

twitter-bootstrap-step-by-step

November 19, 2013

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1 Introduction

This is a step by step tutorial for new Rails learners to learn how Twitter Bootstrap works and to how to use Twitter Bootstrap to provide your application with modern layout and styling. This tutorial was last tested on November 19, 2013 by Troy Will. We will build a working Rails application to match the starter-template template from example layouts.

See the Bootstrap GitHub repository.

Note for Emacs users: This tutorial was written in Emacs Org Mode. If you are an Emacs Org Mode user you can carry out the steps in this tutorial from the twitter-bootstrap-step-by-step.org file.

2 Milestone 1: Build an initial Rails application

Let's build our example Rails application with a 'home' controller and 'home/index', "home/about", "home/contact" pages since those pages are in the starter-template.html template.

1. ☐ Initialize a new Rails application

```
rails new example
```

2. ☐ Change into the newly created Rails application directory

```
cd bootstrap
```

3. ☐ Examine your Rails installation

```
rake about
```

4. ☐ Enable a JavaScript runtime in Gemfile

You probably got a 'Could not find a JavaScript runtime.' message from the 'rake about' command. Open Gemfile with your text editor and enable 'therubyracer.'

```
# See https://github.com/sstephenson/execjs#readme for more supported runtimes
gem 'therubyracer', platforms: :ruby
```

You might open Gemfile with Emacs, Vi, TextMate, etc. this way:

```
textmate ../../Gemfile
```

5. ☐ Examine your Rails installation again

```
rake about
```

6. ☐ Create a "home" controller and "home/index", "home/about", "home/contact" pages

```
rails generate controller home index about contact --skip-stylesheets
```

Note the use of '--skip-stylesheets' since we will use Twitter Bootstrap's stylesheets

7. ☐ Set the default route to home/index in config/routes.rb

Open config/routes.rb with your text editor. You will see the following commented line near the top of the file:

```
# root 'welcome#index'
```

Let's uncomment and change the application root view:

```
root "home#index"
```

Now, Rails will direct visitors to the application to home/index. We are ready to start the Rails application and incorporate Twitter Bootstrap's stylesheets and JavaScript scripts.

8. ☐ Start the rails server

```
rails server --port 3000
```

Now, let's incorporate Bootstrap into our application.

3 Milestone 2: Set up Twitter Bootstrap with the bootstrap-sass gem

1. ☐ Enable bootstrap-sass in Gemfile

```
# See http://rubygems.org/gems/bootstrap-sass (November 2013)
gem "bootstrap-sass", "~> 3.0.2.1"
```

2. ☐ Create a new app/assets/stylesheets/application.css.scss file

```
@import "bootstrap";
body { padding-top: 60px; }
@import "bootstrap-responsive";
```

3. ☐ Remove the app/assets/stylesheets/application.css file

4. ☐ Import bootstrap javascript in app/assets/javascripts/application.js

```
//= require jquery
//= require jquery_ujs
//= require turbolinks
//= require_tree .
//
// The following line Loads all Bootstrap javascripts
// = require bootstrap
```

4 Milestone 3: Use Twitter Bootstrap fixed width layout in our Rails application

Now that Bootstrap is installed let's proceed to use Bootstrap's CSS in our application.

1. ☐ Overwrite app/views/layouts/application.html.erb with starter-template.html.erb

```
# ./bin/copy-starter-template.sh
# this command will replace the default rails layout with a Twitter Bootstrap layout
cp -v app/views/layouts/starter-template.html.erb ../app/views/layouts/application.html.erb
```

starter-template.html.erb is Twitter Bootstrap's starter template example merged with the default app/views/layouts/application.html.erb file that Rails generates.

Here's the resulting app/views/layouts/application.html.erb:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Bootstrap</title>
  <%= stylesheet_link_tag "application", media: "all", "data-turbolinks-track"
  <%= javascript_include_tag "application", "data-turbolinks-track" => true %>
  <%= csrf_meta_tags %>
  <style>
    body {
      padding-top: 60px; /* 60px to make the container go all the way to the bottom
    }
  </style>
</head>

  <body>
```

```

        <div class="navbar navbar-inverse navbar-fixed-top">
<div class="navbar-inner">
  <div class="container">
    <button type="button" class="btn btn-navbar" data-toggle="collapse" data-target="#navbar-collapse">
      <span class="icon-bar"></span>
      <span class="icon-bar"></span>
      <span class="icon-bar"></span>
    </button>
    <a class="brand" href="#">Project name</a>
    <div class="nav-collapse collapse">
      <ul class="nav">
<li class="active"><a href="#">Home</a></li>
<li><a href="#about">About</a></li>
<li><a href="#contact">Contact</a></li>
      </ul>
    </div><!--/.nav-collapse -->
  </div>
</div>
    <div class="container">

<h1>Bootstrap starter template</h1>
<p>Use this document as a way to quick start any new project.<br> All you get is t
<%= yield %>

    </div> <!-- /container -->

</body>

</body>
</html>

```

The starter example layout uses a fixed width layout, which is introduced at [scaffolding.html#layouts](#).

2. ☐ Compare our application at <http://localhost:3000> with <http://twitter.github.io/bootstrap/examples/starter-template.html>. Our newly created Rails application running on port 3000 should have

essentially the same appearance as the example running on Twitter's github.io site. If it doesn't something went wrong.

5 Reference Section

5.1 Twitter Bootstrap GitHub

Link	Description
https://github.com/twbs/bootstrap	The Twitter Bootstrap GitHub repository
/docs/examples/starter-template.html	Example #1 from Twitter Bootstrap
/docs/examples/hero.html	Example #2 from Twitter Bootstrap

5.2 The most popular Rails Bootstrap Gems

Gem	Version	Downloads	This version	Author	GitHub
bootstrap-sass	3.0.2.1	2,400,000	8,200	Thomas McDonald	
twitter-bootstrap-rails	2.2.8	960,000	99,000	Seyhun Akyurek	
less-rails-bootstrap	3.0.5	170,000	1,000	Ken Collins	
sass-twitter-bootstrap	2.3.0	3,900	720	Wade Tandy	