

# Vital Rails

Ruby on Rails Training

1

## Intro

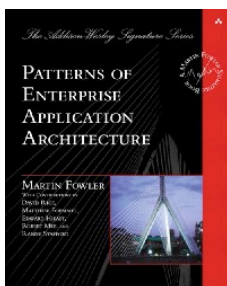
2

# ActiveRecord

3

## overview

4



images from martinowler.com

5

```
mysql> select * from tags limit 5;
```

id	name	taggings_count
1	radiohead	822
2	chicago	19
3	lollapalooza	16
4	fireworks	3
5	Outsidelands	8

5 rows in set (0.00 sec)

Class

6

```
mysql> select * from tags limit 5;
```

id	name	taggings_count
1	radiohead	822
2	chicago	19
3	lollapalooza	16
4	fireworks	3
5	Outsidelands	8

5 rows in set (0.00 sec)

Objects

7

```
mysql> select * from tags limit 5;
```

id	name	taggings_count
1	radiohead	822
2	chicago	19
3	lollapalooza	16
4	fireworks	3
5	Outsidelands	8

5 rows in set (0.00 sec)

instance  
variables

8

## additonal features

- validations
- associations
- migrations

9

## diving in

10

init.rb

```
require 'rubygems'
require 'active_record'

ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vital_rails.sqlite3'
)

ActiveRecord::Schema.define do

  create_table :songs, :force => true do |songs|
    songs.string :name
    songs.integer :duration
  end

end
```

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init.rb

```
require 'rubygems'
require 'active_record'

ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vit
)

ActiveRecord::Schem

  create_table :songs, :force => true do |songs|
    songs.string :name
    songs.integer :duration
  end

end
```

require the  
gem

12

init.rb

```
require 'rubygems'
require 'active_record'

ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vital_rails.sqlite3'
)

ActiveRecord::Schema.define do

  create_table :songs do |s|
    songs.string :name
    songs.integer :duration
  end
end
```

setup the  
connection

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init.rb

```
ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vital_rails.sqlite3'
)
```

SQLite

```
ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "mysql",
  :host => "localhost",
  :username => "myuser",
  :password => "mypass",
  :database => "vitalrails"
)
```

MySQL

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init.rb

```
require 'rubygems'
require 'active_record'

ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vital_rails.sqlite3'
)

ActiveRecord::Schema.define do

  create_table :songs, :force => true do |songs|
    songs.string :name
    songs.integer :duration
  end
end
```

create the  
table

15

init.rb

```
require 'rubygems'
require 'active_record'

ActiveRecord::Base.establish_connection(
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vital_rails.sqlite3'
)

ActiveRecord::Schema.define do

  create_table :songs do |songs|
    songs.string :name
    songs.integer :duration
  end
end
```

we'll cover that later

16

```
$ cd vital_ruby
$ cd src
$ cd active_record
```

17

```
$ irb --simple-prompt
>>
```

18

```
>> require 'init'
-- create_table(:songs {:force=>true})
  -> 0.0477s
=> true
>>
```

19

```
>> require 'init'
-- create_table(:songs {:force=>true})
  -> 0.0477s
=> true
>>
```

CAUTION:  
drops and  
recreates table

20

```
>> require 'init'
-- create_table(:songs {:force=>true})
  -> 0.0477s
=> true
>>
```

if something goes  
wrong, just quit,  
and do this again

21

lets take a look  
under the hood ...

