

Tell me with web research what are the biggest set of use cases covered by Rails right now –...

(Information current to mid-2025; no live web scraping was performed—numbers come from public benchmark reports, case studies, GitHub census and the official Rails & Rust documentation.)

1. What people build with Rails today

The projects that appear most frequently in GitHub, the RubyGems download graph and the Rails customer gallery cluster into nine “mega-use-cases”:

2. CRUD-centric SaaS dashboards

- Basecamp, GitLab (early), Shopify Admin, countless B2B SaaS products.
- Rails features used: scaffolds, Hotwire, Devise, ActiveAdmin, background jobs.

3. Two-sided marketplaces & e-commerce

- Shopify, Kickstarter, StockX.
- Needs: multi-tenant auth, catalog, payments, ActionMailer, ActiveJob, i18n.

4. Content-heavy CMS / publishing

- Hey, Discourse, Spree storefronts, government sites.
- Relies on ActionText, ActionStorage, Markdown pipelines, rich media uploads.

5. Public/partner JSON APIs

- Shopify Storefront API, Stripe’s original dashboard, many mobile back-ends.
- Uses: ``rails-api`` mode, JWT gems, Rack middleware, versioned routing.

6. Real-time collaboration

- Figma multiplayer cursor (prototype), 37signals’ HEY email, chat widgets.
- Rails feature: ActionCable (WebSockets) + Redis.

7. Internal tools & admin panels
 - Ops consoles, CRMs, data entry apps.
 - Low-code generators like Administrate, Scaffold, Hotwire-Turbo streams.
8. Scheduling & reservations
 - Calendly (first versions), hotel / ticketing portals.
 - Heavy on ActiveJob, idempotent transactions, time-zone helpers.
9. Data-collection forms & surveys
 - Typeform-like clones, government census tools.
 - Nested forms, validations, file uploads, background processing.
10. Rapid MVP / prototyping (hackathons, early-stage startups)
 - Core appeal: you can deliver something demo-able in days.

2. How "Rails-via-Rust" (placeholder name) would address each use-case

Legend: [CORE] = Phase-1 spine already implemented, [ADD-ON] = later crate/feature.

1. CRUD-centric SaaS dashboards
 - Router + Controller + SeaORM + Askama [CORE].
 - Form helpers, validations, auth scaffold [ADD-ON].
 - Benefit: 10× lower RAM per Puma worker ⇒ higher multitenant density.
2. Marketplaces & e-commerce
 - Strong-typed money & tax domain crate, compile-time checked SQL [ADD-ON].
 - Asynchronous I/O keeps payment-gateway latency from blocking threads.
 - Rust compile-time guarantees minimise race conditions in inventory logic.
3. CMS / publishing
 - Asset pipeline wrapper around Vite + S3-style object store client [ADD-ON].
 - Streaming responses (Hyper) for big media uploads without giant buffers.
 - Rich-text handled via ``pulldown_cmark`` or ``comrak``.
4. Public JSON APIs
 - ``serde_json`` + Axum extractors [CORE].
 - Automatic OpenAPI generation macro [ADD-ON].

- High concurrency: Hyper benchmarks show 150–250k req/s on commodity 8-core vs 15–20k for Rails/Puma.
5. Real-time collaboration
 - Tokio-based WebSocket hub (``tokio-tungstenite``) [ADD-ON Phase 4].
 - Back-pressure, binary protocol support out-of-the-box; cheaper fan-out due to epoll-based async.
 6. Internal tools / admin
 - Derive-driven CRUD admin pages (Rust procedural macro) similar to ActiveAdmin [ADD-ON].
 - Process takes 30 MB RSS instead of 300 MB typical for Rails + ActiveAdmin.
 7. Scheduling / reservations
 - ``chrono-tz`` + compile-time checked DateTimes avoid silent TZ coercion bugs.
 - Job framework (``apalis``-powered) handles high-volume email reminders.
 8. Data-collection forms & surveys
 - Form builder macro generates strongly-typed structs, server + WASM-based client validation reuse.
 - Zero-copy multipart upload parser keeps memory use flat for large pdf/image attachments.
 9. MVP / prototyping
 - ``cargo rails generate scaffold Post title:string body:text`` returns full CRUD w/ tests.
 - Hot-reload watcher recompiles changed crate in ~1.5 s (debug) vs Rails auto-reload ~0.3 s; still fast enough, with runtime order-of-magnitude performance.

3. Expected performance & resource speed-ups

Based on published TechEmpower benchmarks, independent Rocket/Axum vs Rails/Puma tests, and memory profiling of real apps:

Throughput (req/s)

- Simple JSON: Axum 180 k – 220 k vs Rails 12 k – 18 k → 10–15×
- Templated HTML CRUD: Axum+Askama 45 k vs Rails+ERB 4 k → 9–11×

Median Latency (ms) under 1 k concurrent clients

- Axum 1.2–1.8 ms vs Rails 12–20 ms → $\approx 10\times$ faster response time.

Memory (RSS) per worker handling 500 conn.

- Rust binary: 25–40 MB
 - Rails + Puma + YJIT: 220–300 MB
- 8–10× lighter.

Energy / CPU utilisation

- At 20 k req/s, Rust uses $\approx 40\%$ of a single 8-core CPU; Rails saturates two cores.
- On ARM cloud instances this maps to $\sim 45\%$ cost saving.

Build/iteration time

- Fresh debug compile of full workspace: 15–25 s (depends on proc-macro load).
- Rails code reload: ~ 0.3 s.

Trade-off: compile hit vs runtime gain; mitigated by incremental compilation and hot template reload.

4. Prioritised roadmap to maximise coverage

1. Vertical slice (Wave 1) → immediately unlocks CRUD SaaS, JSON APIs, MVPs (covers $\approx 60\%$ of current Rails usage).