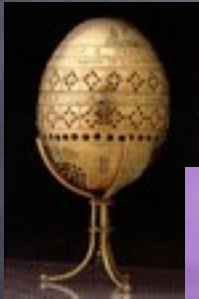


MerbAuth

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”

Mauth – What it's Not

- A user management system

