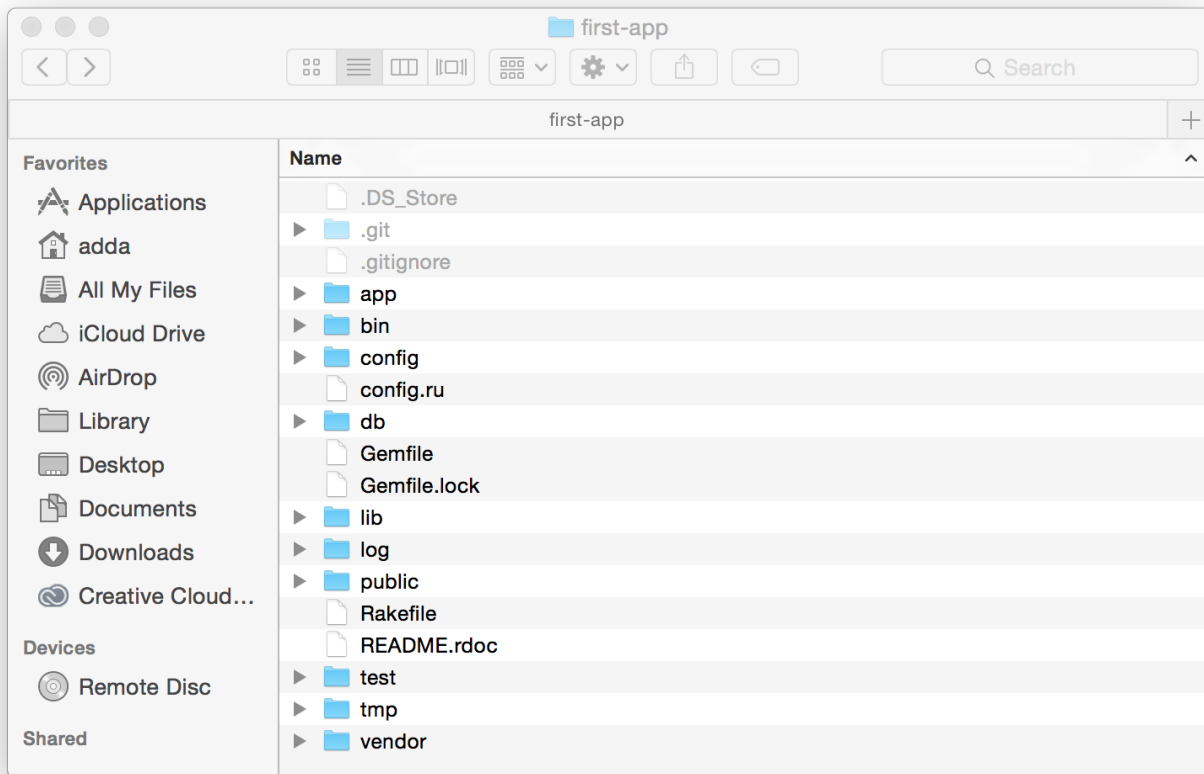


THE ULTIMATE RAILS FOLDER STRUCTURE *cheatsheet*

RAILS FOLDER STRUCTURE

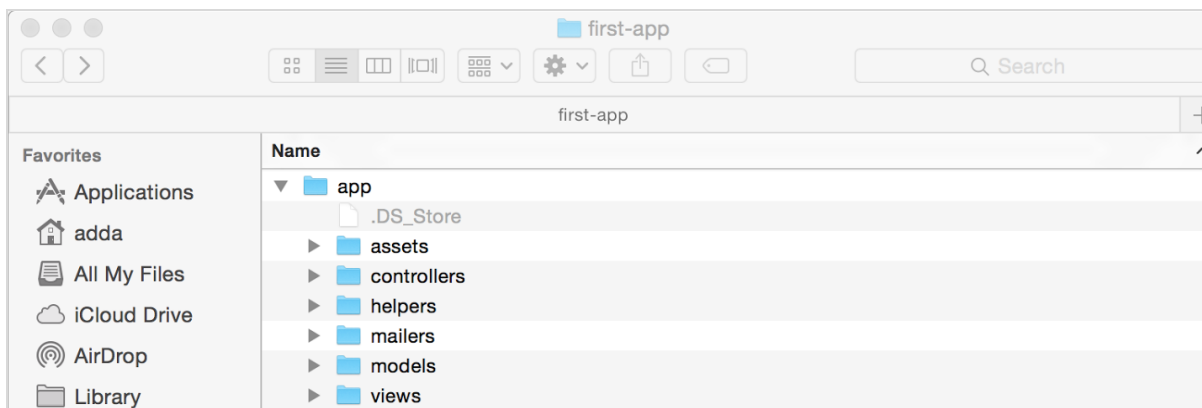
Now that you have installed Rails and created an app, you are dealing with a WHOLE LOTTA FOLDERS:



