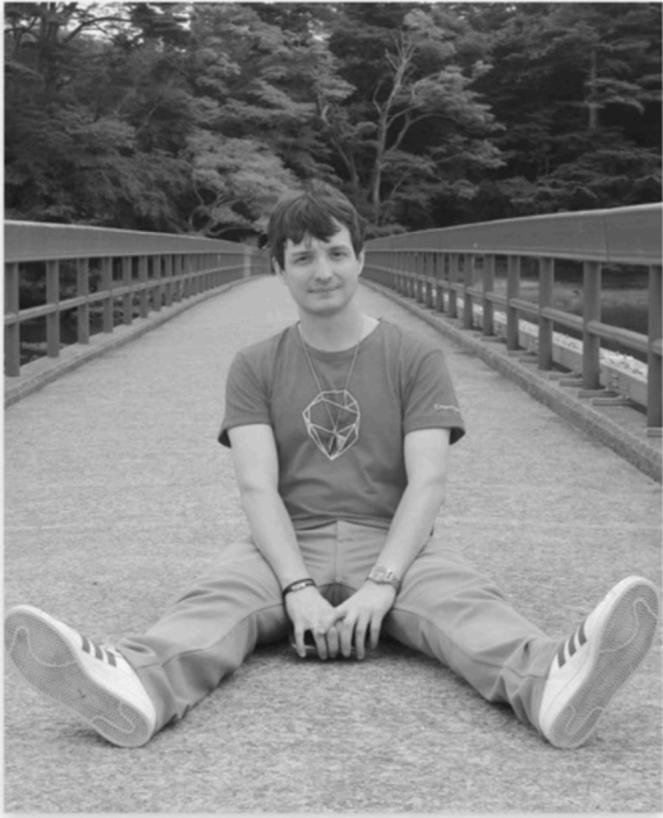


Engine-ering Rails Applications

Vladimir Dementyev,
Saint-P Ruby 2019





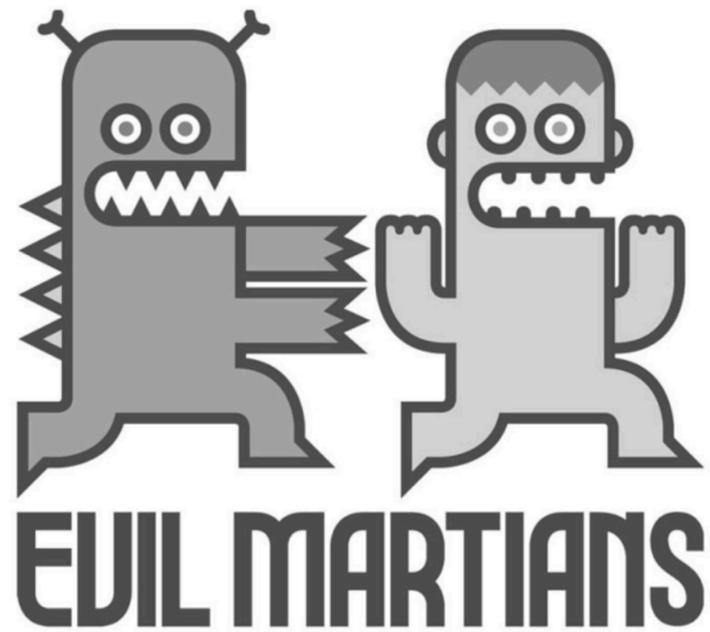
Vladimir Dementyev

A screenshot of a GitHub profile for Vladimir Dementyev (palkan). The profile shows a bio: "Code & Cats & Rock'n'Roll". It lists several repositories: "anycable/anycable" (Polyglot replacement for Ruby WebSocket servers with Action Cable protocol, 933 stars, 27 forks), "test-prof" (Ruby Tests Profiling Toolbox, 722 stars, 28 forks), "action_policy" (Authorization framework for Ruby/Rails applications, 406 stars, 2 forks), and "logidze" (Database changes log for Rails, 504 stars, 28 forks). The profile also includes contact information: "@evilmartians", "dementiev.vm@gmail.com", and "https://twitter.com/palkan_tula".

