing** (or even if the action is not physically present) it **renders a view** with the same name as the action
- ✧ The action always needs to be mapped in **routes.rb**



# Speaking of Routes...

✧ Let's see scaffolded routes



The image shows a screenshot of a Rails application's file explorer on the left and the `routes.rb` file in the editor on the right. The file explorer shows a project named `my_blog` with folders `app`, `bin`, and `config`. The `config` folder is expanded, showing subfolders `environments`, `initializers`, and `locales`, and files `application.rb`, `boot.rb`, `database.yml`, `environment.rb`, and `routes.rb`. The `routes.rb` file is selected and open in the editor. The code in `routes.rb` is as follows:

```
1 Rails.application.routes.draw do
2   resources :posts
3 end
4
```

Is that it?! One line lets you route to actions that list, create, edit and destroy blog postings? Impossible...

(Convention Over Configuration)

# Summary

- ✧ Action Pack is Controller and View work together to let you interact with resources in the Model layer

## What's Next?

- ✧ REST and Rails





# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ REST
- ✧ How Rails adapted RESTful principles

# REST



- ✧ Representational State Transfer
- ✧ Roy T. Fielding's Ph.D. dissertation

"Representational State Transfer is intended to evoke an image of how a well-designed Web application behaves: a network of web pages (a virtual state-machine), where the user progresses through an application by selecting links (state transitions), resulting in the next page (representing the next state of the application) being transferred to the user and rendered for their use."

Check out the following great resource on REST  
<http://www.xfront.com/REST-Web-Services.html>

# REST = Resources

✧ REST is all about resources

✧ You should be able to:

1. **List** available resources
2. **Show** a specific resource
3. **Destroy** an existing resource
4. **Provide a way to create** a new resource
5. **Create** a new resource
6. **Provide a way to update** an existing resource
7. **Update** an existing resource

# REST: A Simple Rails Convention

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController

  # GET /posts
  def index

  # GET /posts/1
  def show

  # DELETE /posts/1
  def destroy

  # GET /posts/new
  def new

  # GET /posts/1/edit
  def edit

  # POST /posts
  def create

  # PATCH/PUT /posts/1
  def update

end
```



# Named Routes From 'Resources :Posts'

HTTP Method	Named Routes	Parameters	Controller Action	Purpose
GET	posts_path		index	List all
GET	post_path	ID	show	Show one
GET	new_post_path		new	Provide form to input new post
POST	posts_path	Record hash	create	Create new record (in DB)
GET	edit_post_path	ID	edit	Provide form to edit post
PUT/PATCH	post_path	ID and Record hash	update	Update record (in DB)
DELETE	post_path	ID	destroy	Remove record



# \$rake routes

- ✧ If you forget the chart on the previous page, you can always just run **\$rake routes**

```
~/my_blog$ rake routes
```

Prefix	Verb	URI Pattern	Controller#Action
posts	GET	/posts(.:format)	posts#index
	POST	/posts(.:format)	posts#create
new_post	GET	/posts/new(.:format)	posts#new
edit_post	GET	/posts/:id/edit(.:format)	posts#edit
post	GET	/posts/:id(.:format)	posts#show
	PATCH	/posts/:id(.:format)	posts#update
	PUT	/posts/:id(.:format)	posts#update
	DELETE	/posts/:id(.:format)	posts#destroy

Named routes column

# Summary

- ✧ Think of your application in terms of resources
- ✧ Think of the 7 RESTful actions that need to be done with those resources

## What's Next?

- ✧ Restful Actions: index

# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ index RESTful action





# Examining Seven Actions – Index

1. Retrieve all posts
2. (Implicit) Look for `index.html.erb` template to render response

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController  
  
  # GET /posts  
  # GET /posts.json  
  def index  
    @posts = Post.all  
  end  
end
```



# index.html.erb

Browsers only support GET and POST methods - how do we tell Rails to treat request as DELETE?



```
14 <tbody>
15   <%= @posts.each do |post| %>
16     <tr>
17       <td><%= post.title %></td>
18       <td><%= post.content %></td>
19       <td><%= link_to 'Show', post %></td>
20       <td><%= link_to 'Edit', edit_post_path(post) %></td>
21       <td><%= link_to 'Destroy', post, method: :delete, data: { confirm: 'Are you sure?' } %></td>
22     </tr>
23   <%= end %>
24 </tbody>
```

post = post\_path(post)

# index.html.erb

```
<tr>
  <td>Welcome</td>
  <td>Happy Action Packing!</td>
  <td><a href="/posts/1">Show</a></td>
  <td><a href="/posts/1/edit">Edit</a></td>
  <td><a data-confirm="Are you sure?" rel="nofollow" data-method="delete" href="/posts/1">Destroy</a></td>
</tr>
```

HTML5 data attributes...



