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Action Mailer Basics

This guide provides you with all you need to get started in sending and receiving emails from and to your application, and many internals of Action Mailer. It also covers how to test your mailers.

After reading this guide, you will know:

How to send and receive email within a Rails application.

How to generate and edit an Action Mailer class and mailer view.

**How to
configure
Action Mailer
for your
environment.**

**How to test
your Action
Mailer classes.**

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1 Introduction

Action Mailer allows you to send emails from your application using mailer classes and views. Mailers work very similarly to controllers. They inherit from `ActionMailer::Base` and live in `app/mailers`, and they have associated views that appear in `app/views`.

2 Sending Emails

This section will provide a step-by-step guide to creating a mailer and its views.

2.1 Walkthrough to Generating a Mailer

2.1.1 Create the Mailer

```
$ bin/rails generate mailer UserMailer
create  app/mailers/user_mailer.rb
create  app/mailers/application_mailer.rb
invoke  erb
create  app/views/user_mailer
create  app/views/layouts/mailer.text.erb
create  app/views/layouts/mailer.html.erb
invoke  test_unit
create  test/mailers/user_mailer_test.rb
create  test/mailers/previews/user_mailer_preview.rb
```

```
# app/mailers/application_mailer.rb
class ApplicationMailer < ActionMailer::Base
  default from: "from@example.com"
  layout 'mailer'
end

# app/mailers/user_mailer.rb
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
end
```

As you can see, you can generate mailers just like you use other generators with Rails. Mailers are conceptually similar to controllers, and so we get a mailer, a directory for views, and a test.

If you didn't want to use a generator, you could create your own file inside of `app/mailers`, just make sure that it inherits from `ActionMailer::Base`:

```
class MyMailer < ActionMailer::Base
end
```

2.1.2 Edit the Mailer

Mailers are very similar to Rails controllers. They also have methods called "actions" and use views to structure the content. Where a controller generates content like HTML to send back to the client, a Mailer creates a message to be delivered via email.

`app/mailers/user_mailer.rb` contains an empty mailer:

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
end
```

Let's add a method called `welcome_email`, that will send an email to the user's registered email address:

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  default from: 'notifications@example.com'
```

```
def welcome_email
  @user = params[:user]
  @url = 'http://example.com/login'
  mail(to: @user.email, subject: 'Welcome to My
Awesome Site')
end
end
```

Here is a quick explanation of the items presented in the preceding method. For a full list of all available options, please have a look further down at the Complete List of Action Mailer user-settable attributes section.

`default Hash` - This is a hash of default values for any email you send from this mailer. In this case we are setting the `:from` header to a value for all messages in this class. This can be overridden on a per-email basis.

`mail` - The actual email message, we are passing the `:to` and `:subject` headers in.

Just like controllers, any instance variables we define in the method become available for use in the views.

2.1.3 Create a Mailer View

Create a file called `welcome_email.html.erb` in `app/views/user_mailer/`. This will be the template used for the email, formatted in HTML:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <head>
    <meta content='text/html; charset=UTF-8' http-
equiv='Content-Type' />
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>Welcome to example.com, <%= @user.name %></h1>
    <p>
      You have successfully signed up to example.com,
      your username is: <%= @user.login %>.<br>
    </p>
    <p>
      To login to the site, just follow this link: <%=
@url %>.
    </p>
    <p>Thanks for joining and have a great day!</p>
  </body>
```

```
</html>
```

Let's also make a text part for this email. Not all clients prefer HTML emails, and so sending both is best practice. To do this, create a file called

`welcome_email.text.erb` in `app/views/user_mailer/`:

```
Welcome to example.com, <%= @user.name %>
=====

You have successfully signed up to example.com,
your username is: <%= @user.login %>.

To login to the site, just follow this link: <%= @url
%>.

Thanks for joining and have a great day!
```

When you call the `mail` method now, Action Mailer will detect the two templates (text and HTML) and automatically generate a `multipart/alternative` email.

2.1.4 Calling the Mailer

Mailers are really just another way to render a view. Instead of rendering a view and sending it over the HTTP protocol, they are just sending it out through the email protocols instead. Due to this, it makes sense to just have your controller tell the Mailer to send an email when a user is successfully created.

Setting this up is painfully simple.

First, let's create a simple `User` scaffold:

```
$ bin/rails generate scaffold user name email login
$ bin/rails db:migrate
```

Now that we have a user model to play with, we will just edit the `app/controllers/users_controller.rb` make it instruct the `UserMailer` to deliver an email to the newly created user by editing the `create` action and inserting a call to `UserMailer.with(user: @user).welcome_email` right after the user is successfully saved.

Action Mailer is nicely integrated with Active Job so you can send emails outside of the request-response cycle, so the user doesn't have to wait on it:

```
class UsersController < ApplicationController
  # POST /users
  # POST /users.json
  def create
    @user = User.new(params[:user])

    respond_to do |format|
      if @user.save
        # Tell the UserMailer to send a welcome email
        after save
          UserMailer.with(user:
@user).welcome_email.deliver_later

        format.html { redirect_to(@user, notice: 'User
was successfully created.') }
        format.json { render json: @user, status:
:created, location: @user }
      else
        format.html { render action: 'new' }
        format.json { render json: @user.errors,
status: :unprocessable_entity }
      end
    end
  end
end
```

Active Job's default behavior is to execute jobs via the `:async` adapter. So, you can use `deliver_later` now to send emails asynchronously. Active Job's default adapter runs jobs with an in-process thread pool. It's well-suited for the development/test environments, since it doesn't require any external infrastructure, but it's a poor fit for production since it drops pending jobs on restart. If you need a persistent backend, you will need to use an Active Job adapter that has a persistent backend (Sidekiq, Resque, etc).

If you want to send emails right away (from a cronjob for example) just call `deliver_now`:

```
class SendWeeklySummary
  def run
    User.find_each do |user|
```

```
UserMailer.with(user:
user).weekly_summary.deliver_now
end
end
end
```

Any key value pair passed to `with` just becomes the `params` for the mailer action. So `with(user: @user, account: @user.account)` makes `params[:user]` and `params[:account]` available in the mailer action. Just like controllers have `params`.

The method `welcome_email` returns an `ActionMailer::MessageDelivery` object which can then just be told `deliver_now` or `deliver_later` to send itself out. The `ActionMailer::MessageDelivery` object is just a wrapper around a `Mail::Message`. If you want to inspect, alter or do anything else with the `Mail::Message` object you can access it with the `message` method on the `ActionMailer::MessageDelivery` object.

2.2 Auto encoding header values

Action Mailer handles the auto encoding of multibyte characters inside of headers and bodies.

For more complex examples such as defining alternate character sets or self-encoding text first, please refer to the [Mail](#) library.

2.3 Complete List of Action Mailer Methods

There are just three methods that you need to send pretty much any email message:

`headers` - Specifies any header on the email you want. You can pass a hash of header field names and value pairs, or you can call

```
headers[:field_name] =
'value'.
```

`attachments` - Allows you to add attachments to your email. For example, `attachments['file-name.jpg'] = File.read('file-name.jpg')`.

`mail` - Sends the actual email itself. You can pass in `headers` as a hash to the `mail` method as a parameter, `mail` will then create an email, either plain text, or multipart, depending on what email templates you have defined.

2.3.1 Adding Attachments

Action Mailer makes it very easy to add attachments.

Pass the file name and content and Action Mailer and the **Mail gem** will automatically guess the `mime_type`, set the encoding and create the attachment.

```
attachments['filename.jpg'] =  
File.read('/path/to/filename.jpg')
```

When the `mail` method will be triggered, it will send a multipart email with an attachment, properly nested with the top level being `multipart/mixed` and the first part being a `multipart/alternative` containing the plain text and HTML email messages.

Mail will automatically Base64 encode an attachment. If you want something different, encode your content and pass in the encoded content and encoding in a Hash to the `attachments` method.

Pass the file name and specify headers and content and Action Mailer and Mail will use the settings you pass in.

```
encoded_content =  
SpecialEncode(File.read('/path/to/filename.jpg'))  
attachments['filename.jpg'] = {  
  mime_type: 'application/gzip',  
  encoding: 'SpecialEncoding',  
  content: encoded_content  
}
```

If you specify an encoding, Mail will assume that your content is already encoded and not try to Base64 encode it.

2.3.2 Making Inline Attachments

Action Mailer 3.0 makes inline attachments, which involved a lot of hacking in pre 3.0 versions, much simpler and trivial as they should be.

First, to tell Mail to turn an attachment into an inline attachment, you just call `#inline` on the `attachments` method within your Mailer:

```
def welcome
  attachments.inline['image.jpg'] =
    File.read('/path/to/image.jpg')
end
```

Then in your view, you can just reference `attachments` as a hash and specify which attachment you want to show, calling `url` on it and then passing the result into the `image_tag` method:

```
<p>Hello there, this is our image</p>

<%= image_tag attachments['image.jpg'].url %>
```

As this is a standard call to `image_tag` you can pass in an options hash after the attachment URL as you could for any other image:

```
<p>Hello there, this is our image</p>

<%= image_tag attachments['image.jpg'].url,
  alt: 'My Photo', class: 'photos' %>
```

2.3.3 Sending Email To Multiple Recipients

It is possible to send email to one or more recipients in one email (e.g., informing all admins of a new signup) by setting the list of emails to the `:to` key. The list of emails can be an array of email addresses or a single string with the addresses separated by commas.