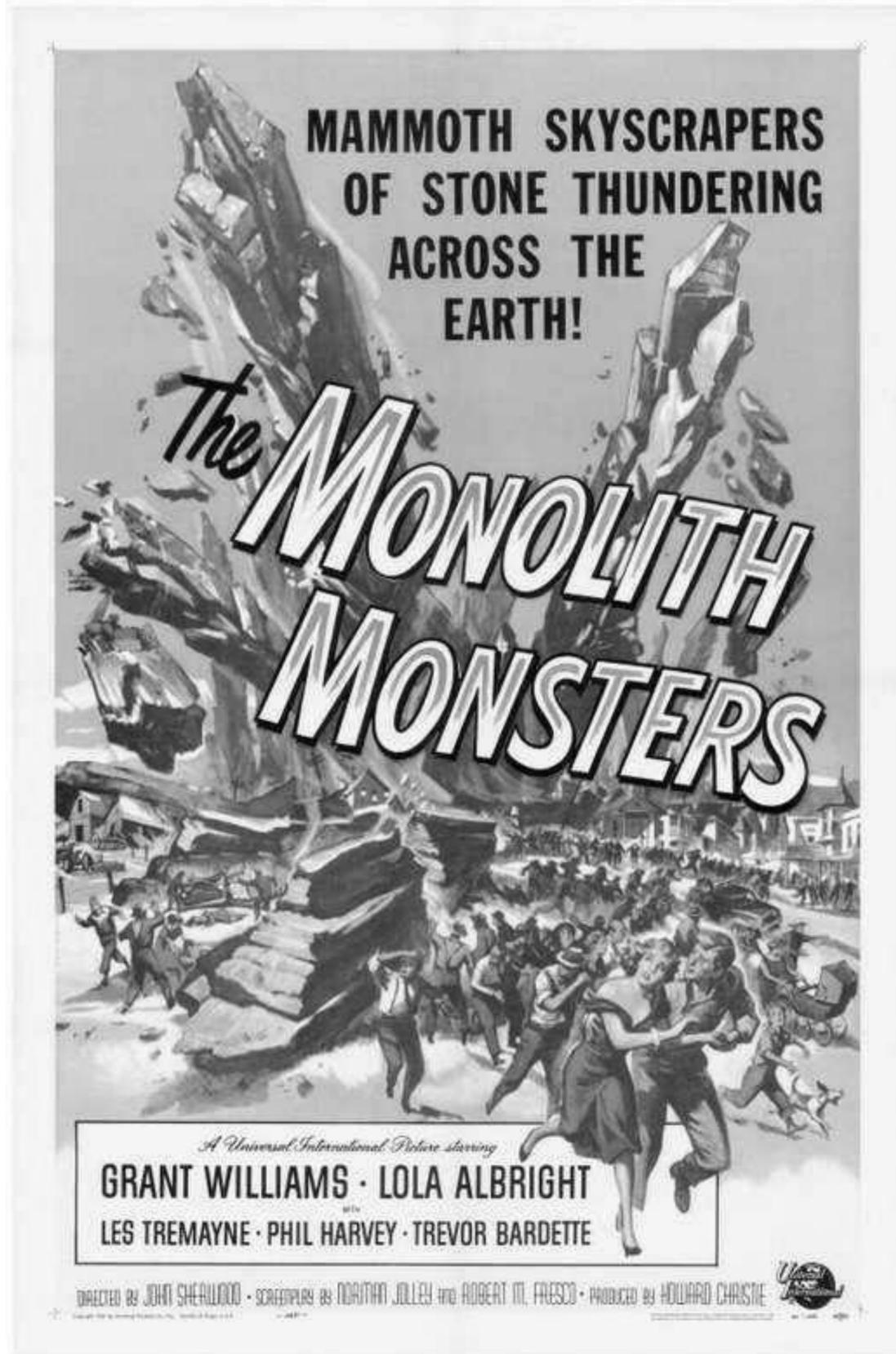
Vladimir Dementyev

@palkan

DEV @palkan_tula



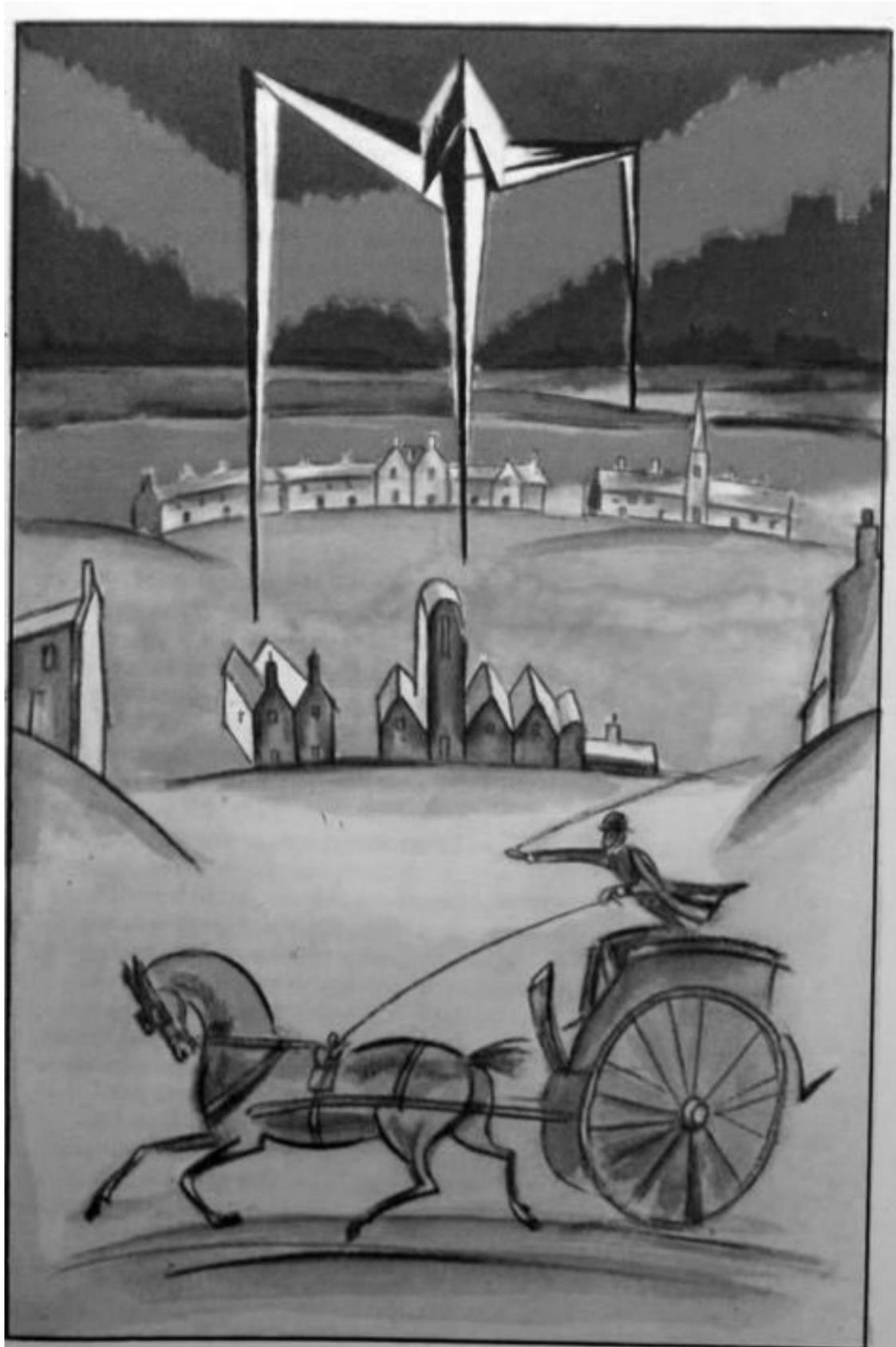
TEAM
LID



We* are
Doomed

* Rails developers



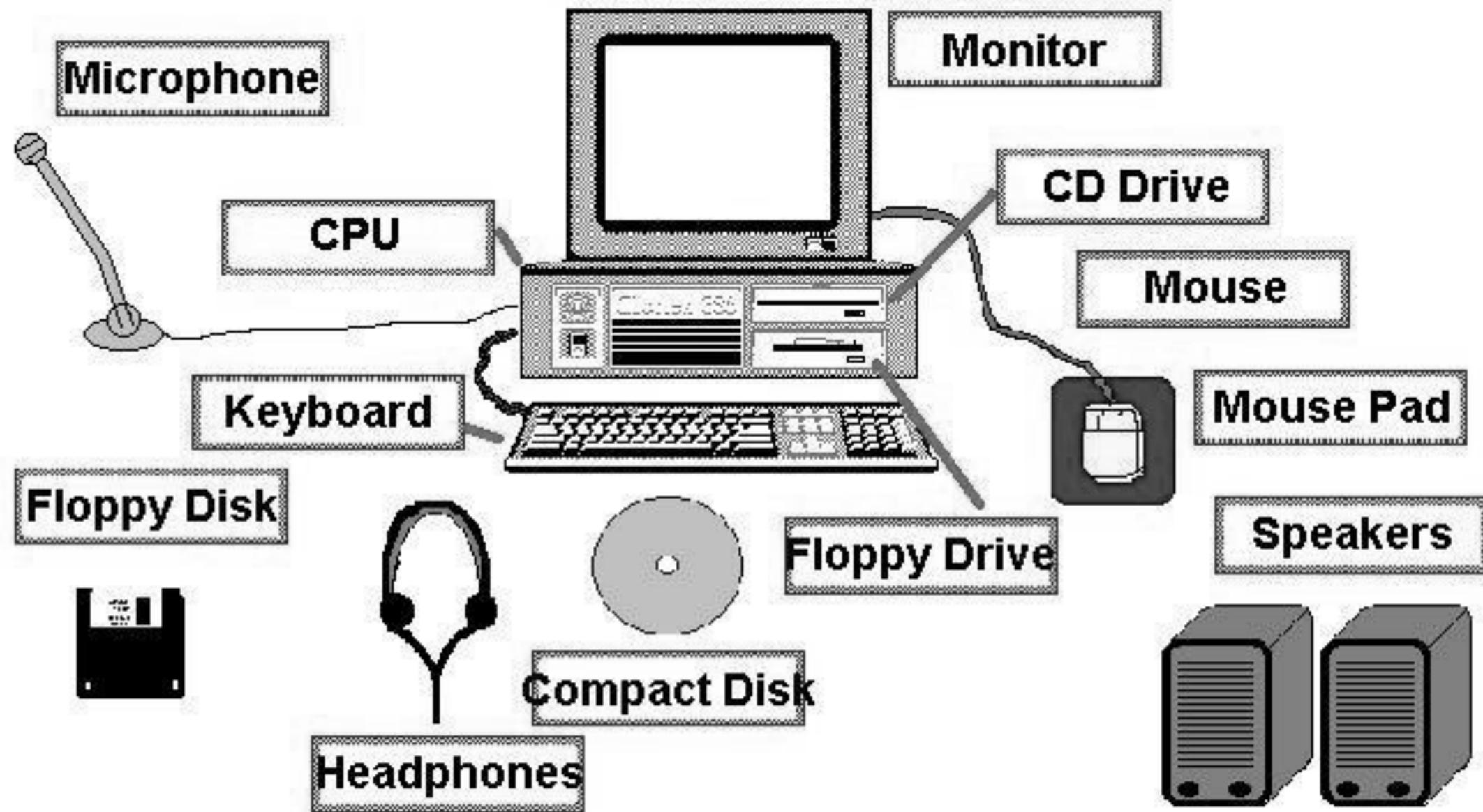


V.Yurlov, for "The war of the worlds" by H.G.Wells

Can you escape
your destiny?



Components



Monolith



Hanami

Monolith First

Our default application `Web` can be used as a UI interface for our customers. At a certain point in our story, we want to manage our users with an admin panel.