22

## sqlite

```
$ sqlite3 vital_rails.sqlite3
SQLite version 3.4.0
Enter ".help" for instructions
sqlite> .schema songs
CREATE TABLE "songs" ("id" INTEGER
PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT NOT NULL,
"name" varchar(255), "duration"
integer);
sqlite>
```

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## MySQL

```
$ mysql5 vital_rails
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A

Welcome to the MySQL monitor.  Commands end with ; or \g.
Your MySQL connection id is 6
Server version: 5.1.30 Source distribution

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the buffer.

mysql> describe songs;
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Field | Type | Null | Key | Default | Extra |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id    | int(11) | NO   | PRI | NULL    | auto_increment |
| name  | varchar(255) | YES |     | NULL    |               |
| duration | int(11) | YES |     | NULL    |               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql>
```

24

```
$ mysql5 vital rails
Reading table information for completion of table and column names
You can turn off this feature to get a quicker startup with -A

Welcome to the
Your MySQL connection id is 1
Server version: 5.1.33

Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the buffer.

mysql> describe songs;
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Field | Type          | Null | Key | Default | Extra          |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id     | int(11)       | NO   | PRI | NULL    | auto_increment |
| name   | varchar(255)  | YES  |     | NULL    |                |
| duration | int(11)      | YES  |     | NULL    |                |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql>
```

notice what is added

25

## creating the class

26

```
>> class Song < ActiveRecord::Base ; end
=> nil
```

same as:

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
end
```

27

opinionated software

Rails is VERY  
opinionated  
much of the magic is  
dependent on  
conventions

28

convention over  
configuration

instead of relying on  
external  
configuration, we rely  
on conventions

29

ActiveRecord  
Conventions

# 1

Table name is plural of  
class name (lowercase)

```
create_table :songs, ...
```

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
end
```

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## ActiveRecord Conventions

# 2

all tables contain  
primary key  
(auto incrementing)  
named id

id	int(11)	NO	PRI	NULL	auto_increment	
----	---------	----	-----	------	----------------	--

31

class methods  
for table actions

32

counting

```
>> Song.count  
=> 1
```

retrieving

```
>> Song.find :all  
=> [#<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",  
duration: 263>]
```

deleting

```
>> Song.destroy 1  
=> #<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",  
duration: 263>
```

33

creating

34

```
>> Song.create :name => 'Allentown',  
?> :duration => 263  
=> #<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",  
duration: 263>
```

35

this is the one most  
often used in Rails

36

create some songs to play with

```
>> Song.create :name => 'Allentown',  
:duration => 263  
=> #<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",  
duration: 263>  
>> Song.create :name => 'Uptown Girl',  
:duration => 189  
=> #<Song id: 2, name: "Uptown Girl",  
duration: 189>  
>> Song.create :name => 'An Innocent Man',  
:duration => 369  
=> #<Song id: 3, name: "An Innocent Man",  
duration: 369>
```

37

several ways  
to create objects in  
ActiveRecord

38

```
>> Song.create do |s|  
  ?> s.name = "Baby Grand"  
  >> s.duration = 246  
  >> end
```


39

```
>> s = Song.new  
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,  
duration: nil>  
>> s.name = "Piano Man"  
=> "Piano Man"  
>> s.duration = 336  
=> 336  
>> s.save  
=> true
```

40

```
>> s = Song.new  
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,  
duration: nil>  
>> s.name  
=> "Piano Man"  
>> s.duration  
=> 336  
>> s.save  
=> true
```

what is this?



41

validations

42

```
>> s = Song.new
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,
duration: nil>
>> s.name = "Ice Ice Baby"
=> "Ice Ice Baby"
>> s.duration = "too long"
=> "too long"
>> s.save
=> true
```

43

```
>> s =
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,
duration: nil>
>> s.name = "Ice Ice Baby"
=> "Ice Ice Baby"
>> s.duration = "too long"
=> "too long"
>> s.save
=> true
```

what is wrong here?

44

we do not want  
**string -> integer**

45

first a diversion ...

