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# Does Rails come with a "not authorized" exception?

Asked 10 years, 1 month ago   Modified 2 years, 11 months ago   Viewed 33k times

I am writing an application that uses plain old Ruby objects (POROs) to abstract authorization logic out of controllers.

Currently, I have a custom exception class called `NotAuthorized` that I `rescue_from` at the controller level, but I was curious to know: **Does Rails 4 already come with an exception to indicate that an action was not authorized?** Am I reinventing the wheel by implementing this exception?

**Clarification:** The `raise AuthorizationException` is not happening anywhere inside of a controller, it is happening inside of a completely decoupled PORO outside of the controller. The object has no knowledge of HTTP, routes or controllers.

ruby-on-rails   ruby   actioncontroller

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edited Sep 17, 2014 at 14:13

asked Sep 17, 2014 at 13:38

Rick  
 8,776   9   50   78

means unauthorized, you could tell rails to `render :nothing => true` and render whatever view you want

answered Sep 17, 2014 at 13:58

I believe he's looking for sth like `raise ActiveRecord::RecordNotFound.new('Not Found')`

application to render 404 without any rescue

answered Sep 17, 2014 at 14:08

InCan, a nice combination for authentication

answered Sep 17, 2014 at 14:09

Muhammad AbuShady but, if you go that route, make sure InCan has been abandoned :)!

answered Sep 17, 2014 at 14:18

Thanks for the info – Mohammad AbuShady

sorted by: Highest score (default)

An exception to `Unauthorized`.

defined in

[lib/railtie.rb](#):

```

    rescue_responses.merge!(
      { :NotFound => :not_found,
        :Conflict => :conflict,
        :Invalid => :unprocessable_entity,
        :NotSaved => :unprocessable_entity }
    )

```

[lib/middleware/exception\\_wrapper.rb](#):

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Therefore in my controllers I can do

```
class MyStuff < ApplicationController
  def index
    if current_user.admin?
      # ....
    else
      raise ApplicationController::NotAuthorized
    end
  end
end
```

This clearly defines that the layer your expecting this exception to be raised and caught is your application layer, not 3rd party lib.


The thing is that libraries can change (and yes this means Rails too) defining exception on a 3rd party lib classes and rescuing them in your application layer is really dangerous as if the meaning of exception class changes it brakes your `rescue_from`






You can read lot of articles where people are Waring about Rails `raise` - `rescue_from` being the modern `goto` (now considering anti-pattern amongst some experts) and in certain extend it is true, but only if you are rescuing Exceptions that you don't have full

ons (including Devise and Rails to the exceptions classes in your wing on 3rd party lib => you have full `from` without this being an anti-

edited Nov 11, 2021 at 11:08

answered Jul 27, 2016 at 15:28

equivalent814.2k886114




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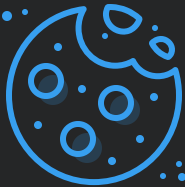
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