



Case Study - Grails in the Real World™

By Greg L. Turnquist

Who am I?



- Test-bitten script junky
- Always looking for the right tool for the job
- Founded Nashville JUG in 2010 (almost 300 members)
- Created Spring Python in 2006
- Author of **Spring Python 1.1** and **Python Testing Cookbook** and reviewed several others
- Twitter: @gregturn
- Blog: GregLTurnquist.com





Questions?
Keep 'em coming!



Engage!





Case Study - Grails in the Real World™

- Register by email
- Plug in Spring Security
- Code specialized REST endpoints
- Cache files with MongoDB's GridFS
- Polish UI with Bootstrap + jQuery
- Protect users from themselves



What does your app do?



Maven proxy server



Your project



Register by email



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `localhost:8080/repository/application/register`. The page has a dark header with the text "Case Study - Grails in the Real World™" and two links: "Register" and "Login". Below the header, a light gray box contains the text: "Welcome to Case Study - Grails in the Real World™. To get started using the components we serve up within your applications, please register for access."

Below this box, the heading "Register to get download links" is followed by a registration form. The form consists of three input fields, each with a label, a placeholder text, and a "Required" status:

- Email**: Input field with placeholder "Enter your email".
- Password**: Input field with placeholder "Enter your password".
- Re-enter Password**: Input field with placeholder "Re-Enter your password".

At the bottom of the form are two buttons: a blue "Register" button and a gray "Cancel" button. Below the buttons, the text "Already have an account? [Log in](#)" is displayed.

Register by email



Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Easy to confirmEasy to updateEasy to manageBuilt in, out-of-band confirmation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Publicly visible emails susceptible to spamCorporate accounts recyclable

Plug in Spring Security



- Easy to get started
- Quickly tag backend services/controllers
- Easily protect front end HTML with `<sec>` tags
- Well supported by community and books
- Corporate backing



Plug in Spring Security



A screenshot of a web browser window showing a user management interface. The browser's address bar displays 'localhost:8080/repository/admin/users'. The page has a dark navigation bar with links: 'Case Study - Grails in the Real World', 'View Logs', 'Manage Users' (active), 'Empty Cache', 'Empty Logs', 'Edit My Account', and a blue 'Logout' button. Below the navigation bar is a table with columns: 'ID', 'Username', 'Confirmed?', 'Locked?', 'Roles', and 'Operations'. The table contains one row for a user with ID 1, username 'gturnquist+grails@gopivotal.com', confirmed status 'true', locked status 'false', and role '[ROLE_ADMIN]'. The 'Operations' column for this user contains four buttons: 'Edit' (blue), 'Disable' (red), 'Delete' (red), and 'Downgrade to User' (green). At the bottom of the page, there is a footer that reads '© 2013 Pivotal'.

Code specialized REST endpoints



- Easy to create custom endpoints
 - Edit `UrlMappings.groovy`
- Pick your strategy
 - Hashed values or authenticated endpoint?
- BTW: Grails 2.3 may render some of this obsolete
 - Comes with new built-in conventions
 - But...if you do something different, can always add it on!

Cache files in MongoDB's GridFS



Cache files in MongoDB's GridFS



- Stash downloaded files in GridFS
- Speed up user experience
- Groovy makes GridFS API a snap to use
- Implement FIFO - First In First Out



Polish UI with Bootstrap + jQuery



Junior developer:
"I can build that!"

Senior developer:
"Build that, someone else has."



Polish UI with Bootstrap + jQuery



- Bootstrap + jQuery make me look good!
- Use HTML5 form validation features
- Find themes. It's okay to pay for good ones!
- Hire a top quality UI person



Protect users from themselves



Avoid bad data!



- Double up on customer data inputs
- Consider buying “good data”
 - Nationwide address list, zip codes, CLLI/LID/FAC database
 - Steer users towards this data with prompts
- Assume the worst
- Having a demented team member can help!

Protect users from themselves



- Confirm registration by requiring re-entry of password
- Send address updates to old & new addresses
- Validate, validate, and validate!





Questions?



Learn More. Stay Connected.



Thanks!



Twitter: twitter.com/gregturn

Code: github.com/gregturn/grails-real-world