46

open up **init.rb**  
in a text editor

47

```
init.rb
require 'rubygems'
require 'active_record'

ActiveRecord::Base
  :adapter => "sqlite3",
  :database => 'vital_fails.sqlite3'
)

ActiveRecord::Schema.define do
  create_table :songs, :force => true do |songs|
    songs.string :name
    songs.integer :duration
  end
end

class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
end
```

add this to the  
bottom

48



make sure we  
include a name

init.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
  validates_presence_of :name
end
```

49

```
$ cd vital_ruby
$ cd src
$ cd active_record
```

50

```
$ irb --simple-prompt
>>
```

51

```
>> require 'init'
-- create_table(:songs {:force=>true})
   -> 0.0477s
=> true
>>
```

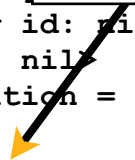
52

```
>> s = Song.new
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,
duration: nil>
>> s.duration = 333
=> 333
>> s.save
=> false
```

53

```
>> s = Song
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,
duration: nil>
>> s.duration = 333
=> 333
>> s.save
=> false
```

“Can you save?”  
“No!”

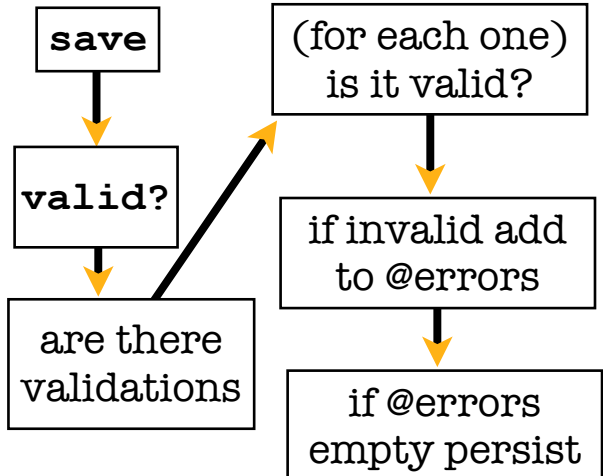


54

```
>> s.errors
=> #<ActiveRecord::Errors: ...
>> s.errors.full_messages
=> ["Name can't be blank"]
>>
```

We can inspect the errors

55



56

## different ways to save

57

did the save succeed?

```
>> s.save
=> false
```

I'm confident it will work

```
>> s.save!
ActiveRecord::RecordInvalid: Validation
failed: Name can't be blank
from /Library/Ruby/...
```

58

## same with create

59

did the create succeed?

```
>> s = Song.create :duration => 333
=> #<Song id: nil, name: nil,
duration: 333>
>> s.save
=> false
```

I'm confident it will work

```
>> Song.create! :duration => 333
ActiveRecord::RecordInvalid: Validation
failed: Name can't be blank
from /Library/Ruby/Gems/1.8/...
```

60

## ... back to validations

61

### common validations

validate it is a number

```
validates_numericality_of :duration
```

validate it certain values

```
validates_inclusion_of :gender,  
:in => %w{ m f }
```

validate it is NOT one of certain values

```
validates_exclusion_of :genre,  
:in => %w{ country bluegrass }
```

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### common validations

validate against a pattern

```
validates_format_of :name,  
:with => /^[0-9a-z]$/
```

validate it's length

```
validates_lenght_of :name,  
:maximum => 32  
validates_length_of :phone,  
:in => 7..32, :allow_blank => true
```

63

### common validations

## more in the Rails API

64

## messages

65

### make sure we include a name

init.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base  
  
  validates_presence_of :name  
  validates_presence_of :duration  
  validates_numericality_of :duration  
  
end
```

66

message

```
>> Song.create! :duration => 333
ActiveRecord::RecordInvalid: Validation
failed: Name can't be blank
from /Library/Ruby/Gems/1.8/...
```

message format:  
"#{attribute.capitalize} #{message}"

67

init.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base

  validates_presence_of :name,
    :message => "needs to be included"
  validates_presence_of :duration
  validates_numericality_of :duration

end
```

message

```
>> Song.create! :duration => 333
ActiveRecord::RecordInvalid: Validation
failed: Name needs to be included
```

68

rolling your own

69

init.rb

```
validate :no_kids_songs

def no_kids_songs
  kids_songs = %w{"Twinkle, Twinkle" "Row, Row"}
  if kids_songs.include?(name)
    errors.add_to_base("No kids songs allowed")
  end
end
```

method name

70

init.rb