# index.json.jbuilder

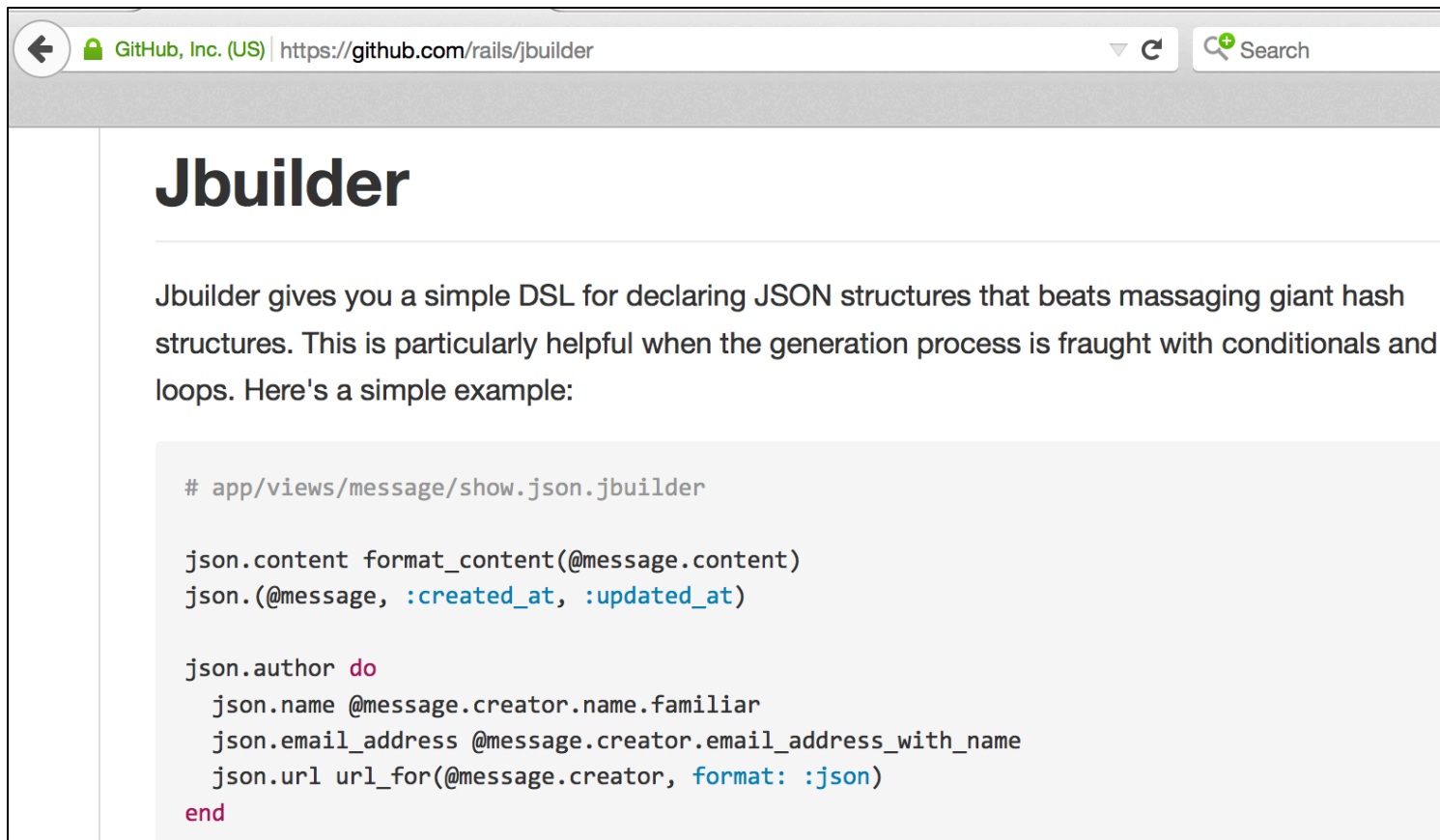
**FOLDERS**




- ▼ my\_blog
  - ▼ app
    - ▶ assets
    - ▶ controllers
    - ▶ helpers
    - ▶ mailers
    - ▶ models
    - ▼ views
      - ▶ layouts
      - ▼ posts
        - \_form.html.erb
        - edit.html.erb
        - index.html.erb
        - index.json.jbuilder

index.json.jbuilder

```
1 json.array!(@posts) do |post|
2   json.extract! post, :id, :title, :content
3   json.url post_url(post, format: :json)
4 end
5
6
7
```

# Jbuilder

A screenshot of a web browser displaying the GitHub page for Jbuilder. The browser's address bar shows the URL 'https://github.com/rails/jbuilder'. The page title is 'Jbuilder'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text describing Jbuilder as a simple DSL for declaring JSON structures. Below the text, there is a code block containing a sample Jbuilder script for a message show view.

←  GitHub, Inc. (US) | https://github.com/rails/jbuilder   Search

## Jbuilder

Jbuilder gives you a simple DSL for declaring JSON structures that beats massaging giant hash structures. This is particularly helpful when the generation process is fraught with conditionals and loops. Here's a simple example:

```
# app/views/message/show.json.jbuilder

json.content format_content(@message.content)
json.(@message, :created_at, :updated_at)

json.author do
  json.name @message.creator.name.familiar
  json.email_address @message.creator.email_address_with_name
  json.url url_for(@message.creator, format: :json)
end
```



# index.json.jbuilder



```
[
  {
    id: 1,
    title: "Welcome",
    content: "Happy Action Packing!\r\n",
    url: http://localhost:3000/posts/1.json
  },
  {
    id: 2,
    title: "Another Post",
    content: "Post about an index action",
    url: http://localhost:3000/posts/2.json
  }
]
```

Use JSONView browser plugin

# Summary

- ✧ index action retrieves resources from Data layer
- ✧ Then, implicitly invokes either HTML or JSON templates

## What's Next?

- ✧ show and destroy RESTful actions



# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ show RESTful action
- ✧ destroy RESTful action



# Examining Seven Actions – show

1. Retrieve specific post based on `id` parameter passed in (as part of URL)
2. (Implicit) Look for `show.html.erb` template to render response



# Examining Seven Actions – show

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_post, only: [:show, :edit, :update, :destroy]