```
class AdminMailer < ApplicationMailer
  default to: -> { Admin.pluck(:email) },
    from: 'notification@example.com'

  def new_registration(user)
    @user = user
    mail(subject: "New User Signup: #{@user.email}")
  end
end
```

The same format can be used to set carbon copy (Cc:) and blind carbon copy (Bcc:) recipients, by using the `:cc` and `:bcc` keys respectively.

2.3.4 Sending Email With Name

Sometimes you wish to show the name of the person instead of just their email address when they receive the email. The trick to doing that is to format the email address in the format "Full Name" <email>.

```
def welcome_email
  @user = params[:user]
  email_with_name = %("#{@user.name}" <#
{@user.email}>)
  mail(to: email_with_name, subject: 'Welcome to My
Awesome Site')
end
```

2.4 Mailer Views

Mailer views are located in the `app/views/name_of_mailer_class` directory. The specific mailer view is known to the class because its name is the same as the mailer method. In our example from above, our mailer view for the `welcome_email` method will be in `app/views/user_mailer/welcome_email.html.erb` for the HTML version and `welcome_email.text.erb` for the plain text version.

To change the default mailer view for your action you do something like:

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  default from: 'notifications@example.com'

  def welcome_email
    @user = params[:user]
    @url = 'http://example.com/login'
    mail(to: @user.email,
         subject: 'Welcome to My Awesome Site',
         template_path: 'notifications',
         template_name: 'another')
  end
end
```

In this case it will look for templates at `app/views/notifications` with name `another`. You can also specify an array of paths for `template_path`, and they will be searched in order.

If you want more flexibility you can also pass a block and render specific templates or even render inline or text without using a template file:

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  default from: 'notifications@example.com'

  def welcome_email
    @user = params[:user]
    @url = 'http://example.com/login'
    mail(to: @user.email,
         subject: 'Welcome to My Awesome Site') do
      |format|
        format.html { render 'another_template' }
        format.text { render plain: 'Render text' }
      end
    end
  end
end
```

This will render the template `'another_template.html.erb'` for the HTML part and use the rendered text for the text part. The `render` command is the same one used inside of Action Controller, so you can use all the same options, such as `:text`, `:inline` etc.

2.4.1 Caching mailer view

You can perform fragment caching in mailer views like in application views using the `cache` method.

```
<% cache do %>
  <%= @company.name %>
<% end %>
```

And in order to use this feature, you need to configure your application with this:

```
config.action_mailer.perform_caching = true
```

Fragment caching is also supported in multipart emails. Read more about caching in the [Rails caching guide](#).

2.5 Action Mailer Layouts

Just like controller views, you can also have mailer layouts. The layout name needs to be the same as your mailer, such as `user_mailer.html.erb` and `user_mailer.text.erb` to be automatically recognized by your mailer as a layout.

In order to use a different file, call `layout` in your mailer:

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  layout 'awesome' # use awesome.(html|text).erb as
  the layout
end
```

Just like with controller views, use `yield` to render the view inside the layout.

You can also pass in a `layout: 'layout_name'` option to the `render` call inside the format block to specify different layouts for different formats:

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  def welcome_email
    mail(to: params[:user].email) do |format|
      format.html { render layout: 'my_layout' }
      format.text
    end
  end
end
```

Will render the HTML part using the `my_layout.html.erb` file and the text part with the usual `user_mailer.text.erb` file if it exists.

2.6 Previewing Emails

Action Mailer previews provide a way to see how emails look by visiting a special URL that renders them. In the above example, the preview class for `UserMailer` should be named `UserMailerPreview` and located in `test/mailers/previews/user_mailer_preview.rb`. To see the preview of

`welcome_email`, implement a method that has the same name and call `UserMailer.welcome_email`:

```
class UserMailerPreview < ActionMailer::Preview
  def welcome_email
    UserMailer.with(user: User.first).welcome_email
  end
end
```

Then the preview will be available in

http://localhost:3000/rails/mailers/user_mailer/welcome_email.

If you change something in `app/views/user_mailer/welcome_email.html.erb` or the mailer itself, it'll automatically reload and render it so you can visually see the new style instantly. A list of previews are also available in

<http://localhost:3000/rails/mailers>.

By default, these preview classes live in `test/mailers/previews`. This can be configured using the `preview_path` option. For example, if you want to change it to `lib/mailer_previews`, you can configure it in `config/application.rb`:

```
config.action_mailer.preview_path = "#
{Rails.root}/lib/mailer_previews"
```

2.7 Generating URLs in Action Mailer Views

Unlike controllers, the mailer instance doesn't have any context about the incoming request so you'll need to provide the `:host` parameter yourself.

As the `:host` usually is consistent across the application you can configure it globally in `config/application.rb`:

```
config.action_mailer.default_url_options = { host:
'example.com' }
```

Because of this behavior you cannot use any of the `*_path` helpers inside of an email. Instead you will need to use the associated `*_url` helper. For example instead

of using

```
<%= link_to 'welcome', welcome_path %>
```

You will need to use:

```
<%= link_to 'welcome', welcome_url %>
```

By using the full URL, your links will now work in your emails.

2.7.1 Generating URLs with `url_for`

`url_for` generates a full URL by default in templates.

If you did not configure the `:host` option globally make sure to pass it to `url_for`.

```
<%= url_for(host: 'example.com',  
            controller: 'welcome',  
            action: 'greeting') %>
```

2.7.2 Generating URLs with Named Routes

Email clients have no web context and so paths have no base URL to form complete web addresses. Thus, you should always use the `"_url"` variant of named route helpers.

If you did not configure the `:host` option globally make sure to pass it to the url helper.

```
<%= user_url(@user, host: 'example.com') %>
```

non-GET links require [rails-ujs](#) or [jQuery UJS](#), and won't work in mailer templates. They will result in normal GET requests.

2.8 Adding images in Action Mailer Views

Unlike controllers, the mailer instance doesn't have any context about the incoming request so you'll need to provide the `:asset_host` parameter yourself.

As the `:asset_host` usually is consistent across the application you can configure it globally in `config/application.rb`:

```
config.action_mailer.asset_host = 'http://example.com'
```

Now you can display an image inside your email.

```
<%= image_tag 'image.jpg' %>
```

2.9 Sending Multipart Emails

Action Mailer will automatically send multipart emails if you have different templates for the same action. So, for our `UserMailer` example, if you have

`welcome_email.text.erb` and `welcome_email.html.erb` in

`app/views/user_mailer`, Action Mailer will automatically send a multipart email with the HTML and text versions setup as different parts.

The order of the parts getting inserted is determined by the `:parts_order` inside of the `ActionMailer::Base.default` method.

2.10 Sending Emails with Dynamic Delivery Options

If you wish to override the default delivery options (e.g. SMTP credentials) while delivering emails, you can do this using `delivery_method_options` in the mailer action.

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  def welcome_email
    @user = params[:user]
    @url = user_url(@user)
    delivery_options = { user_name:
      params[:company].smtp_user,
                        password:
      params[:company].smtp_password,
                        address:
      params[:company].smtp_host }
  end
end
```



```
mail(to: @user.email,  
      subject: "Please see the Terms and Conditions  
attached",  
      delivery_method_options: delivery_options)  
end  
end
```

2.11 Sending Emails without Template Rendering

There may be cases in which you want to skip the template rendering step and supply the email body as a string. You can achieve this using the `:body` option. In such cases don't forget to add the `:content_type` option. Rails will default to `text/plain` otherwise.

```
class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer  
  def welcome_email  
    mail(to: params[:user].email,  
          body: params[:email_body],  
          content_type: "text/html",  
          subject: "Already rendered!")  
  end  
end
```

3 Receiving Emails

Receiving and parsing emails with Action Mailer can be a rather complex endeavor. Before your email reaches your Rails app, you would have had to configure your system to somehow forward emails to your app, which needs to be listening for that. So, to receive emails in your Rails app you'll need to:

Implement a `receive` method in your mailer.

Configure your email server to forward emails from the address(es) you would like your app to receive to `/path/to/app/bin/rails runner 'UserMailer.receive(STDIN.read)'`.

