



# Cypress on Rails

# Introduction to cypress

(You'll need this to understand the Rails integration later)

# What is Cypress?





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# What is Cypress?

- Website agnostic end-to-end testing framework
- Runs completely in the browser / doesn't need Selenium
- Tests are written in pure Javascript (on top of Mocha, Chai and others)
- Supports Electron, Firefox and Chromium based browsers like the new Edge

# Other Features





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- Live-Reload on file system changes



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- Step-By-Step DOM snapshots



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- Live-Reload on file system changes
- Step-By-Step DOM snapshots
- Request and browser API stubbing
- Full Dev-Tools and debugger support
- Video recording in CI



# e Demonstration



# Writing a Basic Test

```
describe('Login', function() {
  beforeEach(function() {
    cy.fixture("basic_user.json").as("user")
    cy.visit("/")
  });

  it('logs me in', function() {
    cy.get('nav').contains('a', 'Login').click();

    cy.get('input[name=email]').type(this.user.email);
    cy.get('input[name=password]').type('12345678');
    cy.contains('input', 'Login').click();

    cy.get('nav').should('contain', this.user.email)
  })
})
```



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    cy.get('nav').should('contain', this.user.email)
  })
})
})
```

**before()**, **beforeEach()**, **after()** and **afterEach()** are available



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    cy.contains('input', 'Login').click();

    cy.get('nav').should('contain', this.user.email);
  })
})
```

Aliased (.as()) values are available as `this.ALIAS`



# Asynchronous Execution

```
it('lets me debug like a fiend', () => {
  cy.visit('/my/page/path')
  cy.get('.selector-in-question')

  debugger
});

it('lets me debug after the command executes', () => {
  cy.visit('/my/page/path')

  cy.get('.selector-in-question')
    .then(($selectedElement) => {
      debugger
    })
})
```



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  cy.visit('/my/page/path')

  cy.get('.selector-in-question')
    .then(($selectedElement) => {
      debugger
    })
})
```

`cy` commands immediately return **Chainer** objects and are queued for later execution



# ⚠️ Asynchronous Execution

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  cy.visit('/my/page/path')

  cy.get('.selector-in-question')
    .then(($selectedElement) => {
      debugger
    })
})
```

The `debugger` command is executed before either of the above are actually ran



# Asynchronous Execution

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it('lets me debug like a fiend', () => {
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});

it('lets me debug after the command executes', () => {
  cy.visit('/my/page/path')

  cy.get('.selector-in-question')
    .then(($selectedElement) => {
      debugger
    })
})
```

Chainer objects provide their result by calling `then()` on them. Looks familiar?



# Commands aren't Promises



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- Fully synchronous execution of commands



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- Fully synchronous execution of commands
- No return (and searching for a missing one for hours)



# Commands aren't Promises

- Fully synchronous execution of commands
- No return (and searching for a missing one for hours)
- No .catch (as cypress has its own error handling)



# Fixtures

```
// fixtures/basic_user.json
cy.fixture("basic_user.json").as("user");
cy.fixture("basic_user.json").then(user => {
  cy.log(user);
});

// fixtures/images/beaver.jpg
cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg").then(beaver => {
  // base64 representation of the image
});
cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg", "binary").then(beaver => {
  // binary representation of the image
});
```



# Fixtures

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// fixtures/basic_user.json
cy.fixture("basic_user.json").as("user");
cy.fixture("basic_user.json").then(user => {
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});
```

Almost every file can be used as fixture, some are automatically validated



# Fixtures

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cy.fixture("basic_user.json").then(user => {
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});

// fixtures/images/beaver.jpg
cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg").then(beaver => {
  // base64 representation of the image
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  // binary representation of the image
});
```

Some file types have custom default representation formats



# Fixtures

```
// fixtures/basic_user.json
cy.fixture("basic_user.json").as("user");
cy.fixture("basic_user.json").then(user => {
  cy.log(user);
});

// fixtures/images/beaver.jpg
cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg").then(beaver => {
  // base64 representation of the image
});
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  // binary representation of the image
});
```

The default format can be changed by providing a second argument



# Custom cy Commands

```
Cypress.Commands.add('login', user => {
  cy.visit("/")
  cy.get('nav').contains('a', 'Login').click();
  cy.get('input[name=email]').type(user.email);
  cy.get('input[name=password]').type('12345678');
  cy.contains('input', 'Login').click();
});