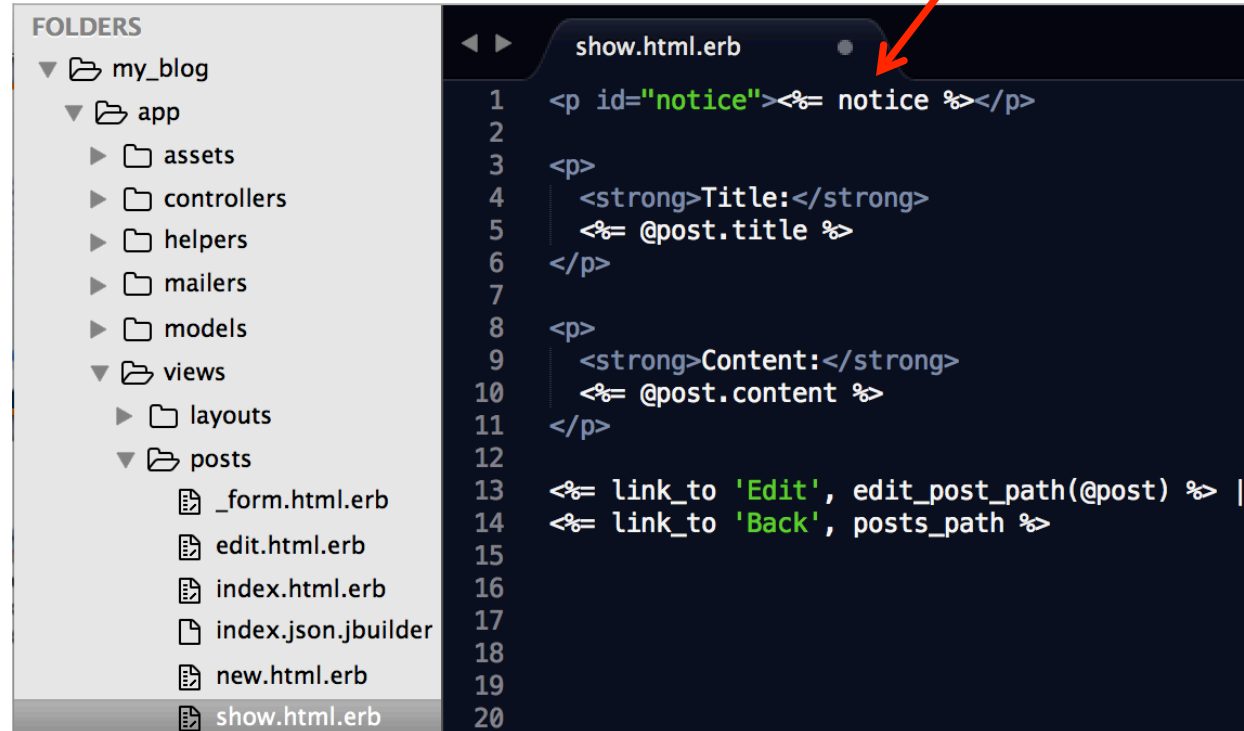
  # GET /posts/1
  # GET /posts/1.json
  def show
  end

  private
    def set_post
      @post = Post.find(params[:id])
    end
end
```



# show.html.erb

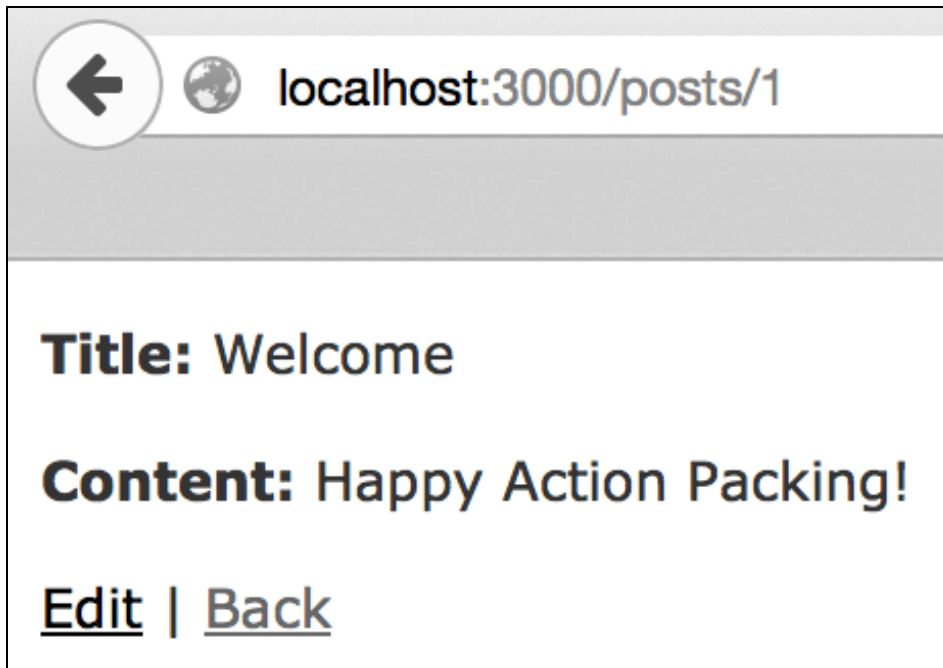
Explained later



The image shows a code editor interface. On the left, a sidebar titled 'FOLDERS' displays a tree structure of a Rails application. The 'views' folder is expanded, showing a 'posts' subfolder containing several ERB files, with 'show.html.erb' selected. The main editor area shows the content of 'show.html.erb' with line numbers 1 through 20. The code includes a notice tag, a title label, a content label, and two link\_to calls for 'Edit' and 'Back' actions. An orange callout box with the text 'Explained later' has a red arrow pointing to the tab of the 'show.html.erb' file in the editor.

```
1 <p id="notice"><%= notice %></p>
2
3 <p>
4   <strong>Title:</strong>
5   <%= @post.title %>
6 </p>
7
8 <p>
9   <strong>Content:</strong>
10  <%= @post.content %>
11 </p>
12
13 <%= link_to 'Edit', edit_post_path(@post) %> |
14 <%= link_to 'Back', posts_path %>
15
16
17
18
19
20
```

# show.html.erb



# show.json.builder

show.json.builder

```
json.extract! @post, :id, :title, :content, :created_at, :updated_at
```



localhost:3000/posts/2.json

