Rails Form 411

Tools & best practices

Rails built-ins

Form Builder

```erb
<%= form_for @post do |form| %>
  <%= form.text_field :title />
<% end %>
```

```html
<form action="/posts" method="post" ...>
  ...
  <input id="post_title"
         name="post[title]"
         type="text" .../>
</form>
```

Form Builder

```erb
<%= form_for(@post) do |f| %>
  <div class="field">
    <%= f.label :category_id %><br />
    <%= f.text_field :category_id %>
  </div>
  <div class="field">
    <%= f.label :title %><br />
    <%= f.text_field :title %>
  </div>
  <div class="field">
    <%= f.label :body %><br />
    <%= f.text_area :body %>
  </div>
  <div class="actions">
    <%= f.submit %>
  </div>
<% end %>
```

Form Builder

Formtastic

Formtastic

```erb
<% semantic_form_for @post do |form| %>
  <% form.inputs do %>
    <%= form.input :category_id %>
    <%= form.input :title %>
    <%= form.input :body %>
  <% end %>
  <%= form.buttons %>
<% end %>
```

Formtastic

```erb
<% semantic_form_for @post do |form| %>
  <%= form.inputs %>
  <%= form.buttons %>
<% end %>
```

Formtastic

SimpleForm

SimpleForm

```
<%= simple_form_for @post do |f| %>
  <%= f.input :title %>
  <%= f.input :body %>
  <%= f.button :submit %>
<% end %>
```

SimpleForm

```erb
<%= simple_form_for @post do |f| %>
  <%= f.association :category %>
  <%= f.input :title %>
  <%= f.input :body %>
  <%= f.button :submit %>
<% end %>
```

SimpleForm

Formtastic vs SimpleForm

Formtastic

- generators

- stylesheets (generated)

SimpleForm

- customizable template

Nested Attributes

```ruby
class Post
  has_many :comments
  accepts_nested_attributes_for :comments
end
```

```erb
<%= form_for @post do |form| %>
  <%= form.fields_for :comments do |comment_fields| %>
    <%= comment_fields.text_area :body %>
  <% end %>
<% end %>
```

```html
<form action="/posts" method="post">
  <text-area id="post_comments_123_body"
             name="post[comments][123][body]">
    My comment body here
  </text-area>
</form>
```

Exercises

- Developers should share code snippets

- Developers should select a language for their snippet

- Developers should flag their snippet as public|private

- Developers should tag their snippet

- Developers should comment on others' snippets

- Developers should search others' snippets