



University of
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COM1001 SPRING SEMESTER
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Views

What is a “View”?

Controllers **should not** contain any **HTML**, or any code for constructing the front-end of a web application.

Instead, the front-end of a Sinatra web application consists of **Views**.

Views are templates for constructing the HTML of a web page.

Views exist in files that are separate from the rest of the Sinatra application.

Views ensure that front-end presentation code is separated out from the rest of the web application. **Why do you think this might be important?**



Live Demonstration:

the `static_view` example

(from the code-examples directory of the GitHub repository)

Featuring:

- How to use views

A Simple View

```
get "/" do
  erb :view
end
```

static_view/controllers/view.rb

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>A Simple View</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style/style.css">
</head>
<body>
  

  <h1>Simple View Example</h1>

  <p>Showing how to incorporate CSS and images into the
  pages of your web application.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

static_view/views/view.erb

The **erb** method reads in the contents of the view and returns it as a string.

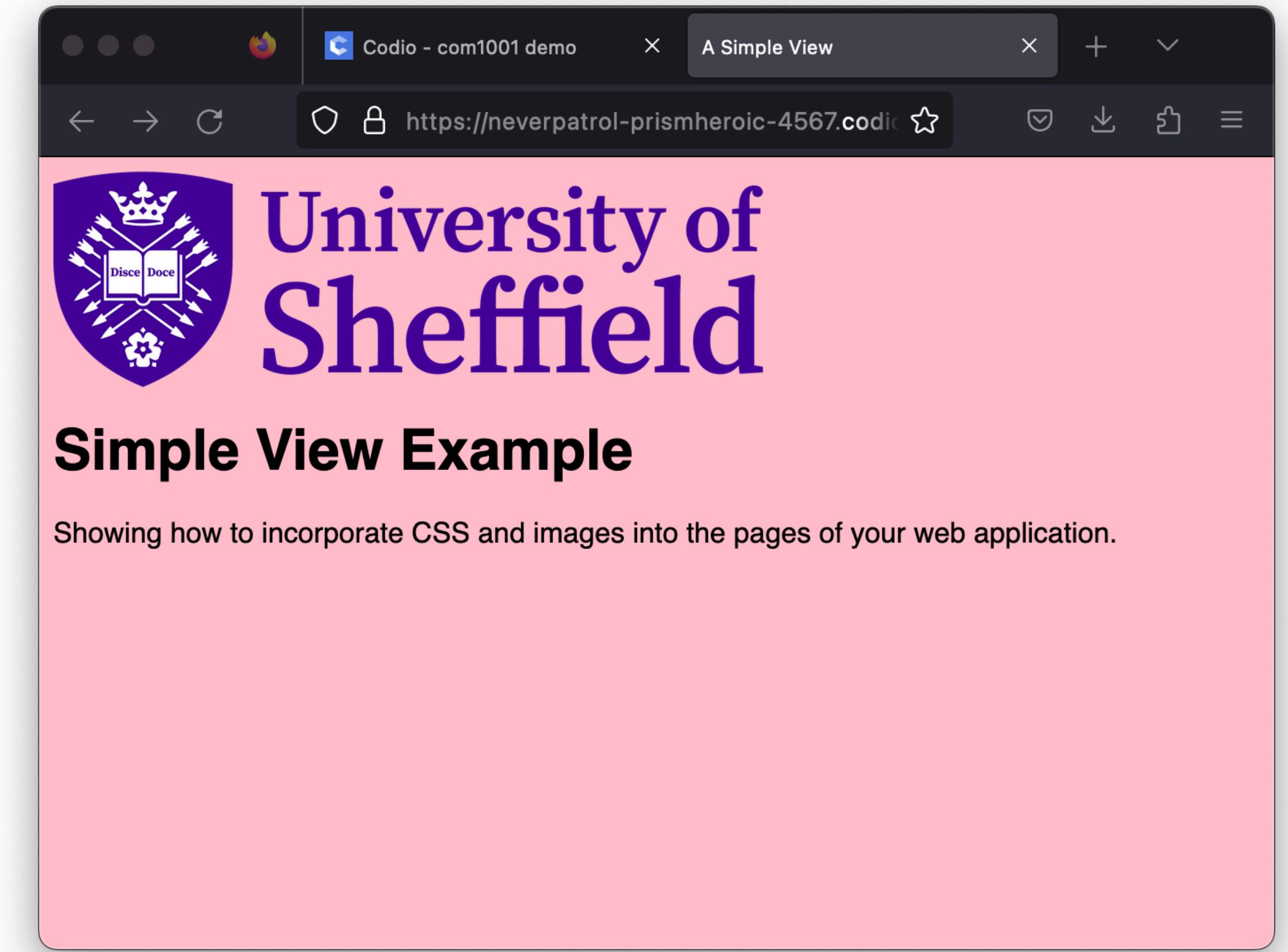
This is an example of a Ruby **symbol**. A symbol is like a string, except it does not need to be enclosed in quotes and is prefixed with a colon. Symbols help simplify code.