```
{  
  id: 2,  
  title: "Another Post",  
  content: "Post about an index action",  
  created_at: "2015-10-07T03:25:43.624Z",  
  updated_at: "2015-10-07T03:25:43.624Z"  
}
```

# respond\_to

- ✧ Rails helper that specifies how to respond to a request based on a request format
- ✧ Takes an optional block where the argument is the format (e.g. html, json, xml etc.)
- ✧ Block specifies how to handle each format:
  - `format.format_name` – matching template
  - `format.format_name`  
`{ do_something_other_than_just_displaying_the_`  
`matching_template }`



# redirect\_to

- ✧ Instead of rendering a template – **send a response** to the browser: “Go here!”
- ✧ Usually **takes a (full) URL** as a parameter
- ✧ Could either be a **regular URL** (like `http://google.com`) or a **named route**
- ✧ If the parameter is an object – Rails will attempt to **generate a URL** for that object



# Examining Seven Actions - destroy

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_post, only: [:show, :edit, :update, :destroy]

  # DELETE /posts/1
  # DELETE /posts/1.json
  def destroy
    @post.destroy
    respond_to do |format|
      format.html { redirect_to posts_url, notice: 'Post was successfully destroyed.' }
      format.json { head :no_content }
    end
  end

  private
  # Use callbacks to share common setup or constraints between actions.
  def set_post
    @post = Post.find(params[:id])
  end
end
```





# Why redirect?

- ✧ Even though redirect involves an **extra step** (roundtrip to the browser) – **sometimes it just makes sense**
- ✧ Obvious examples:
  - When you want the client to be able to bookmark a certain page or you don't have a specific template to show (destroy action) and instead want the client to go to a generic page (index)

# Summary

- ✧ show action involves retrieving a resource and showing it inside an HTML or JSON template
- ✧ destroy action destroys a resource and then redirects the browser to another page

## What's Next?

- ✧ new and create actions

# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ new RESTful action
- ✧ create RESTful action

# Examining Seven Actions – new

1. Create a new empty post object
2. (Implicit) Look for `new.html.erb`

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController

  # GET /posts/new
  def new
    @post = Post.new
  end


end
```





# new.html.erb



Partial – explained later

```
new.html.erb *  
<h1>New Post</h1>  
<%= render 'form' %>  
<%= link_to 'Back', posts_path %>
```



# new.html.erb

  localhost:3000/posts/new

  Search

Inspector

Console

Debugger

Style Editor

Performance

Net

html > body > form#new\_post.new\_post > div.field > label

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head></head>
  <body>
    <h1>New Post</h1>
    <form id="new_post" class="new_post" method="post" accept-charset="UTF-8" action="/posts">
      <input type="hidden" value="/" name="utf8">
      <input type="hidden"
value="587l6pGHA//XMmCRTyovzND9IJHg9SAm+AuYT+WBCz+uCUIGBLiqGnRuYjT01QPcTC2hozx8tAIuBoq4
name="authenticity_token">
      <div class="field">
        <label for="post_title">Title</label>
        <br>
        <input id="post_title" type="text" name="post[title]">
      </div>
      <div class="field"></div>
      <div class="actions"></div>
    </form>
    <a href="/posts">Back</a>
  </body>
</html>
```

## New Post

Title

Content

Create Post

[Back](#)



# Examining Seven Actions – create

1. Create a **new post object** with parameters that were **passed** from the **new** form
2. Try to **save** the object to the **database**
3. If **successful**, **redirect** to **show** template
4. If **unsuccessful**, **render new** action (template - again)
  - Why would it not be successful? Validations did not pass for example.



# Summary

- ✧ new action provides a form to be filled out to create a new resource
- ✧ create action accepts parameters passed in from filling out the form in the new action

## What's Next?

- ✧ Strong Parameters and Flash



# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ Strong parameters
- ✧ Flash
- ✧ How create action works

# Strong Parameters

 guides.rubyonrails.org/action\_controller\_overview.html#strong-parameters



Search

## 4.5 Strong Parameters

With strong parameters, Action Controller parameters are forbidden to be used in Active Model mass assignments until they have been whitelisted. This means you'll have to make a conscious choice about which attributes to allow for mass updating and thus prevent accidentally exposing that which shouldn't be exposed.



# create action

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController

  # POST /posts
  # POST /posts.json
  def create
    @post = Post.new(post_params)

    respond_to do |format|
      if @post.save
        format.html { redirect_to @post, notice: 'Post was successfully created.' }
        format.json { render :show, status: :created, location: @post }
      else
        format.html { render :new }
        format.json { render json: @post.errors, status: :unprocessable_entity }
      end
    end
  end
end