We know that the set of features that we're going to introduce doesn't belong to our main UI (`Web`). On the other hand, it's **too early** for us to implement a microservices architecture, only for the purpose of helping our users reset their password.

Hanami has a solution for our problem: we can generate a new app that lives in the same Ruby process, but it's a separated component.



Elixir

Umbrella projects

Let's start a new project using `mix new`. This new project will be named `kv_umbrella` and we need to pass the `--umbrella` option when creating it. Do not create this new project inside the existing `kv` project!

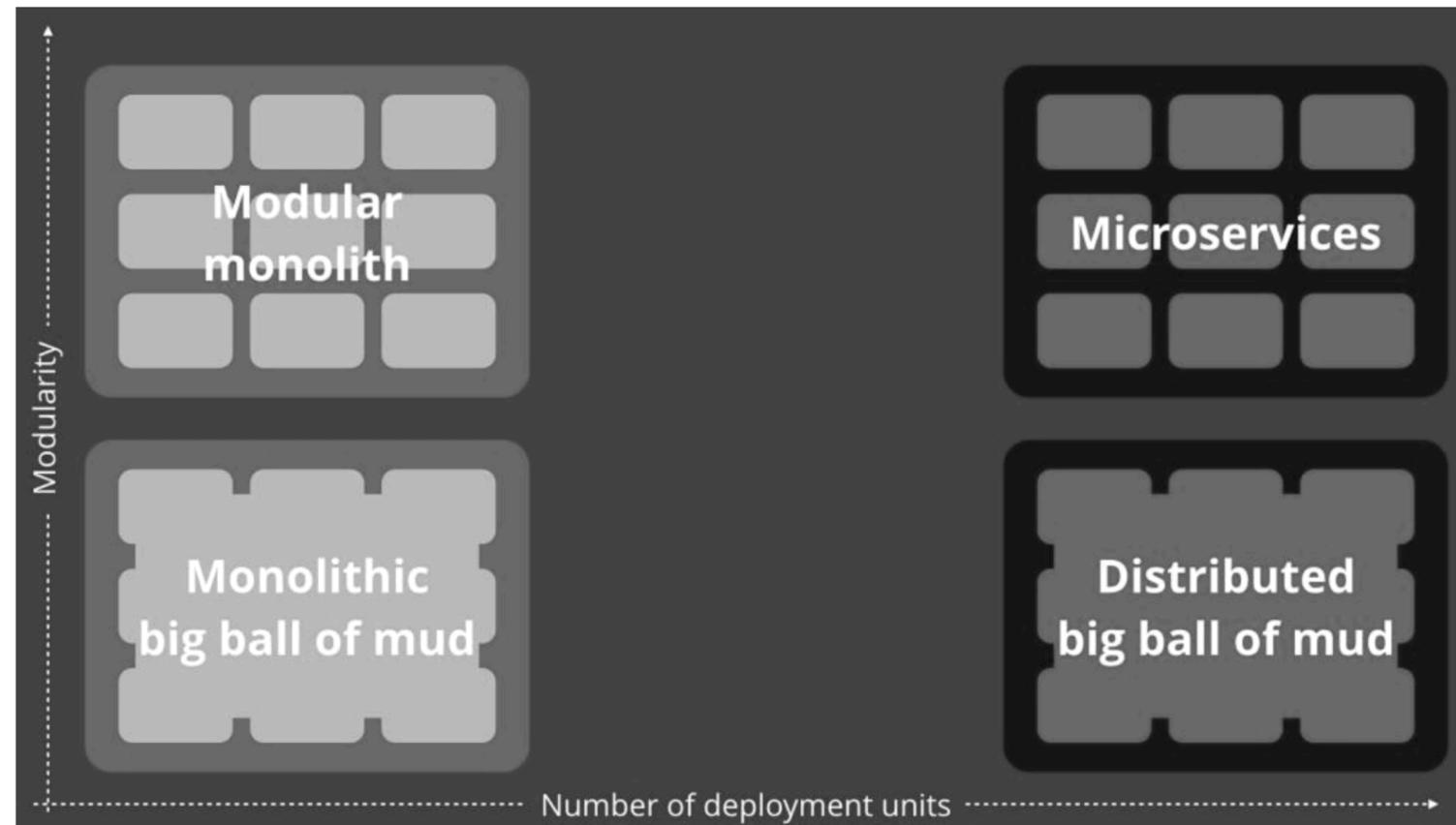
```
$ mix new kv_umbrella --umbrella
* creating README.md
* creating .formatter.exs
* creating .gitignore
* creating mix.exs
* creating apps
* creating config
* creating config/config.exs
```



Shopify: Modular Monolith

Modular Monoliths

We wanted a solution that increased modularity without increasing the number of deployment units, allowing us to get the advantages of both monoliths and microservices without so many of the downsides.



Monolith vs Microservices by Simon Brown



РГДБ
2015

И. КРЫЛОВ

SHOPIFY

И

all others

Художник В. Лихачёв



Производство студии „Диафильм“, 1962 г.

Rails



Home

Guides Index

Contribute

Getting Started with Engines

In this guide you will learn about engines and how they can be used to provide additional functionality to their host applications through a clean and very easy-to-use interface.