Let's look at what they all do!

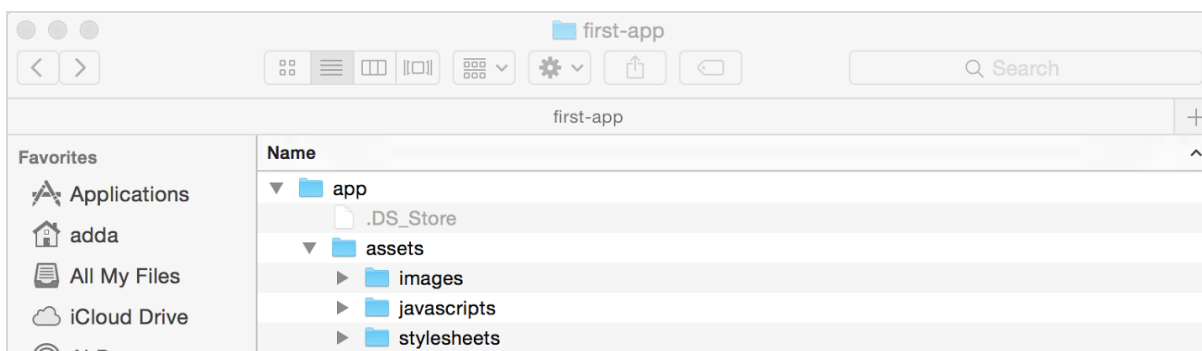
THE APP FOLDER

Similar to our MVC-style Sinatra app, our Rails app has a main app directory that contains a WHOLE bunch of stuff. You might even think that this was the MAIN folder in your Rails apps...



assets

Assets are generally JavaScript files, stylesheets and images that are used or displayed on a site. Instead of putting those files in the public folder, as you did in Sinatra, you'll put them inside the appropriate assets subfolder in Rails.



This is a key part of the asset pipeline, a key concept in Rails we will be talking about later!

controllers

This is the folder where you put all your controllers! But you already knew that.

helpers

The folder for your helpers! Those methods that help your views do logical things.

mailers

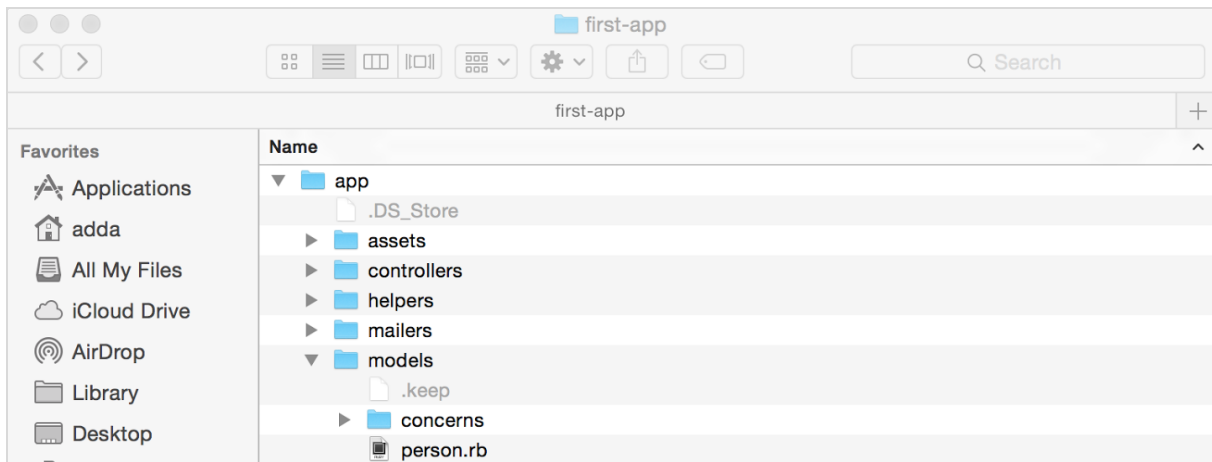
This is a special folder you would use if you needed your app to send emails. You won't be using it for now, but you should learn more about it.