Cypress.Commands.overwrite('visit', (originalFn, url) => {
  return originalFn(
    "https://custom_host.com?original_url=" + url
  );
});
```



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Cypress.Commands.add('login', user => {
  cy.visit("/")
  cy.get('nav').contains('a', 'Login').click();
  cy.get('input[name=email]').type(user.email);
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  cy.contains('input', 'Login').click();
});

Cypress.Commands.overwrite('visit', (originalFn, url) => {
  return originalFn(
    "https://custom_host.com?original_url=" + url
  );
});
```

Own commands are available as `cy.COMMAND_NAME`



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Cypress.Commands.add('login', user => {
  cy.visit("/")
  cy.get('nav').contains('a', 'Login').click();
  cy.get('input[name=email]').type(user.email);
  cy.get('input[name=password]').type('12345678');
  cy.contains('input', 'Login').click();
});
```

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Cypress.Commands.overwrite('visit', (originalFn, url) => {
  return originalFn(
    "https://custom_host.com?original_url=" + url
  );
});
```

Existing commands can be overwritten / overloaded



# Custom cy Commands

```
Cypress.Commands.add('insertImage', {  
  prevSubject: 'element'  
}, (subject, imageData) => {  
  let myImage = new Image();  
  myImage.src = imageData;  
  subject.drawImage(myImage, 0, 0);  
});  
  
cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg").then(beaver => {  
  cy.get('#myCanvas').insertImage(beaver)  
  cy.wrap([]).fillWithMarkdown(beaver);  
})
```



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```

**prevSubject** lets the command receive the previous chain result



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```

The type of **subject** is validated based on the value of **prevSubject**



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```

subject is guaranteed to be an element, e.g. coming from cy.get



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cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg").then(beaver => {  
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```

Works as **subject** is an element



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cy.fixture("images/beaver.jpg").then(beaver => {  
  cy.get('#myCanvas').insertImage(beaver)  
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})
```

Raises a validation error as `subject` is not an element



# Custom cy Commands

```
Cypress.Commands.add('tree', () => "🌲");

beforeEach(function() {
  cy.tree().as('myTree');
})

it('logs a tree', function() {
  cy.log(this.myTree);
  cy.tree().then(tree => {
    cy.log(tree);
  })
})
```

Own commands return Chainer instances just like the predefined ones.



# Additional Goodies



# Additional Goodies

- Integrated mechanisms for parallel execution\*

\*Requires using the Cypress Dashboard (and probably paying for it)



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- Integrated mechanisms for parallel execution\*
- Automatic retries per test



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- Integrated mechanisms for parallel execution\*
- Automatic retries per test
- Pretty good automatic timeouts for almost everything

A tall, green Christmas tree with a wide base and a narrow top. It is decorated with numerous small, colorful lights in shades of red, green, blue, yellow, and white, which are strung in various patterns across the branches.

# Additional Goodies

- Integrated mechanisms for parallel execution\*
- Automatic retries per test
- Pretty good automatic timeouts for almost everything
- Request-Stubbing



# Additional Goodies

## Request-Stubbing

```
cy.fixture('users').then((json) => {
  cy.intercept('GET', '/users/**', json)
})
```

In theory, the complete backend can be stubbed out in cypress tests by using `cy.intercept` and specifying the expected response. It can also be used to modify requests before they are sent.

# Using cypress with Rails

# Capybara Pros & Cons



# Capybara Pros & Cons

- Pros



# Capybara Pros & Cons

- **Pros**
  - Access to the whole Rails application inside E2E tests



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  - It's not fun writing tests (Browser closing/opening, no intelligent auto-reruns, etc.)

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  - Access to the whole Rails application inside E2E tests
  - Generating test data on the fly when it's required
- **Cons**
  - Debugging in the browser is difficult
  - It's not fun writing tests (Browser closing/opening, no intelligent auto-reruns, etc.)
  - Very flaky with SPAs

# Capybara to Cypress



```
RSpec.describe "Logging in" do
  let!(:user) { FactoryBot.create(:user) }

  it "logs you in" do
    visit root_path
    click_on "Login"

    fill_in "Email", with: user.email
    fill_in "Password", with: "12345678"
    click_button "Login"

    expect(find("nav").text).to include(user.email)
  end
end
```

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    click_button "Login"

    expect(find("nav").text).to include(user.email)
  end
end

cy.visit("/")
```