After reading this guide, you will know:

- ✓ **What makes an engine.**
- ✓ **How to generate an engine.**
- ✓ **How to build features for the engine.**
- ✓ **How to hook the engine into an application.**
- ✓ **How to override engine functionality in the application.**
- ✓ **Avoid loading Rails frameworks with Load and Configuration Hooks**

1 What are engines?

Chapters

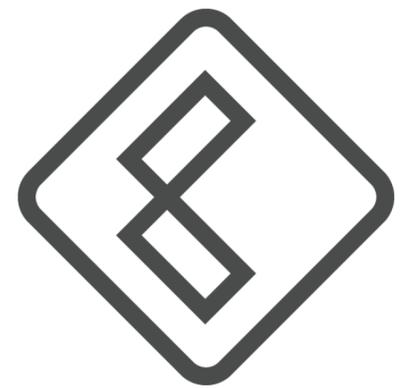
1. **What are engines?**
2. **Generating an engine**
 - [Inside an Engine](#)
3. **Providing engine functionality**
 - [Generating an Article Resource](#)
 - [Generating a Comments Resource](#)
4. **Hooking Into an Application**
 - [Mounting the Engine](#)
 - [Engine setup](#)
 - [Using a Class Provided by the Application](#)
 - [Configuring an Engine](#)
5. **Testing an engine**
 - [Functional Tests](#)





The Book?



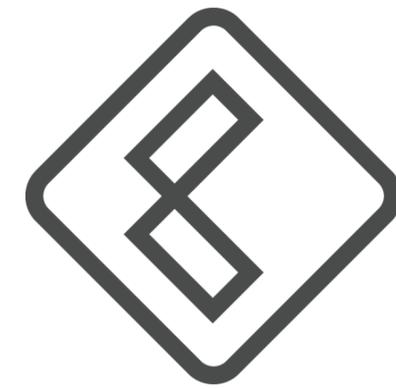


common

What we've done

Or how we decided to
go with engines





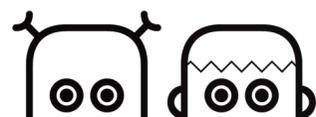
common

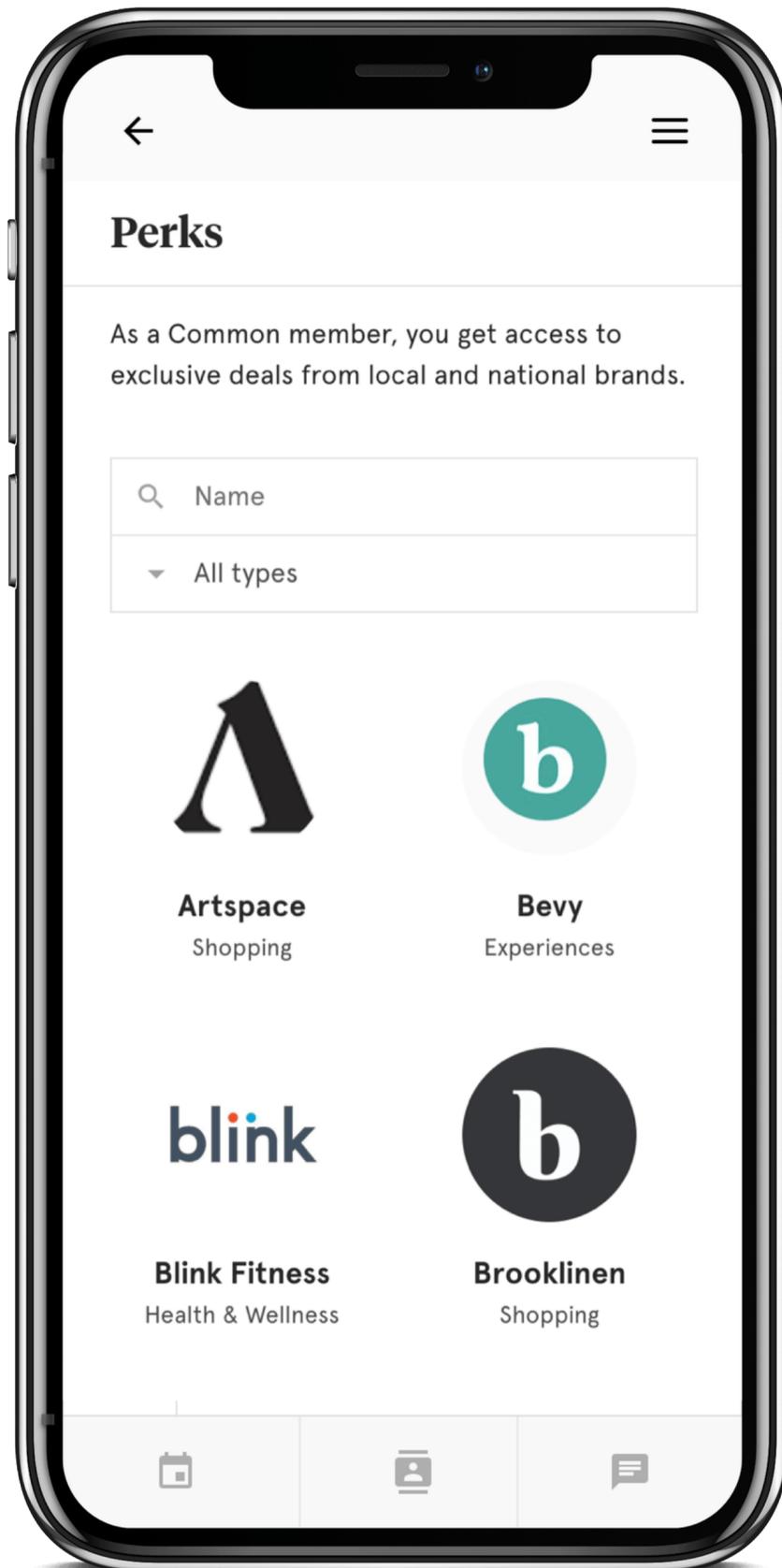
Co-living rentals service



Our mission

- **They had** a property and lease managements system (admin panel)
- **They needed** a community app for users
- **They wanted** to keep everything in the same Rails app