private
# Never trust parameters from the scary internet, only allow the white list through.
def post_params
  params.require(:post).permit(:title, :content)
end
end
```

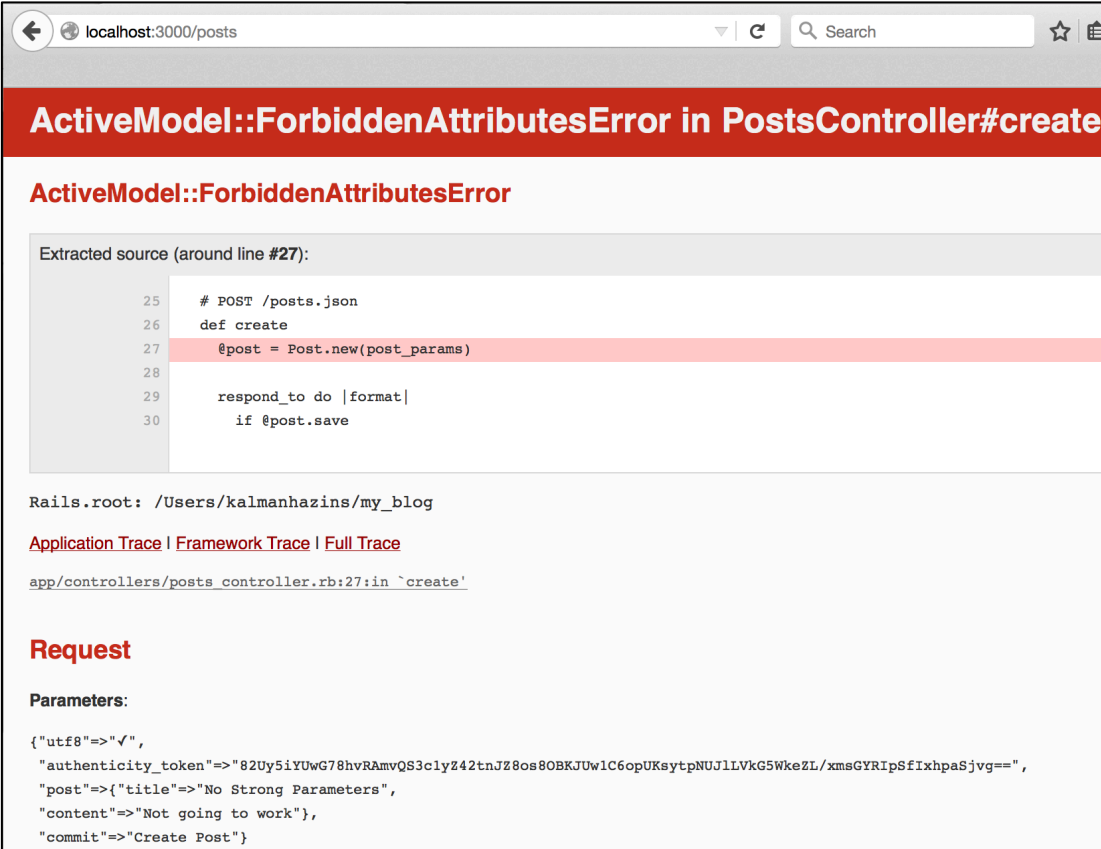


# Strong Parameters Not Implemented

```
# Never trust parameters from the scary internet, only allow the white list through.  
def post_params  
  # params.require(:post).permit(:title, :content)  
  params  
end
```



# Strong Parameters Not Implemented



The screenshot shows a web browser at `localhost:3000/posts` displaying a Rails error page. The error message is `ActiveModel::ForbiddenAttributesError` in `PostsController#create`. The extracted source code around line 27 is as follows:

```
25 # POST /posts.json
26 def create
27   @post = Post.new(post_params)
28
29   respond_to do |format|
30     if @post.save
```

The Rails root is `/Users/kalmanhazins/my_blog`. The application trace shows the error occurred in `app/controllers/posts_controller.rb:27:in `create'`.

**Request**

**Parameters:**

```
{ "utf8" => "✓",
  "authenticity_token" => "82Uy5iYUwG78hvRAMvQS3clyZ42tnJZ8os80BKJUw1C6opUKsytpNUJ1LVkG5WkeZL/xmsGYRIpSfIxhpaSjvg==",
  "post" => { "title" => "No Strong Parameters",
    "content" => "Not going to work"},
  "commit" => "Create Post" }
```



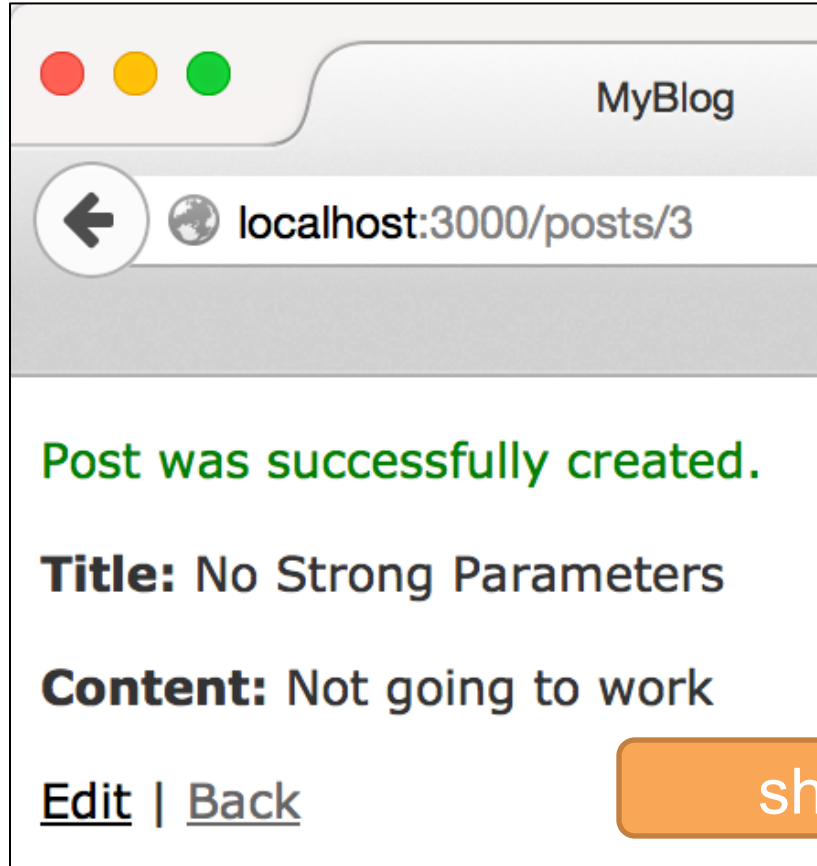
# Flash

- ✧ **Problem:** We want to *redirect* a user to a different page on our site, but at the same time *give* him some sort of a *message*? For example, “Post created!”
- ✧ **Solution:** flash – a *hash* where the data you put in *persists* for exactly *ONE request AFTER* the current request.

# Flash

- ✧ You can put your content into flash by doing `flash[:attribute] = value`
- ✧ Two very **common** attributes are `:notice` (good) and `:alert` (bad)
- ✧ These are so common in fact, that the `redirect_to` takes a `:notice` or `:alert` keys

# create action



show.html.erb (with a notice)



# Summary

- ✧ Strong parameters requires you to whitelist the parameters that you intend to create/update
- ✧ Flash persists for exactly one request after the current request/response cycle

## What's Next?

- ✧ edit and update actions

# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ edit action
- ✧ update action

# Examining Seven Actions – edit

1. Retrieve a post object based on the `id` provided (as part of the URI)
2. (Implicit) Look for `edit.html.erb`

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_post, only: [:show, :edit, :update, :destroy]

  # GET /posts/1/edit
  def edit
  end

  private
  def set_post
    @post = Post.find(params[:id])
  end
end
```