# Capybara to Cypress



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    visit root_path
    click_on "Login"

    fill_in "Email", with: user.email
    fill_in "Password", with: "12345678"
    click_button "Login"

    expect(find("nav").text).to include(user.email)
  end
end
```

cy.contains("Login").click()

# Capybara to Cypress



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  let!(:user) { FactoryBot.create(:user)}

  it "logs you in" do
    visit root_path
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    fill_in "Email", with: user.email
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    expect(find("nav").text).to include(user.email)
  end
end
```

There is a cypress equivalent for all remaining commands

# Capybara to Cypress



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RSpec.describe "Logging in" do
  let!(:user) { FactoryBot.create(:user) }

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    visit root_path
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    expect(find("nav").text).to include(user.email)
  end
end
```

So, how do we get test data into our Rails application on-the-fly?

# Cypress on Rails



A tall, green, conical evergreen tree, likely a Cypress, stands on the left side of the slide. It is decorated with a string of colorful Christmas lights in various colors including red, green, blue, yellow, and white. The tree is set against a solid black background.

# Cypress on Rails

- The cypress-on-rails gem



# Cypress on Rails

- **The cypress-on-rails gem**
  - Adds a `rack` middleware to send requests to the Rails server



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  - Adds a `rack` middleware to send requests to the Rails server
  - Provides conventions on how to run code on the server from within Cypress



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- **The cypress-on-rails gem**
  - Adds a `rack` middleware to send requests to the Rails server
  - Provides conventions on how to run code on the server from within Cypress
- **Own Extensions**



# Cypress on Rails

- **The cypress-on-rails gem**
  - Adds a `rack` middleware to send requests to the Rails server
  - Provides conventions on how to run code on the server from within Cypress
- **Own Extensions**
  - Flexible FactoryBot integration with association support



# Cypress on Rails

- **The cypress-on-rails gem**
  - Adds a `rack` middleware to send requests to the Rails server
  - Provides conventions on how to run code on the server from within Cypress
- **Own Extensions**
  - Flexible FactoryBot integration with association support
  - Scenario-Wrapper to adjust JSON responses

# cypress-on-rails





# cypress-on-rails

- Adds a helper file that's ran before any cypress command



# cypress-on-rails

- Adds a helper file that's ran before any cypress command
- Adds the "`/__cypress__/command`" endpoint to the application

A tall, green Christmas tree with a dense, conical shape. It is decorated with numerous small, colorful lights in shades of red, green, blue, yellow, and white, which are strung in various patterns across its branches.

# cypress-on-rails

- Adds a helper file that's ran before any cypress command
- Adds the "`/__cypress__/command`" endpoint to the application
- This endpoint **evals** a requested Ruby file (in the application context) and responds with its return value as JSON



# cypress-on-rails

```
spec
|- cypress
|  |- cypress_helper.rb
|  |- app_commands
|     |- clean.rb
|     |- factory_bot.rb
|     ...
|- integration
|   |- login_spec.js
|- fixtures
```



# cypress-on-rails

```
spec
|- cypress
|  |- cypress_helper.rb
|  |- app_commands
|  |  |- clean.rb
|  |  |- factory_bot.rb
|  |  ...
|  |- integration
|  |  |- login_spec.js
|  |- fixtures
```

Is ran once at server start



# cypress-on-rails

```
spec
|- cypress
|  |- cypress_helper.rb
|  |- app_commands
|     |- clean.rb
|     |- factory_bot.rb
|     |- ...
|- integration
|  |- login_spec.js
|- fixtures
```



# cypress-on-rails

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spec
|- cypress
  |- cypress_helper.rb
  |- app_commands
    |- clean.rb
    |- factory_bot.rb
    ...
|- integration
  |- login_spec.js
|- fixtures
```

Normal cypress folder structure



# Using the command endpoint

```
Cypress.Commands.add('appCommands', function(body) {  
  return cy.request({  
    method: 'POST',  
    url: "/__cypress__/command",  
    body: JSON.stringify(body),  
  }).then(response => {  
    return response.body;  
  });  
});  
  
Cypress.Commands.add('app', function(name, command_options) {  
  return cy.appCommands({name: name, options: command_options})  
    .then(response => response[0]);  
});  
  
cy.app("factory_bot", ["create", "post"]);
```