Community

- Events
- Perks
- Chat
- Billing



Phase #1: Namespaces

```
app/  
  controllers/  
    chat/...  
  models/  
    chat/...  
  jobs/  
    chat/...
```



Namespaces

- Quick start
- Fake isolation



Our mission evolves

- **There is** a property and lease management application (admin panel)
- **We need** a community app for users
- **We (they) want** to keep everything in the same Rails app
- And **we (again, they) want** to re-use the app's code in the future for a side-project



Phase #2: Engines & Gems

```
app/...  
engines/  
  chat/  
    app/  
      controllers/...  
      ...  
      lib/...  
gems/...
```



The Modular Monolith: Rails Architecture



Dan Manges [Follow](#)

Jan 23, 2018 · 12 min read

One of the hardest things about building a startup is handling the rapid growth in team and technology. The best way to build software with a team of three engineers is different than with ten engineers, or twenty, or fifty. Make a change to your process today, and you're doing it too soon. Wait until tomorrow, and it feels too late.



```
rails plugin new \  
my_engine --mountable
```

Engems

Building Rails apps from
engines and gems



Crash Course in Engines

```
$ rails plugin new my_engine \  
--mountable # or --full
```

```
create  
create  README.md  
create  Rakefile  
create  Gemfile
```

```
create  my_engine.gemspec
```

Engine is a gem



Crash Course in Engines

```
my_engine/  
  app/  
    controllers/..  
    ..  
  config/routes.rb  
  lib/  
    my_engine/engine.rb  
    my_engine.rb
```

..... Added to paths



Crash Course in Engines

```
# my_engine/lib/my_engine/engine.rb
module MyEngine
  class Engine < ::Rails::Engine
    # only in mountable engines
    isolate_namespace MyEngine
  end
end
```



Crash Course in Engines

```
# my_engine/config/routes.rb
MyEngine::Engine.routes.draw do
  get "/best_ruby_conference",
      to: redirect("https://spbrubyconf.ru")
end
```



Crash Course in Engines

```
# <root>/Gemfile  
gem "my_engine", path: "my_engine"
```



Crash Course in Engines

```
# <root>/config/routes.rb  
Rails.application.routes.draw do  
  mount MyEngine::Engine => "/my_engine"  
end
```



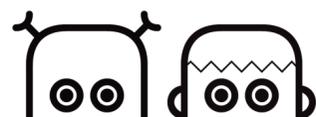
Crash Course in Engines

```
$ rake routes
```

```
Prefix Verb   URI Pattern   Controller#Action
...
my_engine /my_engine   MyEngine::Engine
```

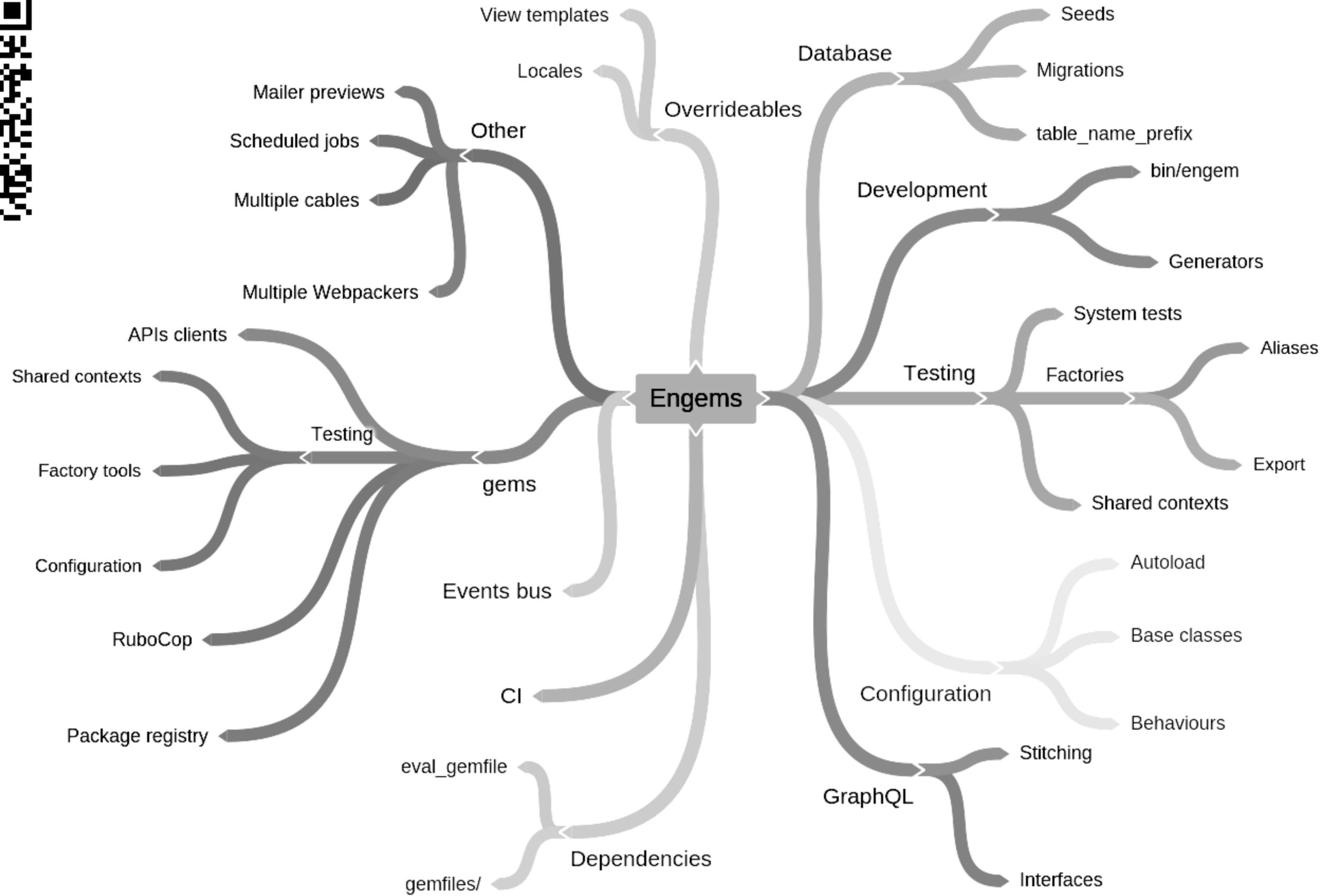
```
Routes for MyEngine::Engine:
```

```
best_ruby_conference GET /best_ruby_conference(:format)
```