# edit.html.erb

Partial – explained later

```
edit.html.erb *  
<h1>Editing Post</h1>  
<%= render 'form' %>  
  
<%= link_to 'Show', @post %> |  
<%= link_to 'Back', posts_path %>
```

# edit.html.erb



A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows a back button, a globe icon, and the URL 'localhost:3000/posts/3/edit'. The page title is 'Editing Post'. Below the title, there is a 'Title' label followed by a text input field containing 'No Strong Parameters'. Below that is a 'Content' label followed by a text area containing 'Not going to work'. At the bottom left, there is an 'Update Post' button. At the bottom, there are two links: 'Show' and 'Back', separated by a vertical bar.

localhost:3000/posts/3/edit

## Editing Post

Title

Content

Update Post

[Show](#) | [Back](#)

This looks remarkably similar to  
new...

# Examining Seven Actions – update

1. **Retrieve** an existing post using **id** parameter
2. **Update** post object with (**strong**) parameters that were passed from the **edit** form
3. Try to **(re)save** the object to the **database**
4. If successful, **redirect** to **show** template
5. If unsuccessful, **render edit** action (template) again



# update action

```
class PostsController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_post, only: [:show, :edit, :update, :destroy]

  # PATCH/PUT /posts/1
  # PATCH/PUT /posts/1.json
  def update
    respond_to do |format|
      if @post.update(post_params)
        format.html { redirect_to @post, notice: 'Post was successfully updated.' }
        format.json { render :show, status: :ok, location: @post }
      else
        format.html { render :edit }
        format.json { render json: @post.errors, status: :unprocessable_entity }
      end
    end
  end

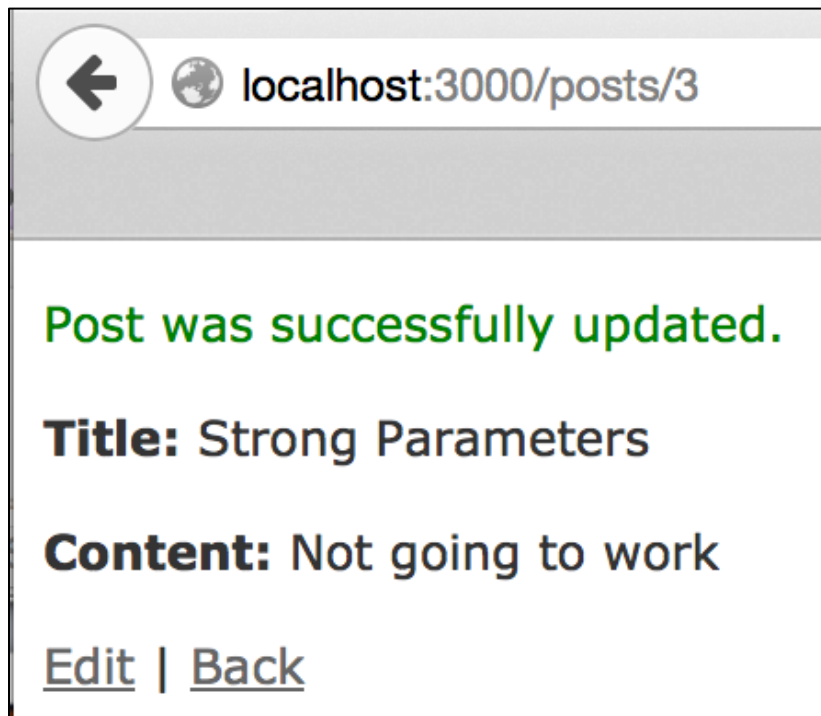
  private

  # Use callbacks to share common setup or constraints between actions.
  def set_post
    @post = Post.find(params[:id])
  end

  # Never trust parameters from the scary internet, only allow the white list through.
  def post_params
    params.require(:post).permit(:title, :content)
  end
end
```



# update action



`show.html.erb` (with a notice)



# Summary

- ✧ edit/update is very similar to new/create except there is an id of an existing resource that is being kept track of
- ✧ Strong parameters apply to updating a resource as well as creating one

## What's Next?

- ✧ **Partials**



# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ Partials
- ✧ How the “form” partial works

# Partials: DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself)

- ✧ Rails encourages the DRY principle
- ✧ We already know about the `application.html.erb`, which enables you to **maintain layout code** for the entire application in **one place** (more on this later)
- ✧ It would also be nice to **reuse** snippets of view code in **multiple templates**
- ✧ For example, `edit` and `new` forms – are they really that much different?



# Partials

- ✧ Partials are **similar** to regular templates, but they have a more **refined** set of capabilities
- ✧ Named with **underscore** (`_`) as the leading character
- ✧ Rendered with **render** `'partialname'` (no underscore)
- ✧ **render** also accepts a **second argument**, a hash of **local** variables used in the partial



# Object Partial

- ✧ Similar to passing local variables, you can also **render** a specific object
- ✧ `<%= render @post %>` will render a partial in `app/views/posts/_post.html.erb` and automatically assign a local variable `post`