```
validate :no_kids_songs

def no_kids_songs
  kids_songs = %w{"Twinkle, Twinkle" "Row, Row"}
  if kids_songs.include?(name)
    errors.add_to_base("No kids songs allowed")
  end
end
```

add to the errors  
array name

71

# LAB 1

Conference Submission Model

72

## Conference Submission

- You are organizing a major conference and you decide to write some software that will help the selection committee select the best presentations from those submitted.
- Each speaker will be allowed to submit a talk

73

## Conference Submission

- Create a Presentation object. It should have:
  - The title and presenter's name
  - A large description (abstract)
  - email address for the speaker

74

## Conference Submission

- use `init.rb` as a guide
- name it `talks.rb`
- add validations in there (see [api.rubyonrails.org](http://api.rubyonrails.org) for more validations)
- create at least 10 objects at the bottom of your file

75

## finding things

76

**find** is used to  
retrieve items from  
the database

77

```
>> Song.find :first  
=> #<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",  
duration: 263>  
>> Song.find 2  
=> #<Song id: 2, name: "Uptown Girl",  
duration: 189>
```

if one is expected, an  
object is returned

78

```
>> Song.find :all
=> [#<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",
duration: 263>, #<Song id: 2, name:
"Uptown Girl", duration: 189>, #<Song
id: 3, name: "An Innocent Man",
duration: 363>, #<Song id: 4, name:
"Angry Young Man", ...]
```

if **more** than one is  
expected, an Array is  
returned

79

```
>> Song.find :all, :conditions =>
{ :name => "Allentown" }
=> [#<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",
duration: 263>]
```

even if only returning  
one object

80

## common finds

find all of them

```
Song.find :all
```

find the first one

```
Song.find :first
```

find by a particular id

```
Song.find 4
Song.find 8
```

81

## :conditions

82

## three types

with a string

```
Song.find :all,
:conditions => "name = #{name}"
```

with an array

```
Song.find :all,
:conditions => ['name = ?', name]
```

with a hash

```
Song.find :all,
:conditions => { :name => name }
```

83

with a string

```
Song.find :all,
:conditions => "name = #{name}"
```

why is this not a  
good idea?

84

```
>> Song.find :all, :conditions =>
{ :duration => 200...300 }
=> [#<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown",
duration: 263>, #<Song id: 6, name:
"Only the Good Die Young", duration:
201>, #<Song id: 8, name: "Big Shot",
duration: 289>, #<Song id: 9, name:
"Honesty", duration: 239>]
```

ranges are translated  
into SQL BETWEEN

85

```
>> Song.find :all, :conditions =>
{ :duration => [189, 309, 888] }
=> [#<Song id: 2, name: "Uptown
Girl", duration: 189>, #<Song id: 5,
name: "A Matter of Trust", duration:
309>]
```

arrays are translated  
into SQL IN

86

other options

:order

```
Song.find :all,
:order => :duration
```

:limit

```
Song.find :all, :limit => 5
```

:offset

```
Song.find :all, :limit => 5,
:offset => 5
```

87

handy for paging

:offset

```
Song.find :all, :limit => 5,
:offset => 5
```

88

rolling our own  
finders

89

songs.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
...
  def self.find_long_songs
    find :all,
      :conditions => ['duration > ?', 300],
      :order => :duration
  end
...
end
```

class method

90

songs.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
  ...
  def self.find_long_songs
    find :all,
      :conditions => ['duration > ?', 300],
      :order => :duration
  end
  ...
end
```

idiom:  
start it with **find\_**

91

refactor

92

songs.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
  LONG_SONG = 300
  ...
  def self.find_long_songs
    find :all,
      :conditions => ['duration > ?', LONG_SONG],
      :order => :duration
  end
end
```

93

keep business  
knowledge in the  
business objects

94

```
>> Song.find_long_songs
=> [#<Song id: 3, name: "An Innocent
Man", duration: 369>, #<Song id: 4,
name: "Angry Young Man", duration:
323>, #<Song id: 5, name: "A Matter
of Trust", duration: 309>, #<Song id:
7, name: "Baby Grand", duration:
369>, #<Song id: 10, name: "Goodnight
Saigon", duration: 440>]
```

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## LAB 2

---

Custom Finders

96



# Conference Submission

- play with the finders on your demo data
- add at least one custom finder
- add a finder that returns the submissions by a speaker whose name starts with a given letter (if I ask for all with O, it will return all speakers whose last name begins with an O).