# Using the command endpoint

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Cypress.Commands.add('appCommands', function(body) {  
  return cy.request({  
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});  
  
cy.app("factory_bot", ["create", "post"]);
```

Basic POST request to the Rails server



# Using the command endpoint

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Cypress.Commands.add('appCommands', function(body) {  
  return cy.request({  
    method: 'POST',  
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Cypress.Commands.add('app', function(name, command_options) {  
  return cy.appCommands({name: name, options: command_options})  
    .then(response => response[0]);  
});  
  
cy.app("factory_bot", ["create", "post"]);
```

Convenience helper to issue a command



# Using the command endpoint

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Cypress.Commands.add('appCommands', function(body) {  
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});  
  
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});  
  
cy.app("factory_bot", ["create", "post"]);
```

evaling spec/cypress/app\_commands/factory\_bot.rb



# Cleaning between Tests

```
# spec/cypress/app_commands/clean.rb

# Reset the database to a clean state
DatabaseCleaner.strategy = :truncation
DatabaseCleaner.clean

# Reload factories, reset sequences
FactoryBot.reload

Rails.logger.info "APPCLEANED" # used by log_fail.rb
```

```
// spec/cypress/support/index.js
beforeEach(function() {
  cy.app("clean");
})
```



# Capybara to Cypress

```
RSpec.describe "Logging in" do
  let!(:user) { FactoryBot.create(:user) }
  ...
end

cy.describe("Logging in", function() {
  beforeEach(function() {
    cy.app("factory_bot", ["create", "user"]).as("user");
  })
});
```

Creating data on-the-fly is now possible!



# FactoryBot Integration v2

```
# /app/models/post.rb
has_many :likes
has_many :liking_users, through: :likes, class_name: "User"

# /spec/feature/liking_spec.rb
RSpec.describe "Liking" do
  let(:user) { create(:user) }
  let(:post) { create(:post, liking_users: [user]) }
  ...
end
```



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  let(:user) { create(:user) }
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end
```



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# /app/models/post.rb
has_many :likes
has_many :liking_users, through: :likes, class_name: "User"

# /spec/feature/liking_spec.rb
RSpec.describe "Liking" do
  let(:user) { create(:user) }
  let(:post) { create(:post, liking_users: [user]) }
  ...
end
```

While `post.liking_user_ids=` is available here, this wouldn't work with polymorphic associations. So, again: 🤷‍♀️



# FactoryBot Integration v2

```
beforeEach(function() {  
  cy.factory("user").as("author");  
  cy.factory("user").as("user");  
});  
  
it("creates a post", function() {  
  cy.factory('post', [], {  
    body: "I am a post!",  
    author_identifier: this.author.gid,  
    liking_users_identifiers: [this.user.gid]  
  }).as('post');  
});
```



# FactoryBot Integration v2

```
beforeEach(function() {  
  cy.factory("user").as("author");  
  cy.factory("user").as("user");  
});  
  
it("creates a post", function() {  
  cy.factory('post', [], {  
    body: "I am a post!",  
    author_identifier: this.author.gid,  
    liking_users_identifiers: [this.user.gid]  
  }).as('post');  
});
```

Everything created by the `factory_bot` app command contains a Global ID



# FactoryBot Integration v2

```
beforeEach(function() {  
  cy.factory("user").as("author");  
  cy.factory("user").as("user");  
});  
  