The end





GROUP 1

routes.rb kin-web • config

GROUP 2

× ≡ Gemfile kin-web

▼ KIN (WORKSPACE)

▼ engines

> active-storage-proxy

> chat_by

> common-events

> connect_by

> manage_by

> meet_by

> perks_by

> gemfiles

▼ gems

> common-factory

> common-graphql

> common-rubocop

> common-testing

> common-twilio-client

> twilio_chat_client

> twilio_notify_client

> lib

> OUTLINE

```
3 Rails.application.routes.draw do
```

```
4   mount RoutesUtils::AppleAppSite => "/apple-app-site-association"
```

```
5   mount ConnectBy::Engine => "/"
```

```
6   mount ChatBy::Engine => "/"
```

```
7   mount MeetBy::Engine => "/"
```

```
8
```

```
9   root to: redirect("/admin")
```

≡ Gemfile ×

kin-web > ≡ Gemfile

```
52 # Core engine
```

```
53 gem "connect_by", path: "engines/connect_by"
```

```
54 eval_gemfile "engines/connect_by/Gemfile.runtime"
```

```
55
```

```
56 # PerksBy engine
```

```
57 gem "perks_by", path: "engines/perks_by"
```

```
58 eval_gemfile "engines/perks_by/Gemfile.runtime"
```

```
59
```

```
60 # ChatBy engine
```

```
61 gem "chat_by", path: "engines/chat_by"
```

```
62 eval_gemfile "engines/chat_by/Gemfile.runtime"
```

```
63
```

```
64 # MeetBy engine
```

```
65 gem "meet_by", path: "engines/meet_by"
```

```
66 eval_gemfile "engines/meet_by/Gemfile.runtime"
```

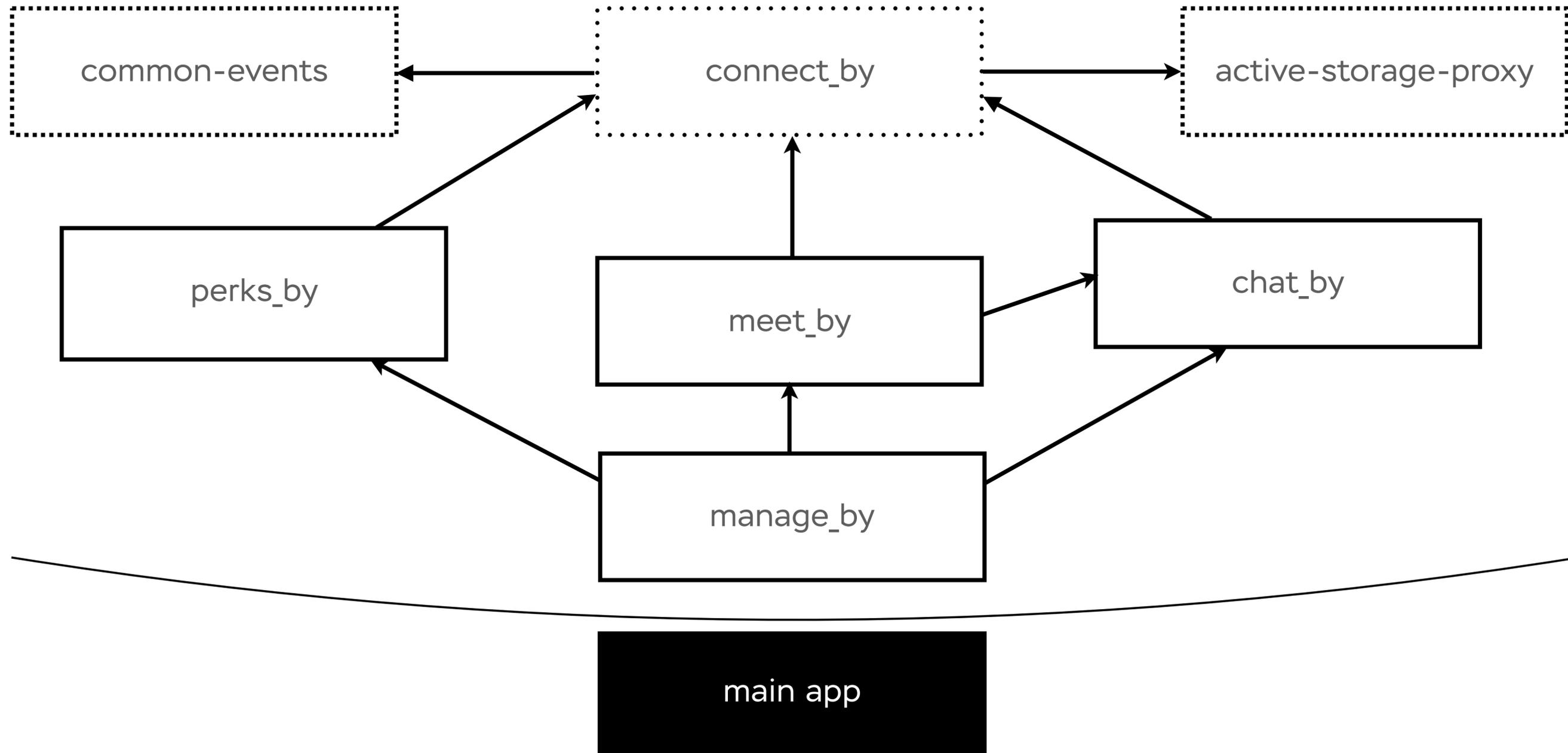
```
67
```

```
68 # Admin console engine
```

```
69 gem "manage_by", path: "engines/manage_by"
```

```
70 eval_gemfile "engines/manage_by/Gemfile.runtime"
```

