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Team 1 Topic Report

Ajax

Ajax is an acronym for Asynchronous JavaScript and XML. It enables you to retrieve data on a webpage without having to refresh the entire page (this could be for something like loading more posts on a website in a search or updating a cart for an online store, etc...).
How Ajax is implemented:

- A trigger fires (user clicks a button or a link, etc...)
- The web client makes a call to the server through a JavaScript method, XMLHttpRequest, with data associated with the trigger (the ID of a user or some other useful information).
- The server processes the request and does something with the data and then returns an HTML fragment to the web client.
- The web client receives the response from the server and uses the HTML fragment to update a specified part of the current webpage.

From some experience with Ajax, Rails can make using it a lot easier once you learn the syntax and how to define everything needed for the response in the controller.

In the controller, inside a method you can define how to handle the ajax request by
def hello
        respond_to do |format|
                format.js { render :layout=>false }
        end
end

This can return a link to a partial view or other information if needed. The view should look something like this:

<%= link_to "hello", { :controller => "questions", :action => "hello" }, :remote => true %>.

Where "questions" is the controller and "hello" is the method.

Links I used
http://edgeguides.rubyonrails.org/working_with_javascript_in_rails.html
http://stackoverflow.com/questions/5550188/simple-ajax-example
http://www.tutorialspoint.com/ruby-on-rails/rails-and-ajax.htm