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DEBUGGING RAILS

YOUR RAILS DEBUGGING TOOLKIT

1. Your Browser Developer Tools

Don't doubt the power of the humble developer tools! You will only be able to use your developer tools for apps that are rendered in the browser. Hit 'Inspect Element' on the part of the page you're interested in examining, and take a look at the dev tools panel. Check out how your HTML is being rendered, and see what sort of requests are being made; is your form posting to the right place? This should be your first port of call for debugging views, and requests

2. The Terminal

Second on your list should be the terminal. See what sort of errors your terminal logs are showing as you run your app? Read the line numbers, and see if there are any errors in files that you can get to. Remember that error messages are often EXTREMELY literal.

3. Your log file

The unsung hero of Rails is the log file. It's basically the same stuff you will see in the terminal, and you can find it under the 'log' folder. Never underestimate how valuable your log file is for picking up on how some irregularities may be occuring in your app. Your log file will document every action that you have taken. Take an action, then refer straight back to your log file to see what new stuff it added.

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4. Your Rails Info Page

This is the place to go to check out if you think an error might have something to do with your routes, paths, or controller actions.

```
localhost:3000/rails/info/routes
```

It's also a good place to check out how changes you make are affecting your app's routing behaviour

5. GOOGLE!

If the error messages you are getting are the part you don't understand, it's time for google. It may seem like a no brainer, but a really specific and focused google search can yield wonderful results on popular forums like Stack Overflow. Copying and pasting an error message can be a great way to find what you are looking for.

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