models

Contains the models for each of your resources.

concerns

The concerns folder is somewhat new in Rails. A concern is generally a place to put code could be applicable to multiple models or that is related to, but can stand alone, outside of a model.



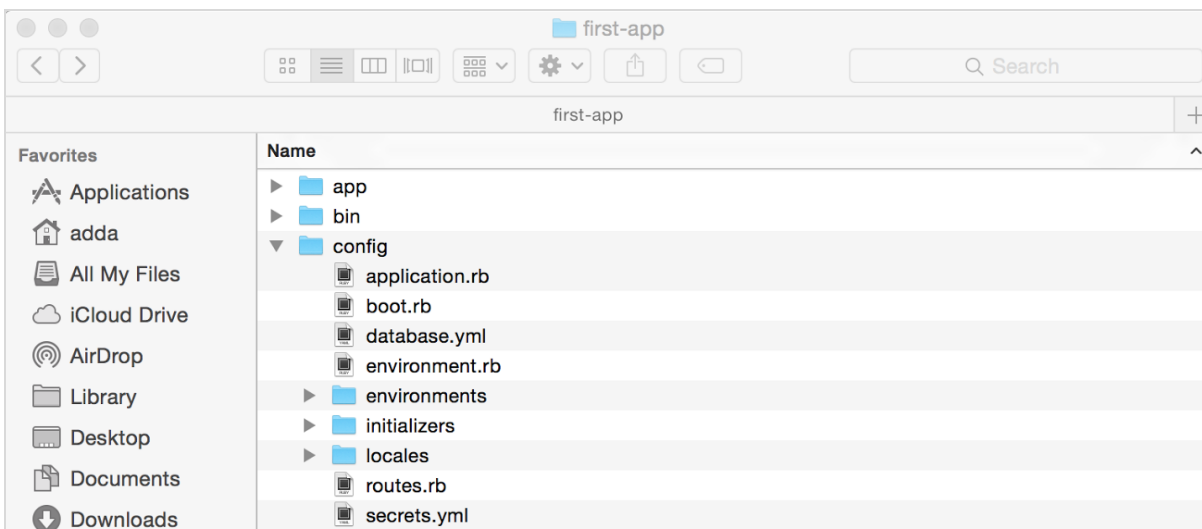
Don't worry too much about this now!

views

In here you will store all your template files, organized neatly into folders for each data resource. Just like in your Sinatra apps, but this time you won't be making the folders yourself!

