



RoR : LiveTree

Quickstarts – doing a live tree in 15 minutes

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Step 1 – Download LiveTree

- Download the LiveTree project code.

www.epiphyte.ca/code/live_tree.html



Step 2 – Create a Rails Project

Create a new Rails project in your environment.

Side note: I'll leave this up to you. I use RadRails generally. So I'll create the project then go unzip the LiveTree code in the main project directory.



Step 3 – Create a Model & Controller

- Create a Model. I used “taxonomy”
- Create a Controller. I again used “taxonomy”



Step 4 – Create the DB table via Migration

```
• class CreateTaxonomies < ActiveRecord::Migration
•   • #Create table – Use the convention from the acts_as_tree Rails module.
•   def self.up
•     create_table :taxonomies do |t|
•       t.column :name, :string
•       t.column :parent_id, :integer
•     end
•
•     # Add some basic data
•     r = Taxonomy.create(:name => "Root")
•     r.save
•
•     r2 = r.children.create(:name => "Child1")
•     r2.save
•
•     r3 = r2.children.create(:name => "child2")
•     r3.save
•   end
•
•   def self.down
•     drop_table :taxonomies
•   end
• end
```



Step 4.1

- Use the convention defined in the Rails “acts_as_tree” class.

Use “id” for the table key like a normal Rails table

Use “parent_id” for self referential link to parent node in tree.



Step 5 – Update the Model to work as a Tree

- Update the DB Model.

```
class Taxonomy < ActiveRecord::Base  
  acts_as_tree :order => "name"  
end
```

For performance reasons you can do it this way:

```
acts_as_tree :order => "name", :counter_cache => true
```




Step 6– Add LiveTree code to Controller

- **Taxonomy_tree** is the object name
- **Txononomy** is the DB model

```
live_tree :taxonomy_tree, :model => :taxonomy
```


- **Get the root node of the taxonomy tree**

```
def show_tree  
  @root = Taxonomy.find(params[:id]);  
End
```

Step 7 – Create a page to show the tree

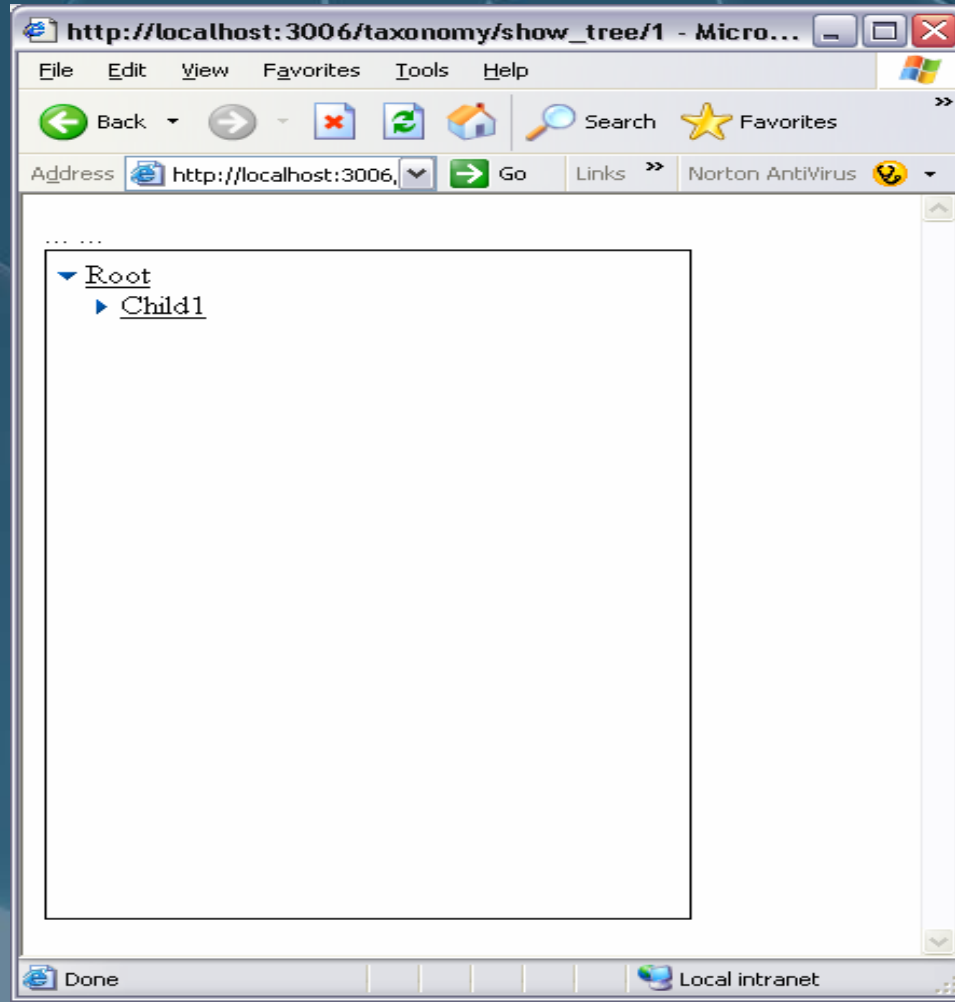
- `<html>`
- `<head>`
- `...`
- `<%= stylesheet_link_tag('live_tree') %>`
- `<%= javascript_include_tag "prototype" %>`
- `<%= javascript_include_tag "live_tree" %>`
- `...`
- `</head>`
- `<div style="width:300px;height:415px">`
- `<%= live_tree(:taxonomy_tree, {`
- `:initial_data_root => @root,`
- `:on_click_item => "",`
- `}) %>`
- `</div>`
- `</html>`
-