97

# Rails

98

```
$ cd vital_rails
$ cd src
$ rails rtunes
    create
    create  app/controllers
    create  app/helpers
    create  app/models
    create  app/views/layouts
    create  config/environments
    create  config/initializers
    create  config/locales
    create  db
    create  doc ...
```

name of your application.

99

open this file in an editor

```
...
create  config/database.yml
...
```

100

## config/database.yml

```
# SQLite version 3.x
#   gem install sqlite3-ruby (not necessary on OS X Leopard)
development:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/development.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000

# Warning: The database is not created automatically.
# re-generated from the schema file is needed.
# Do not set this to nil.
test:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/test.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000

production:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/production.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000
```

if you are using  
sqlite, no changes  
are needed

101

## config/database.yml

```
# SQLite version 3.x
#   gem install sqlite3-ruby (not necessary on OS X Leopard)
development:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/development.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000

# Warning: The database is not created automatically.
# re-generated from the schema file is needed.
# Do not set this to nil.
test:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/test.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000

production:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/production.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000
```

mysql users, change the  
adapter, database, and  
add username and  
password

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config/database.yml

```
# SQLite version 3.x
# gem install sqlite3-ruby (not necessary on OS X Leopard)
development:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/development.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000

# Warning: The database is not re-generated for development
# Do not set the database for test
test:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/test.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000

production:
  adapter: sqlite3
  database: db/production.sqlite3
  pool: 5
  timeout: 5000
```

three environments

103

M

V

C

104

M

C



V

105

M odel

Represents the  
business model  
the "things" in  
your application

106

C

ontroller

stage director in  
your application.  
What goes where

107

V

iew

How things are  
represented in  
the application

108

lets get our first  
model created

109

```
$ cd rtunes
$ script/generate resource Song
  exists  app/models/
  exists  app/controllers/
  exists  app/helpers/
  create  app/views/songs
  exists  test/functional/
  exists  test/unit/
  create  test/unit/helpers/
  dependency model
  exists  app/models/
  exists  test/unit/
  exists  test/fixtures/
  create  app/models/song.rb
  create  test/unit/song_test.rb
  create  test/fixtures/songs.yml
  create  db/migrate
  create  db/migrate/20091107171302_create_songs.rb
  create  app/controllers/songs_controller.rb
  create  test/functional/songs_controller_test.rb
  create  app/helpers/songs_helper.rb
  create  test/unit/helpers/songs_helper_test.rb
  route  map.resources :songs
```

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```
$ cd rtunes
$ script/generate resource Song
```

open this file  
in an editor

```
dependency model
  exists  app/models/
  exists  test/unit/
  exists  test/fixtures/
  create  app/models/song.rb
  create  test/unit/song_test.rb
  create  test/fixtures/songs.yml
  create  db/migrate
  create  db/migrate/20091107171302_create_songs.rb
  create  app/controllers/songs_controller.rb
  create  test/functional/songs_controller_test.rb
  create  app/helpers/songs_helper.rb
  create  test/unit/helpers/songs_helper_test.rb
  route  map.resources :songs
```

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db/migrate/[timestamp]\_create\_songs.rb

```
class CreateSongs < ActiveRecord::Migration
  def self.up
    create_table :songs do |t|
      t.timestamps
    end
  end

  def self.down
    drop_table :songs
  end
end
```

your table  
definition goes  
here

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migrations allow you  
to incrementally  
migrate your  
database

113

db/migrate/[timestamp]\_create\_songs.rb