The **erb** method uses a symbol to look up the file containing the view. Here symbol **:view** tells it to find the file “**views/view.erb**”. Rather than writing the whole filename in the code, we just provide the part that it needs (i.e., “index”), in the form of a symbol.

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>A Simple View</title>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="style/style.css">
</head>
<body>
  

  <h1>Simple View Example</h1>

  <p>Showing how to incorporate CSS and images into the
  pages of your web application.</p>
</body>
</html>
```



But this view isn't a “template” at all – *it's more like a regular static HTML file!*

Views can be much more powerful...



Live Demonstration:

the `times_table` example

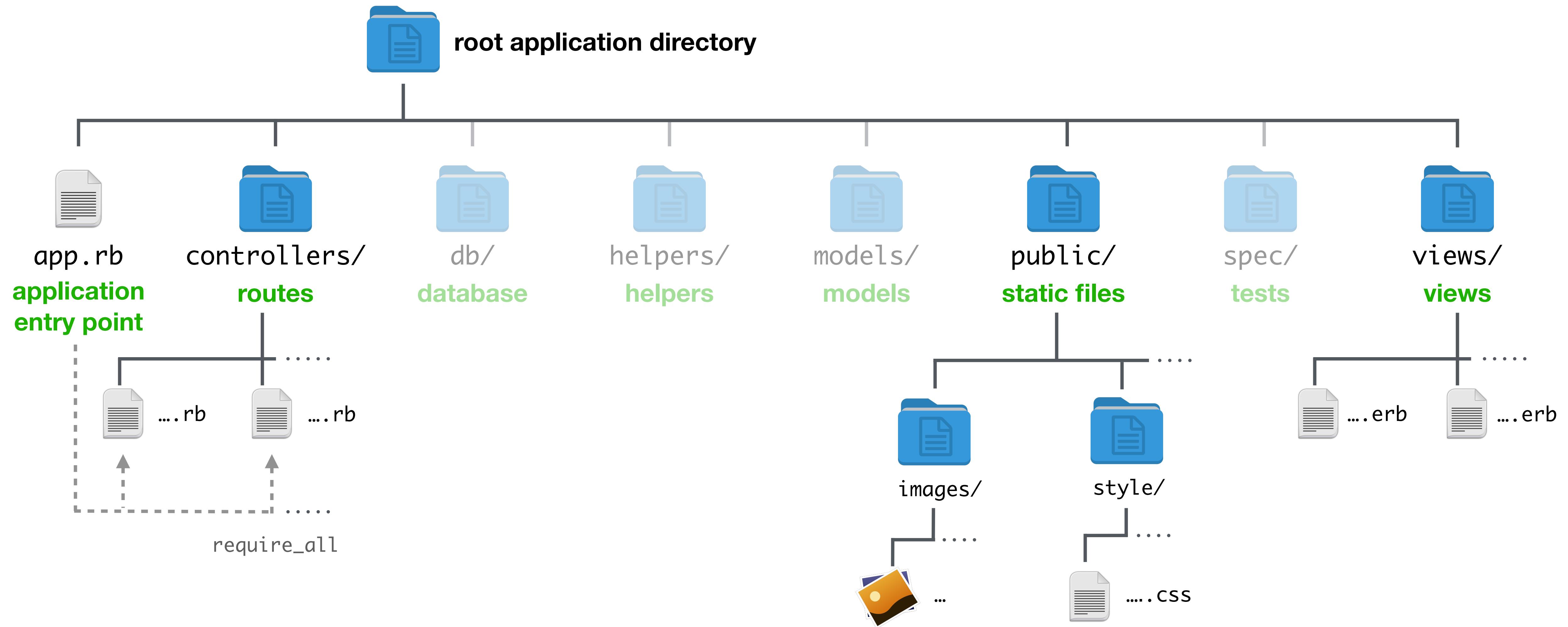
(from the code-examples directory of the GitHub repository)

Featuring:

- How to use variables inside views
- How to use control structures inside views
- The effect of puts

The File Structure of a Sinatra Application

(The Story So Far...)



Views – Summary

- Views are HTML files that can embed Ruby code using special tags:
 - We embed Ruby code between the angled brackets and percentage signs `<%` and `%>`
 - `<%= var %>` injects the value of the variable var into the HTML of the page at that location
 - To use a variable from the controller, the variable's name needs to be prefixed with `@` (in the controller *and* the view).
- The inclusion of Ruby code in a view allows us to dynamically generate content.
- Views live in a special subdirectory of the application – `views/`