Convention Over Configuration

# Rendering Collection of Partial

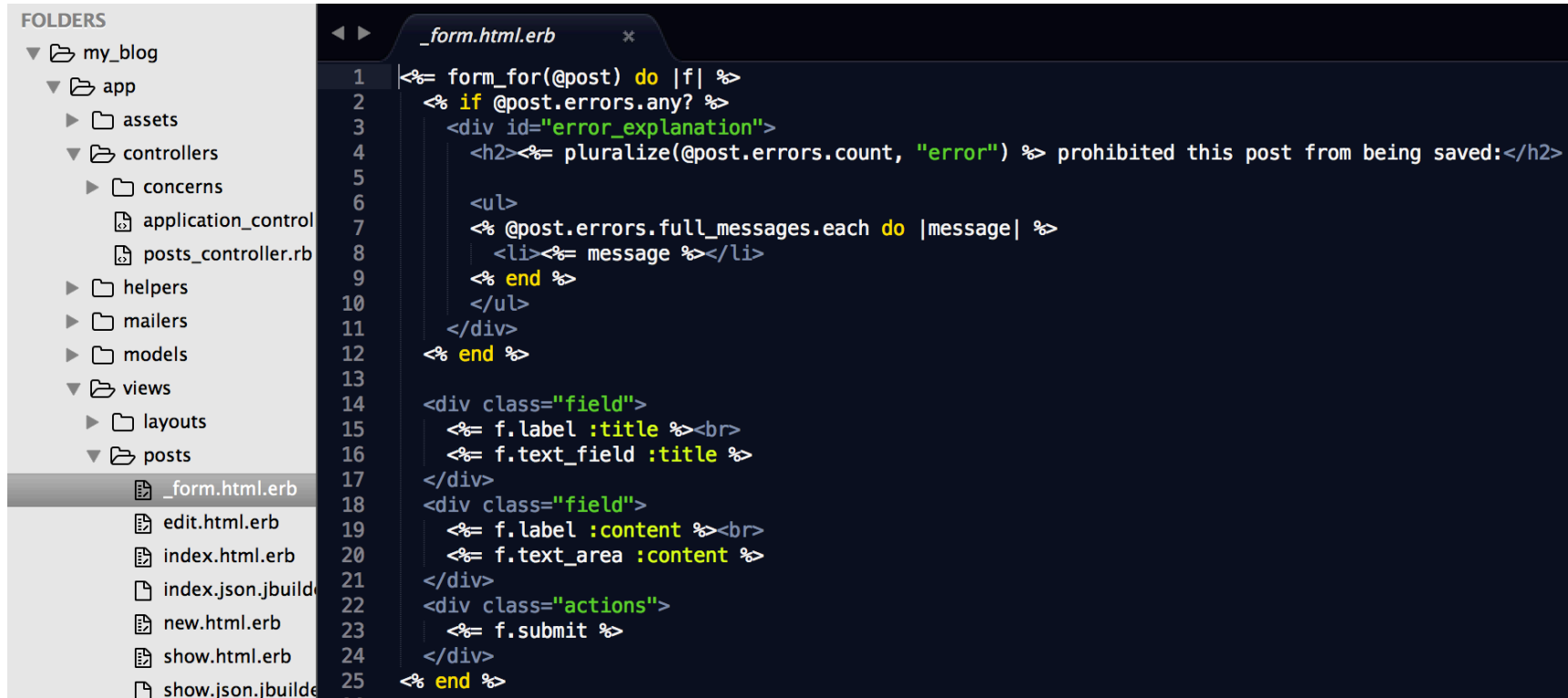
```
<%= render @posts %>
```

is equivalent to

```
<% @posts.each do |post| %>  
  <%= render post %>  
<% end %>
```



# \_form.html.erb – display errors



```
1 <%= form_for(@post) do |f| %>
2   <% if @post.errors.any? %>
3     <div id="error_explanation">
4       <h2><%= pluralize(@post.errors.count, "error") %> prohibited this post from being saved:</h2>
5
6       <ul>
7         <% @post.errors.full_messages.each do |message| %>
8           <li><%= message %></li>
9         <% end %>
10      </ul>
11    </div>
12  <% end %>
13
14  <div class="field">
15    <%= f.label :title %><br>
16    <%= f.text_field :title %>
17  </div>
18  <div class="field">
19    <%= f.label :content %><br>
20    <%= f.text_area :content %>
21  </div>
22  <div class="actions">
23    <%= f.submit %>
24  </div>
25 <% end %>
```

