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Building your first Rails app

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Remember: Don't get discouraged if you aren't understanding all of this the first time through. We're just introducing a lot of concepts that we'll cover with more depth as we progress through the class.

First, we'll create a new Rails application with the `rails new` command.

```
cd code/web-cohort-1/your-name
rails new ideator
```

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Now, we'll commit our freshly minted app to GitHub. First, we need to tell git not to track our bundled gems. Open up the project in SublimeText:

```
subl .
```

Now press `⌘T` and press return to open up the `.gitignore` file, and add the following to the bottom:

```
vendor/bundle
```

Now let's get this app up on GitHub!

```
cd ideator
git init
git add .
git commit -m "Initial commit."
```

Create a new repository for yourself called ideator. Copy the HTTPS url for your repo, and then run:

```
git remote add origin [COPIED URL]
git push origin master
```

3

Now let's fire up the server and check out our handiwork!

```
bundle exec rails s
```

Head over to localhost:3000 and pat yourself on the back. You just built a web app!

4

Now let's build a scaffold for holding all of our awesome ideas. Open a new tab inside of iTerm so we can keep our server running in the other. Then enter:

```
cd code/web-cohort-1/your-name/ideator
bundle exec rails generate scaffold idea name:string description:text picture:string
bundle exec rake db:migrate
```

Whew, that was a lot of files we just created. Better commit 'em.

```
git add .
git commit -m "Added an idea scaffold."
```

So, what did we just do? Head on over to localhost:3000/ideas to check it out. Add a few of your awesome ideas! (Or the lame ones. Your pick.)

Up by the Bootstrap

5

So... it works. But it definitely ain't pretty. How can we fix that situation in the fewest possible changes? Bootstrap!

Ugh, Bootstrap, right? I know opinions are split at this point, but the real advantage to using bootstrap comes when we're building web apps. Having a set of UI elements that are pre-built and styled to work across browsers saves a HUGE amount of time. And there are a ton of themes out there for it, if you're not a fan of the default look. You can also restyle it yourself!

Open the file `app/views/layouts/application.html.erb`.

Below the line with `stylesheet_link_tag "application"`, add the following:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="http://railsgirls.com/assets/bootstrap.css">
```

Now replace:

```
<%= yield %>
```

with:

```
<div class="container"> <%= yield %> </div>
```

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Directly under the opening of the `body` tag, add:

```
<div class="navbar navbar-fixed-top">
  <div class="navbar-inner">
    <div class="container">
      <a class="brand" href="/">The Idea app</a>
      <ul class="nav">
        <li class="active"><a href="/ideas">Ideas</a></li>
      </ul>
    </div>
  </div>
</div>
```

Right before the close of the `body` tag, add:

```
<footer> <div class="container"> ©[Your name] 2013 </div> </footer>
```

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We need a bit more styling on this thing before it's ready to ship. Add the following to the bottom of `app/assets/stylesheets/application.css`:

```
body { padding-top: 100px; }
footer { margin-top: 100px; }
table, td, th { vertical-align: middle !important; border: none !important; }
th { border-bottom: 1px solid #DDD !important; }
```

Reload your browser and check it out!

8

YOU RULE. Don't forget to commit your work and push it up!

```
git commit -am "Restyled that sucker, because I PWN RAILZ."
```

Extensions

9

Add a scaffold to help us keep track of our students. What kinds of fields should we track? How do we access the views we just created?