```
class CreateSongs < ActiveRecord::Migration
  def self.up
    create_table :songs do |t|
      t.string :name, :null => false
      t.integer :duration, :null => false
      t.timestamps
    end
  end

  def self.down
    drop_table :songs
  end
end
```

your table

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db/migrate/[timestamp]

```
class CreateSongs < ActiveRecord::Migration
  def self.up
    create_table :songs do |t|
      t.string :name
      t.integer :duration
      t.timestamps
    end

    Song.create! :name => "Allentown",
      :duration => 263
    Song.create! :name => "Uptown Girl",
      :duration => 189
    Song.create! :name => "An Innocent Man",
      :duration => 369
    Song.create! :name => "Goodnight Saigon",
      :duration => 440
  end
end
```

put your seed  
data inside the  
'up' method

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not the best place for  
seed data, but we will  
cover that later

116

## acceptable types

- string
- text
- integer
- float
- decimal
- datetime
- timestamp
- time
- date
- binary
- boolean

117

db/migrate/[timestamp]\_create\_songs.rb

```
...
  t.timestamps
...
```

creates two columns:  
\* updated\_at  
\* created\_at

118

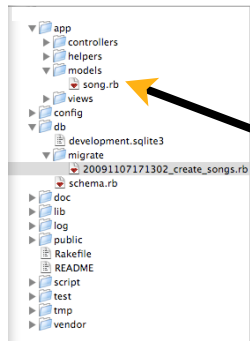
## rails root

```
$ ls -l
total 32
-rw-r--r-- 1 objo staff 10011 Nov 7 16:55 README
-rw-r--r-- 1 objo staff 307 Nov 7 16:55 Rakefile
drwxr-xr-x 6 objo staff 204 Nov 7 16:55 app
drwxr-xr-x 9 objo staff 306 Nov 7 16:55 config
drwxr-xr-x 5 objo staff 170 Nov 7 18:31 db
drwxr-xr-x 3 objo staff 102 Nov 7 16:55 doc
drwxr-xr-x 3 objo staff 102 Nov 7 16:55 lib
drwxr-xr-x 6 objo staff 204 Nov 7 16:55 log
drwxr-xr-x 11 objo staff 374 Nov 7 16:55 public
drwxr-xr-x 11 objo staff 374 Nov 7 16:55 script
drwxr-xr-x 8 objo staff 272 Nov 7 16:55 test
drwxr-xr-x 6 objo staff 204 Nov 7 16:55 tmp
drwxr-xr-x 3 objo staff 102 Nov 7 16:55 vendor
```

119

```
$ rake db:migrate
(in /Users/objo/git/vital_rails/src/rtunes)
== CreateSongs: migrating =====
-- create table(:songs)
-> 0.0023s
== CreateSongs: migrated (0.0025s) =====
$
```

120



open the  
model file

app/models/song.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base  
end
```

121

copy the class you  
defined earlier and  
paste it in here

122

app/models/song.rb

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base  
  
  LONG_SONG = 300  
  
  validates_presence_of :name,  
    :message => "needs to be included"  
  validates_presence_of :duration  
  validates_numericality_of :duration  
  validate :no_kids_songs  
  
  def self.find_long_songs  
    find :all,  
      :conditions => ['duration > ?', LONG_SONG],  
      :order => :duration  
  end  
  
  ...  
end
```

123

and now we can play

124

```
$ script/console  
Loading development environment (Rails 2.3.2)  
>> Song.count  
=> 10  
>> Song.create! :name => "Allentown",  
  :duration => 263  
=> #<Song id: 1, name: "Allentown", duration:  
263, created_at: "2009-11-07 18:54:46",  
updated_at: "2009-11-07 18:54:46">
```

125

## LAB 4

---

Initial Rails Application

126

# Conference Submission

- create the submit\_it application
- create a Presentation resource
- copy your code from lab1 into your app
- include the sample data
- make sure it works