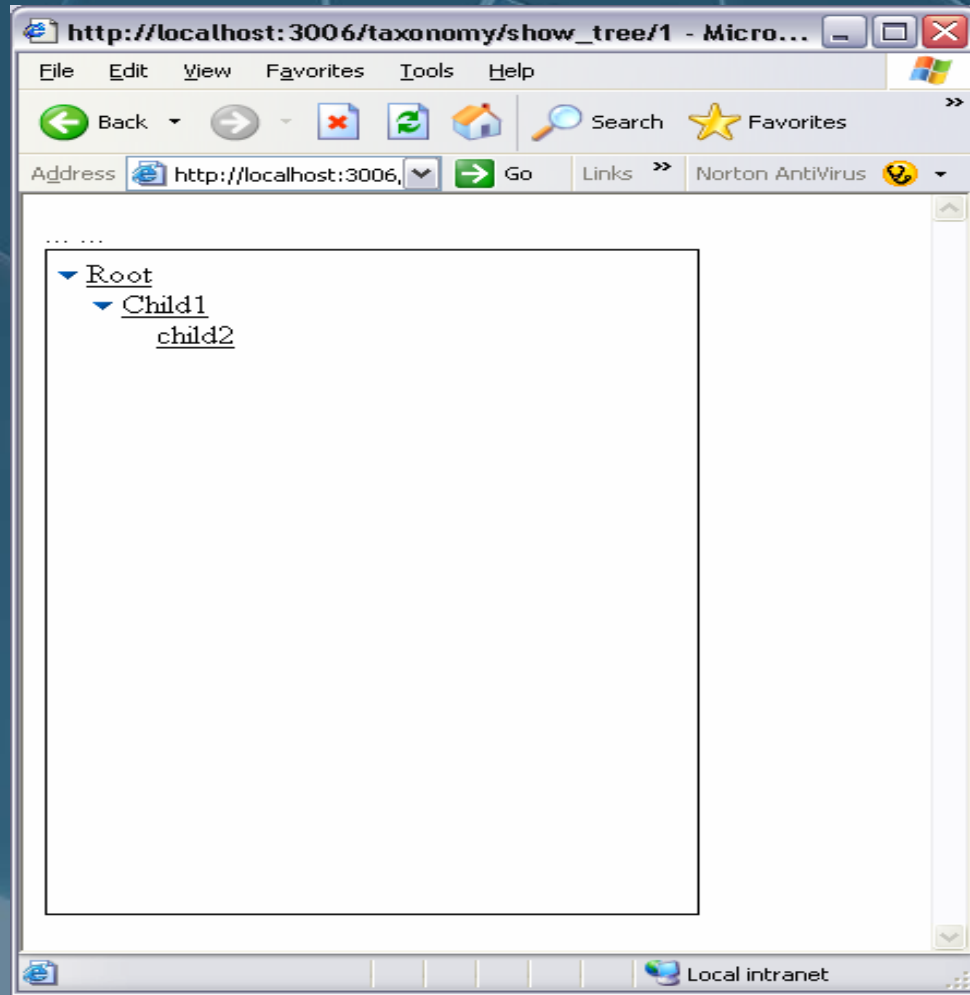
Step 7.1 – Explanation of view code

- Add the stylesheet include for formatting purposes
- Add the javascript include so that the bloody thing actually works. 😊
- Insert the call to the LiveTree Rails object.

Step 8 – Enjoy your work



Step 8.1 – Yes it works...Click on Child1 node and get...





Step 9 – adding more functionality

- Add Javascript calls to your tree

```
<%= live_tree(:taxonomy_tree, {  
    :initial_data_root => @root,  
    :on_click_item => "",  
}) %>
```

- Add a Javascript call to the “on_click_item” field. Maybe a nice AJAX call to populate another field on the web page.