Once a method called `receive` is defined in any mailer, Action Mailer will parse the raw incoming email into an email object, decode it, instantiate a new mailer, and pass the email object to the mailer `receive` instance method. Here's an example:

```

class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  def receive(email)
    page = Page.find_by(address: email.to.first)
    page.emails.create(
      subject: email.subject,
      body: email.body
    )

    if email.has_attachments?
      email.attachments.each do |attachment|
        page.attachments.create({
          file: attachment,
          description: email.subject
        })
      end
    end
  end
end
end
end

```

4 Action Mailer Callbacks

Action Mailer allows for you to specify a `before_action`, `after_action` and `around_action`.

Filters can be specified with a block or a symbol to a method in the mailer class similar to controllers.

You could use a `before_action` to populate the mail object with defaults, `delivery_method_options` or insert default headers and attachments.

```

class InvitationsMailer < ApplicationMailer
  before_action { @inviter, @invitee =
    params[:inviter], params[:invitee] }
  before_action { @account = params[:inviter].account
  }

  default to:      -> { @invitee.email_address },
    from:          -> { common_address(@inviter) },
    reply_to:      -> {
      @inviter.email_address_with_name }

  def account_invitation
    mail subject: "#{@inviter.name} invited you to
      their Basecamp #{@account.name}"
  end
end

```

```

end

def project_invitation
  @project = params[:project]
  @summarizer =
    ProjectInvitationSummarizer.new(@project.bucket)

  mail subject: "#{@inviter.name.familiar} added you
to a project in Basecamp #{@account.name}"
end
end

```

You could use an `after_action` to do similar setup as a `before_action` but using instance variables set in your mailer action.

```

class UserMailer < ApplicationMailer
  before_action { @business, @user =
    params[:business], params[:user] }

  after_action :set_delivery_options,
               :prevent_delivery_to_guests,
               :set_business_headers

  def feedback_message
  end

  def campaign_message
  end

  private

  def set_delivery_options
    # You have access to the mail instance,
    # @business and @user instance variables here
    if @business && @business.has_smtp_settings?
      mail.delivery_method.settings.merge!
      (@business.smtp_settings)
    end
  end

  def prevent_delivery_to_guests
    if @user && @user.guest?
      mail.perform_deliveries = false
    end
  end
end

```

```
def set_business_headers
  if @business
    headers["X-SMTPAPI-CATEGORY"] = @business.code
  end
end
end
```

Mailer Filters abort further processing if body is set to a non-nil value.

5 Using Action Mailer Helpers

Action Mailer now just inherits from `AbstractController`, so you have access to the same generic helpers as you do in Action Controller.

6 Action Mailer Configuration

The following configuration options are best made in one of the environment files (environment.rb, production.rb, etc...)

Configuration	Description
logger	Generates information on the mailing run if available. Can be set to <code>nil</code> for no logging. Compatible with both Ruby's own <code>Logger</code> and <code>Log4r</code> loggers.
smtp_settings	Allows detailed configuration for <code>:smtp</code> delivery method: :address - Allows you to use a remote mail server. Just change it from its default "localhost" setting. :port - On the off chance that your mail server doesn't run on port 25, you can change it. :domain - If you need to specify a HELO domain, you can do it here. :user_name - If your mail server requires authentication, set the username in this setting. :password - If your mail server requires authentication, set the password in this

Configuration	Description
	<p>setting.</p> <p><code>:authentication</code> - If your mail server requires authentication, you need to specify the authentication type here. This is a symbol and one of <code>:plain</code> (will send the password in the clear), <code>:login</code> (will send password Base64 encoded) or <code>:cram_md5</code> (combines a Challenge/Response mechanism to exchange information and a cryptographic Message Digest 5 algorithm to hash important information)</p> <p><code>:enable_starttls_auto</code> - Detects if STARTTLS is enabled in your SMTP server and starts to use it. Defaults to <code>true</code>.</p> <p><code>:openssl_verify_mode</code> - When using TLS, you can set how OpenSSL checks the certificate. This is really useful if you need to validate a self-signed and/or a wildcard certificate. You can use the name of an OpenSSL verify constant ('none' or 'peer') or directly the constant (<code>OpenSSL::SSL::VERIFY_NONE</code> or <code>OpenSSL::SSL::VERIFY_PEER</code>).</p>
<code>sendmail_settings</code>	<p>Allows you to override options for the <code>:sendmail</code> delivery method.</p> <p><code>:location</code> - The location of the sendmail executable. Defaults to <code>/usr/sbin/sendmail</code>.</p> <p><code>:arguments</code> - The command line arguments to be passed to sendmail. Defaults to <code>-i</code>.</p>
<code>raise_delivery_errors</code>	<p>Whether or not errors should be raised if the email fails to be delivered. This only works if the external email server is configured for immediate delivery.</p>

