Sending Mail with Mandrill

Email providers

- Servers and regular computers are capable of sending their own email

- However, it's better to use a third party service that sends a lot of mail because they are more likely to have their IP addresses cleared by ISPs (Internet Service Providers)

- Mandrill is one of these service providers, brought to you by the same company as MailChimp

The Mandrill Gem

To use Mandrill in our Sinatra project, we'll need the `mandrill-api` gem. Add it to your Gemfile like so, then bundle install from the command line:

```
gem 'mandrill-api'

$ bundle install
```

Registering for Mandrill

- Register for a free account at <u>mandrill.com</u>

- Inside of your account dashboard, obtain an API key and stash it somewhere safe, like a new TextEdit document or in Sublime Text

Using your API key

To use your API key inside of your Ruby app, you'll want to set it up inside of an environment variable called MANDRILL_APIKEY

```
export MANDRILL_APIKEY=fj3io2329f320u3239u233r9023
```

(make sure to use your key, not this non-working one)

Sending E-mail

- The `mandrill-api` gem will assume that you've stored your API key in the `MANDRILL_APIKEY` environment variable

- This means that it's not necessary to explicitly call `ENV['MANDRILL_APIKEY']` anywhere in your app to retrieve your API key

Sending E-mail

from Mandrill Documentation

```ruby
require 'mandrill'
m = Mandrill::API.new
message = {
 :subject=> "Hello from the Mandrill API",
 :from_name=> "Your name",
 :text=>"Hi message, how are you?",
 :to=>[{:email=> "recipient@theirdomain.com", :name=> "Recipient1"}],
 :html=>"<html><h1>Hi <strong>message</strong>, how are you?</h1></html>",
 :from_email=>"sender@yourdomain.com"
}
sending = m.messages.send message
puts sending
```

Exercise

- Create a Ruby program that sends e-mail to people using the sample code from the last slide

- Once you've achieved sending an e-mail, wrap your code in a method to send e-mail to anybody with any message in the text

Exercise - Forms

- Remember the contact form you created in your Sinatra app?

- Hook up the form so that the data coming into it is sent via e-mail using the Mandrill code you just implemented

- Don't forget that your Sinatra app will also need the `mandrill-api` gem in its Gemfile