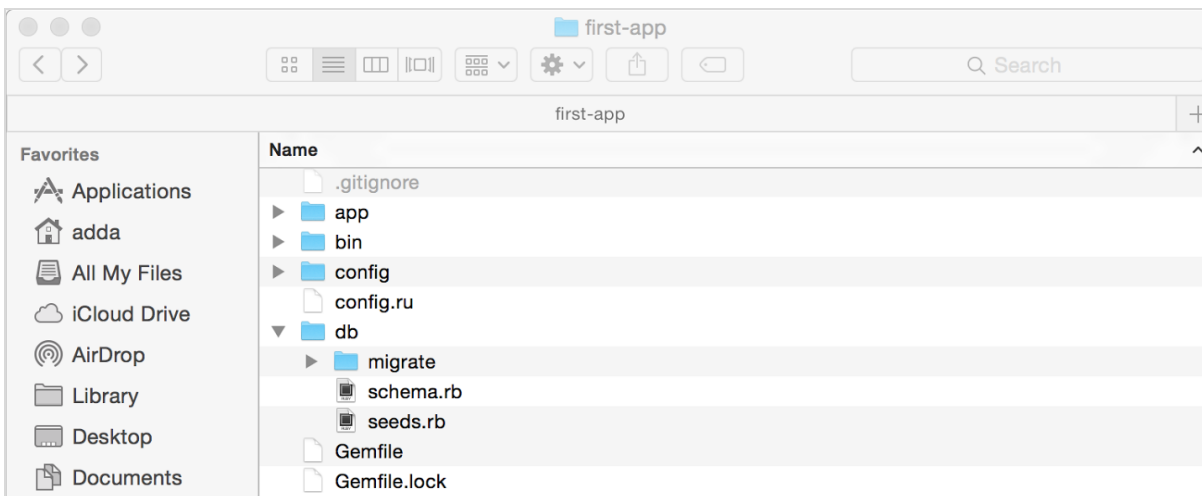
THE CONFIG FOLDER

We had one of these in our Sinatra apps and it served a similar purpose there. The config folder is a place to put code that helps to set up and start our app. It contains the database.yml file, the routes.rb file and environment specific (development vs. test vs. production) configurations.



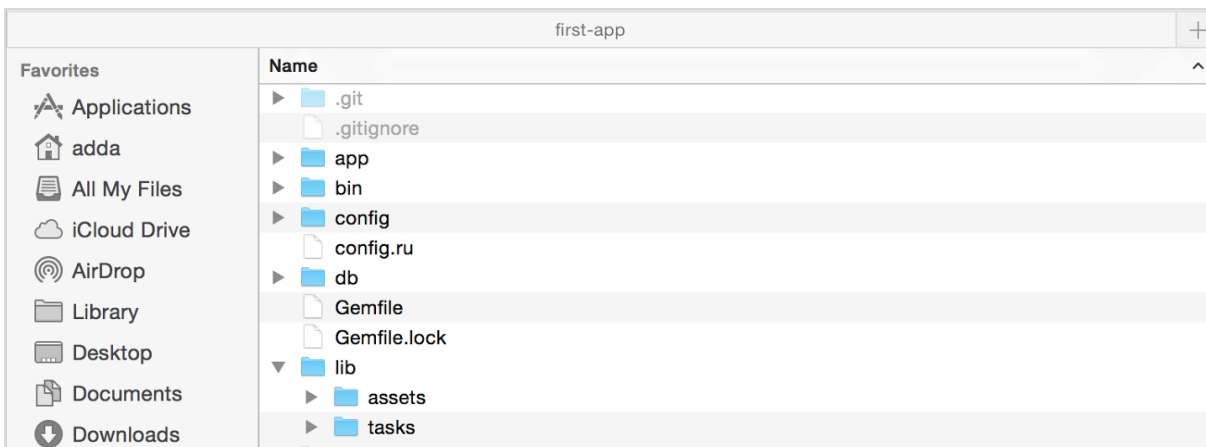
THE DB FOLDER

Just like in our Sinatra apps, the db folder holds our database migrations and seeds.rb file.