it("creates a post", function() {  
  cy.factory('post', [], {  
    body: "I am a post!",  
    author_identifier: this.author.gid,  
    liking_users_identifiers: [this.user.gid]  
  }).as('post');  
});
```

Every parameter that ends with `_identifier(s)` will be converted to an AR instance

# Conclusion





# Conclusion

- On-The-Fly Test data generation



# Conclusion

- On-The-Fly Test data generation ✓
- Database Cleaning between tests ✓



# Conclusion

- On-The-Fly Test data generation ✓
- Database Cleaning between tests ✓
- Server-Side stubbing (e.g. Geocoder), etc. ✓

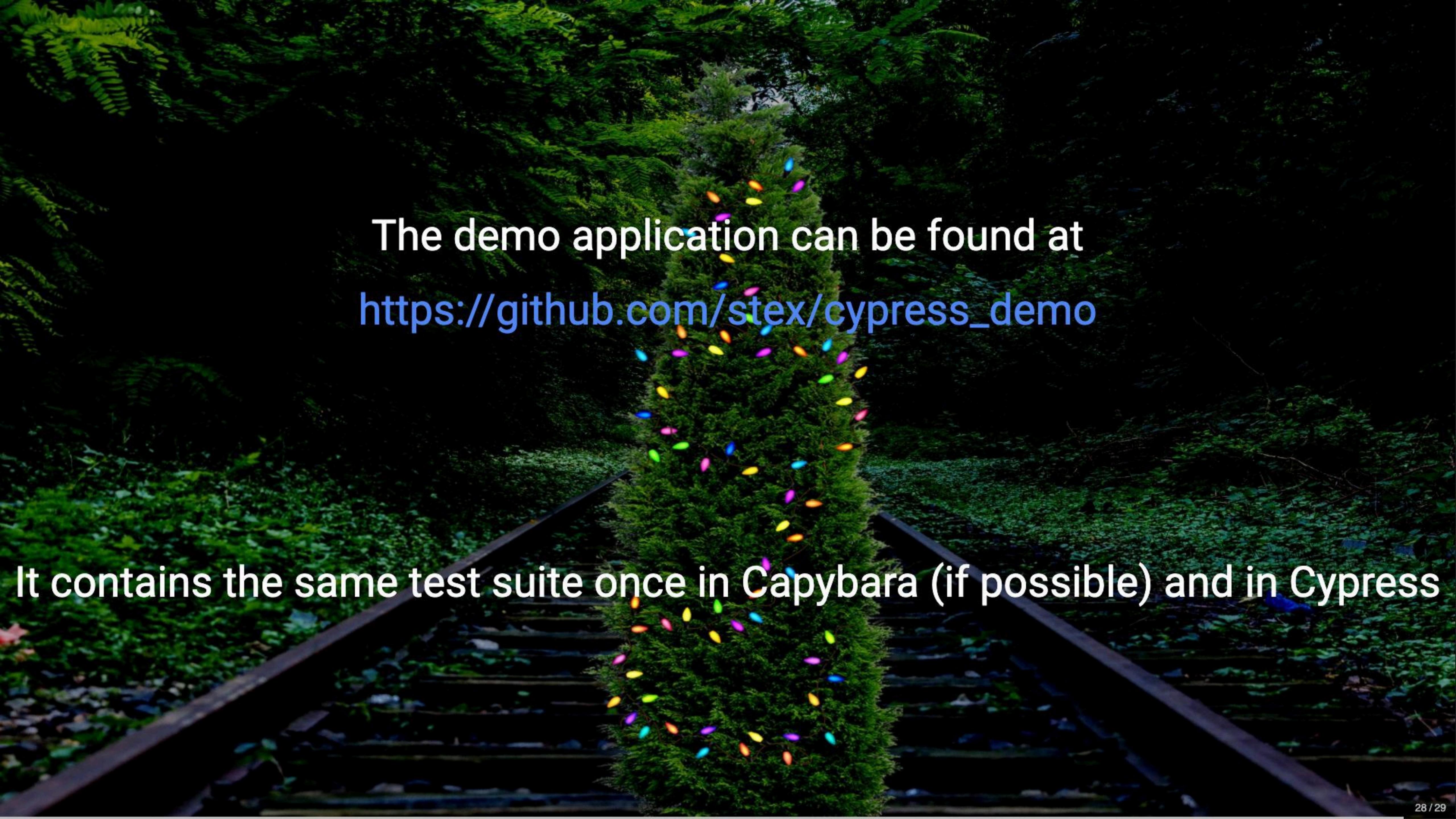


# Conclusion

- On-The-Fly Test data generation ✓
- Database Cleaning between tests ✓
- Server-Side stubbing (e.g. Geocoder), etc. ✓
- Everything I could do with Capybara ✓

# Additional Topics

- AppCommands and AppScenarios (v2)
- Usage in CI (with parallelization)
- How to organize/build spec files
- Something else?



The demo application can be found at  
[https://github.com/stex/cypress\\_demo](https://github.com/stex/cypress_demo)

It contains the same test suite once in Capybara (if possible) and in Cypress



**Thanks!**