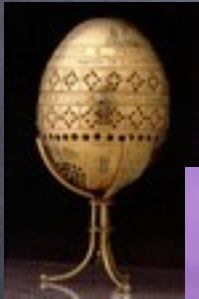# MerbAuth

Darwinian Authentication

In The Beginning

- Conditions for Authentication were ripe

- Merb

  - Plugins

  - Rubigen with scopes (6th Nov 2007)

- Restful Authentication was missing

merbful_authentication

merbful_authentication

- Released 4th January 2008

- Direct port of Restful Authentication

- Supported DataMapper & ActiveRecord

- Supported Rspec & Test::Unit

Pros

- First plugin with multi-ORM support in Merb
- A lot of applications used it

Cons

- Generated code

- Very complex

- Maintenance sucked

The Catalyst

- Slices were born

Original merb-auth

merb-auth

- Mostly direct port of merbful_authentication

- Used brand new slices plugin

- Moved to Library Code not Generated

- ORM support via mixins

- Forgotten Passwords

- 17 June 2008

merb-auth - Pros

- Live code. Not generated

- Minimal Application Configuration

- Implemented as a slice

- Easier to maintain (still sucked)

merb-auth - Cons

- User model hidden

- Hard to please all through configuration

- Unclear how to customize it

- Tied to one model type

- Dictates user model

- Extensions difficult (No OpenID)

- Difficult to change logic

Evolutionary Step Required

The Catalyst

- Adam French proposed:

    - Authenticating Sessions

    - Simple session based api

    - Using Exceptions to log out

        - Provides correct status code

ExceptionalAuthentication

- Adam created a prototype
  - ExceptionalAuthentication
- Application including his proposals

Session API

- session.authenticated?

- session.authenticate!

- session.user

- session.user=

- session.abandon!

ExceptionalAuthentication

- Originally a DataMapper based system
- Decided to allow arbitrary "user" objects

Code Named - Mauth

Mauth – What is it?

- Authentication Framework
- Authenticates user objects
- Cascading authentication "Strategies"
- Now MerbAuth (in merb-plugins)

MerbAuth - What it's Not

- A user management system

MerbAuth