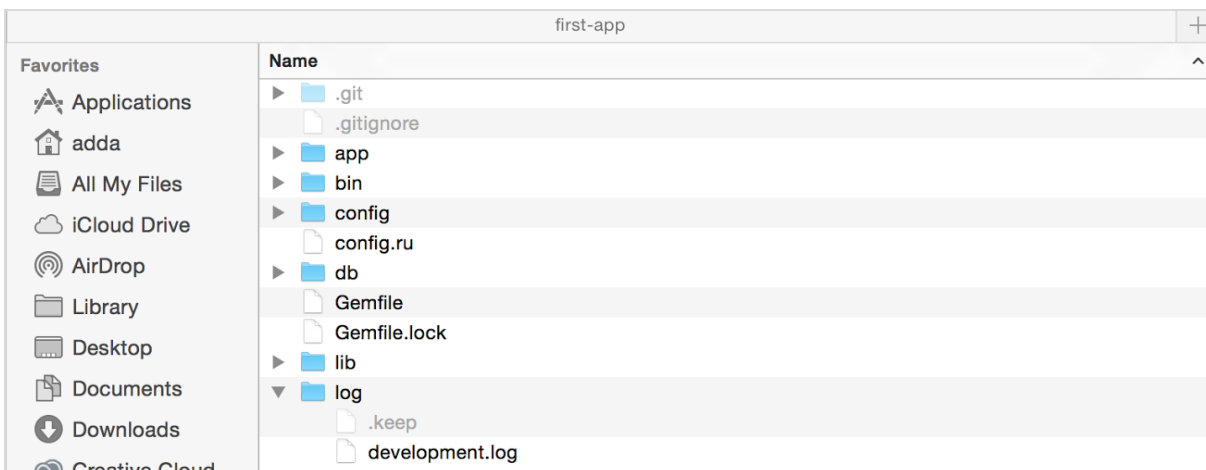
THE LIB FOLDER

This is code that can be reused outside of our Rails app and is not web related. For example, we might write a script to do some data cleanup on a regular basis - we might this as something called a rake task, and we'd put it in the lib folder.



THE LOG FOLDER

In Rails, logs are where Rails takes note of everything that is happening in the app, including any errors that come up. You are going to find your logs to be VERY helpful when you are debugging your apps.

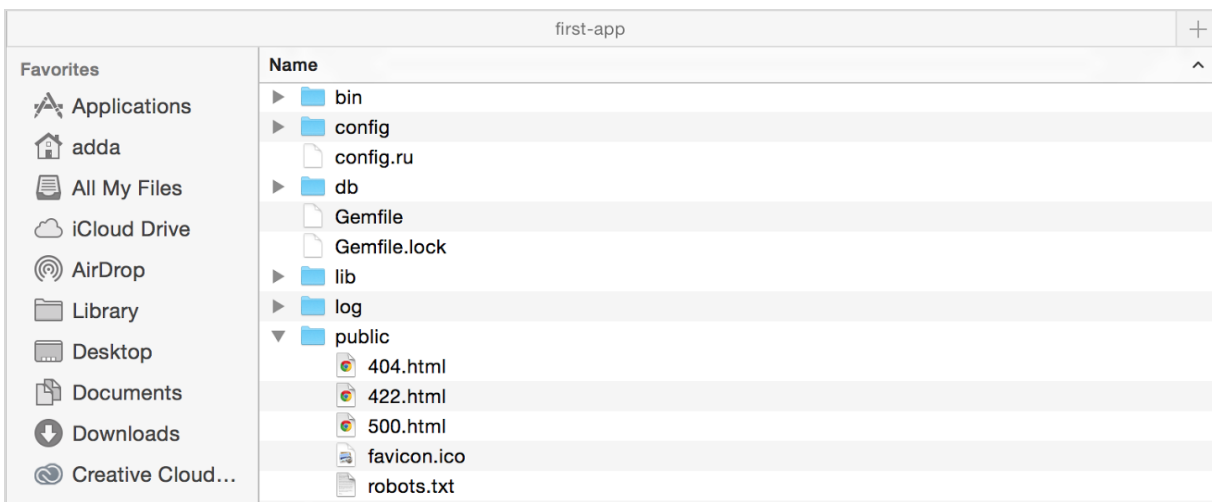


There's usually one log file per environment, as you can see this is my development log.

THE PUBLIC FOLDER

This is a place to put any files that we want to be served purely by the web server rather than through a Rails route. If you look there now, you'll see 404.html, 422.html and 500.html, error pages!

We don't need to have a controller method to give the user an error page because there's no code we have to run. So these go in the public folder:



MORE FILES!

Our Rails app also has a Gemfile, config.ru, and Rakefile, just like our Sinatra app.