

# 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

- ➊ 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

- ➊ session.authenticated?
- ➋ session.authenticate!
- ➌ session.user
- ➍ session.user=
- ➎ session.abandon!

# Exceptional Authentication

- ➊ Originally a DataMapper based system
- ➋ Decided to allow arbitrary “user” objects



Code Named - Mauth

# Mauth - What is it?

- ➊ Authentication Framework
- ➋ Authenticates user objects
- ➌ Cascading authentication “Strategies”

# Mauth - What it's Not

- A user management system