Configuration	Description
<code>delivery_method</code>	<p>Defines a delivery method. Possible values are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><code>:smtp</code> (default), can be configured by using <code>config.action_mailer.smtp_settings</code>.<code>:sendmail</code>, can be configured by using <code>config.action_mailer.sendmail_settings</code>.<code>:file</code>: save emails to files; can be configured by using <code>config.action_mailer.file_settings</code>.<code>:test</code>: save emails to <code>ActionMailer::Base.deliveries</code> array. <p>See API docs for more info.</p>
<code>perform_deliveries</code>	<p>Determines whether deliveries are actually carried out when the <code>deliver</code> method is invoked on the Mail message. By default they are, but this can be turned off to help functional testing.</p>
<code>deliveries</code>	<p>Keeps an array of all the emails sent out through the Action Mailer with <code>delivery_method :test</code>. Most useful for unit and functional testing.</p>
<code>default_options</code>	<p>Allows you to set default values for the <code>mail</code> method options (<code>:from</code>, <code>:reply_to</code>, etc.).</p>

For a complete writeup of possible configurations see the [Configuring Action Mailer](#) in our Configuring Rails Applications guide.

6.1 Example Action Mailer Configuration

An example would be adding the following to your appropriate

`config/environments/$RAILS_ENV.rb` file:

```
config.action_mailer.delivery_method = :sendmail
# Defaults to:
# config.action_mailer.sendmail_settings = {
#   location: '/usr/sbin/sendmail',
#   arguments: '-i'
```

```
# }  
config.action_mailer.perform_deliveries = true  
config.action_mailer.raise_delivery_errors = true  
config.action_mailer.default_options = {from: 'no-reply@example.com'}
```

6.2 Action Mailer Configuration for Gmail

As Action Mailer now uses the [Mail gem](#), this becomes as simple as adding to your `config/environments/$RAILS_ENV.rb` file:

```
config.action_mailer.delivery_method = :smtp  
config.action_mailer.smtp_settings = {  
  address:           'smtp.gmail.com',  
  port:              587,  
  domain:            'example.com',  
  user_name:         '<username>',  
  password:          '<password>',  
  authentication:    'plain',  
  enable_starttls_auto: true }
```

Note: As of July 15, 2014, Google increased [its security measures](#) and now blocks attempts from apps it deems less secure. You can change your Gmail settings [here](#) to allow the attempts. If your Gmail account has 2-factor authentication enabled, then you will need to set an [app password](#) and use that instead of your regular password. Alternatively, you can use another ESP to send email by replacing 'smtp.gmail.com' above with the address of your provider.

7 Mailer Testing

You can find detailed instructions on how to test your mailers in the [testing guide](#).

8 Intercepting Emails

There are situations where you need to edit an email before it's delivered. Fortunately Action Mailer provides hooks to intercept every email. You can register an interceptor to make modifications to mail messages right before they are handed to the delivery agents.

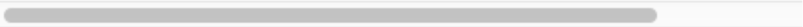
```
class SandboxEmailInterceptor
```

```
def self.delivering_email(message)
  message.to = ['sandbox@example.com']
end
end
```

Before the interceptor can do its job you need to register it with the Action Mailer framework. You can do this in an initializer file

config/initializers/sandbox_email_interceptor.rb

```
if Rails.env.staging?
  ActionMailer::Base.register_interceptor(SandboxEmailIn
end
```



The example above uses a custom environment called "staging" for a production like server but for testing purposes. You can read [Creating Rails environments](#) for more information about custom Rails environments.

Feedback

You're encouraged to help improve the quality of this guide.

Please contribute if you see any typos or factual errors. To get started, you can read our [documentation contributions](#) section.

You may also find incomplete content or stuff that is not up to date. Please do add any missing documentation for master. Make sure to check [Edge Guides](#) first to verify if the issues are already fixed or not on the master branch. Check the [Ruby on Rails Guides Guidelines](#) for style and conventions.

If for whatever reason you spot something to fix but cannot patch it yourself, please [open an issue](#).

And last but not least, any kind of discussion regarding Ruby on Rails documentation is very welcome on the [rubyonrails-docs mailing list](#).

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