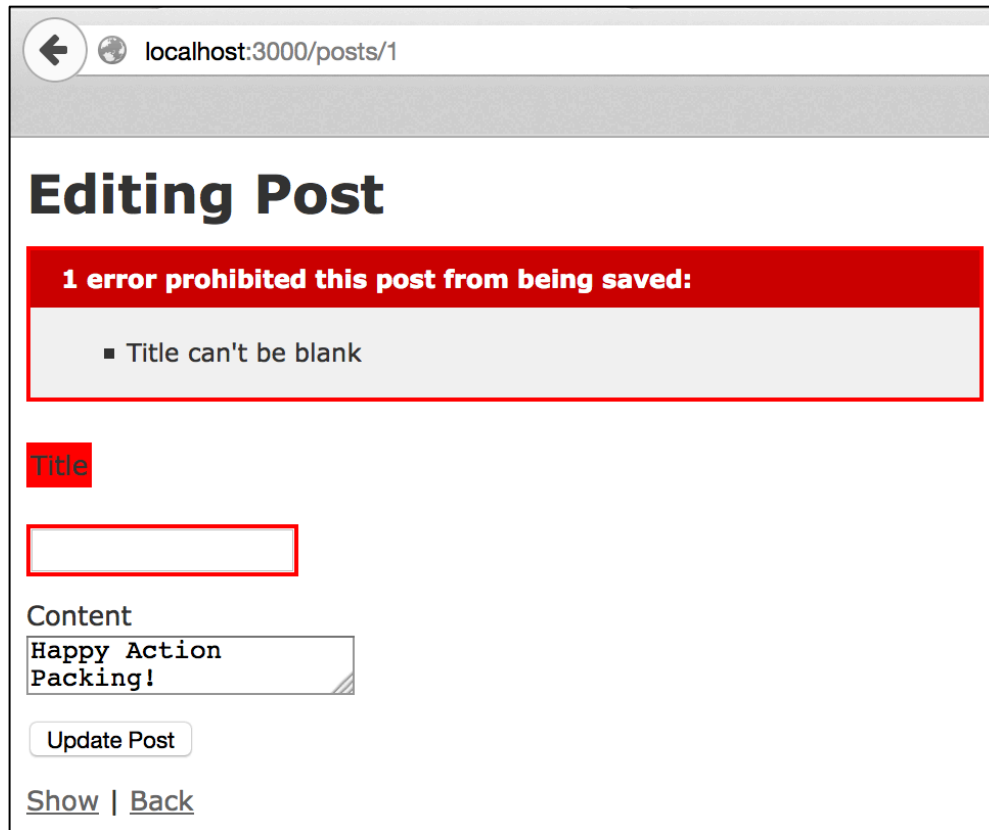


# Require Presence of Title





# \_form.html.erb – display errors



A screenshot of a web browser window showing a form for editing a post. The browser's address bar displays 'localhost:3000/posts/1'. The page title is 'Editing Post'. A prominent red error message box states '1 error prohibited this post from being saved:'. Below this, a list of errors shows 'Title can't be blank'. The 'Title' label is highlighted in red, and the corresponding text input field is outlined with a red border. The 'Content' label is followed by a text area containing the text 'Happy Action Packing!'. At the bottom of the form is an 'Update Post' button. Below the button are two links: 'Show' and 'Back'.

localhost:3000/posts/1

## Editing Post

**1 error prohibited this post from being saved:**

- Title can't be blank

Title

Content

Happy Action Packing!

Update Post

[Show](#) | [Back](#)

# Summary

- ✧ Partial is a snippet of reusable template that has an underscore in its name and accepts parameters when rendered

## What's Next?

- ✧ Form helpers and Layouts



# In this lecture, we will discuss...

- ✧ Form helpers
- ✧ Layouts

# \_form.html.erb

```
<%= form_for(@post) do |f| %>
  <%= if @post.errors.any? %> ...
  <%= end %>

  <div class="field">
    <%= f.label :title %><br>
    <%= f.text_field :title %>
  </div>
  <div class="field">
    <%= f.label :content %><br>
    <%= f.text_area :content %>
  </div>
  <div class="actions">
    <%= f.submit %>
  </div>
<%= end %>
```

Form with parameters  
that match up with  
model's attributes

Submit button for  
submitting the form

# Form Helpers

## ✧ `form_for`

- Generates a **form tag** for passed in object
- Unlike a regular HTML form, Rails uses **POST** by default
- This of course makes a lot of sense:
  1. Your password is **not passed** as part of your URL
  2. Anything that will end up **modifying data on the server** should definitely be a **POST** and not GET

# Form helpers – f.label

## ✧ f.label

- Outputs HTML label tag for the **provided attribute**
- To **customize** label description, **pass in a string** as a second parameter

```
<div class="field">  
  <%= f.label :title, "Heading" %><br>  
  <%= f.text_field :title %>  
</div>
```

Heading

# Form Helpers – f.text\_field

## ✧ f.text\_field

- Generates input type="text" field
- Use `:placeholder` hash entry to specify a placeholder (hint) to be displayed inside the field until the user provides a value

```
<div class="field">  
  <%= f.label :title, "Heading" %><br>  
  <%= f.text_field :title, placeholder: "Have a great title?" %>  
</div>
```

Heading

Have a great title?

# Form Helpers – f.text\_area

## ✧ f.text\_area

- Similar to `f.text_field`, but for a text area instead of a text field input (default: 40 cols x 20 rows)
- Can specify a different size (colsXrows) with a `:size` attribute

```
<div class="field">  
  <%= f.label :content %><br>  
  <%= f.text_area :content, size: "10x3" %>  
</div>
```

Content

Happy  
Action  
Packing!



# Date Helpers

## ✧ `f.date_select`

- Set of select tags (year, month, day) pre-selected for accessing an attribute in the DB. Many formatting options

`f.time_select`

## ✧ `f.datetime_select`

## ✧ `distance_of_time_in_words_to_now`

## ✧ And many many more...

## ✧ See `ActionView::Helpers::DateHelper` docs

- <http://api.rubyonrails.org/classes/ActionView/Helpers/DateHelper.html>



# Form Helpers – Others

- ✧ `search_field`
- ✧ `telephone_field`
- ✧ `url_field`
- ✧ `email_field`
- ✧ `number_field`
- ✧ `range_field`

Some of these are browser-dependent – will take advantage of the browsers that are ready for prime time and will still look okay in others...

# Form Helpers – f.submit

## ✧ `f.submit`

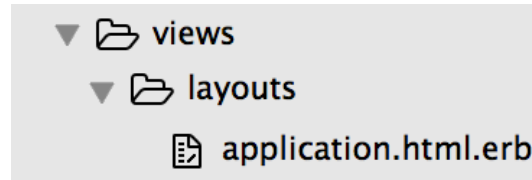
- Submit button
- Accepts the name of the **submit button** as its **first argument**
- If you **don't** provide a name – **generates one** based on the **model and type of action**, e.g. “Create Post” or “Update Post”

[http://guides.rubyonrails.org/form\\_helpers.html](http://guides.rubyonrails.org/form_helpers.html)



# More on Layouts

1. Layout named `application.html.erb` is applied by default as a shell for any view template



2. Layout that matches the name of a controller is applied if present (overriding 1. above)
3. You can use `layout` method inside controller (outside any action) to set a layout for the entire controller

```
layout 'some_layout'
```

# Layouts During Rendering

- ✧ You can include a layout for a **specific action** with an **explicit** call to **render** inside the action  
**render layout: 'my\_layout'**
- ✧ If you **don't** want a layout (for some reason) – just **pass false** instead of layout name **render layout: false**

# Summary

- ✧ Form helpers are a quick way to generate forms as well as form elements
- ✧ Layouts let you display a common “shell” around application template or around particular actions or resources