

- Active Record is the Model in Rails development.
 - The Model is responsible for the business logic that creates information stored in a database.
- Active Records favors Convention over Configuration
 - You must understand the conventions or Rails will be much more difficult.
- Naming:
 - Model uses camelCased singular noun (like Post, LineItem, Generation)
 - Table uses plural snake_case (like posts, line_item, generations)
- Schema Conventions
 - Primary key – defaults to column named id containing an integer (created automatically when using migrations)
 - Foreign Keys use the singular table name with snake_case appended to it (order_id, generation_id, line_item_id)
 - Interesting columns – created_at, updated_at – at date time fields for creating and updating a record. Very useful for debugging!
- Overriding convention for legacy databases
 - Override Table like so:

```
class Product < ActiveRecord::Base
  self.table_name = "PRODUCT"
end
```

- Then define the class name for fixtures like

```
class Crazy < ActiveSupport::TestCase
  set_fixture_class crazy: 'Crazy'
  fixtures :crazy
  ...
end
```

- Overriding default accessors
 - This can be useful when combining or manipulating data from a databases

```
class Song < ActiveRecord::Base
  # Uses an integer of seconds to hold the length of the song

  def length=(minutes)
    write_attribute(:length, minutes.to_i * 60)
  end

  def length
    read_attribute(:length) / 60
  end
end
```

- Attribute query methods
 - Can be used to see if a field is filled in.

- For instance if name was a field and user the object you could use `user.name?` to see if the user has a name
- Callbacks
 - Allow a wide variety of functions to be built in and called appropriately.
 - For instance by registering the callback like `before_save :create_file_hash` we could hash a file on a server
 - Callbacks can be attached to : `before_validation / after_validation, before_save / around_save / after_save, before_create / around_create / after_create, before_update / around_update / after_update, before_destroy / around_destroy / after_destroy`
 -

Links:

http://guides.rubyonrails.org/active_record_basics.html

<http://api.rubyonrails.org/classes/ActiveRecord/Base.html>

<http://code.tutsplus.com/tutorials/active-record-the-rails-database-bridge--net-30489>