Common Engines



Dependencies

- How to use non-Rubygems deps?
- How to share common deps?
- How to sync versions?



Path/Git problem

```
# engines/my_engine/Gemfile
gem "local-lib", path: "../local-lib"
gem "git-lib", github: "palkan/git-lib"

# <root>/Gemfile
gem "my_engine", path: "engines/my_engine"
gem "local-lib", path: "../local-lib"
gem "git-lib", github: "palkan/git-lib"
```



eval_gemfile

```
# engines/my_engine/Gemfile
eval_gemfile "./Gemfile.runtime"

# engines/my_engine/Gemfile.runtime
gem "local-lib", path: "../local-lib"
gem "git-lib", github: "palkan/git-lib"

# <root>/Gemfile
gem "my_engine", path: "engines/my_engine"
eval_gemfile "engines/my_engine/Gemfile.runtime"
```



eval_gemfile

Gemfiles and gemspecs

We define gems/engines dependencies and requirements using multiple files:

- `<gem>/<gem>.gemspec` – this is Gem specification; it defines **requirements** for this gem (for runtime and development); all required libraries (even *local*) must be specified in the gemspec: we use this information when checking *dirtyness* of gems on CI (see `/.circleci/is-dirty`)
- `<gem>/Gemfile.runtime` – defines where to find non-RubyGems **runtime** dependencies (local and GitHub); this file is used by other gems via the `eval_gemfile` method.
- `<gem>/Gemfile` – defines where to find non-RubyGems **development** dependencies (local and GitHub); always *includes* (via `eval_gemfile`) the `Gemfile.runtime` file.



Shared Gemfiles

```
gemfiles/  
  profilers.gemfile  
  rails.gemfile
```

```
gem "rails", "6.0.0.rc1"
```

```
gem "stackprof", "0.2.12"  
gem "ruby-prof", "0.17.0"  
gem "memory_profiler", "0.9.12"
```



Shared Gemfiles

```
# engines/my_engine/Gemfile
eval_gemfile "../gemfiles/rails.runtime"
eval_gemfile "../gemfiles/profilers.runtime"
```

```
# <root>/Gemfile
eval_gemfile "gemfiles/rails.runtime"
eval_gemfile "gemfiles/profilers.runtime"
```

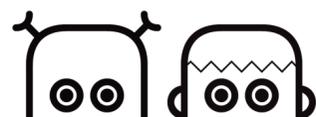


Keep Versions N'Sync

```
gem 'transdeps'
```

A gem to find inconsistent dependency versions in component-based Ruby apps.

NOT VERIFIED



DB vs. Engines

- How to manage migrations?
- How to write seeds?
- How to namespace tables?



Migrations. Option #1

Install migrations:

```
rails my_engine:install:migrations
```



Migrations. Option #2

“Mount” migrations:

```
# engines/my_engine/lib/my_engine/engine.rb
initializer "my_engine.migrations" do |app|
  app.config.paths["db/migrate"].concat(
    config.paths["db/migrate"].expanded
  )
  # For checking pending migrations
  ActiveRecord::Migrator.migrations_paths +=
    config.paths["db/migrate"].expanded.flatten
end
```



Seeds

```
# <root>/db/seed.rb
ActiveRecord::Base.transaction do
  ConnectBy::Engine.load_seed
  PerksBy::Engine.load_seed
  ChatBy::Engine.load_seed
  MeetBy::Engine.load_seed
end
```



table_name_prefix

```
class CreateConnectByInterestTags < ActiveRecord::Migration
  include ConnectBy::MigrationTablePrefix

  def change
    create_table :interest_tags do |t|
      t.string :name, null: false
    end
  end
end
```



table_name_prefix

```
module ConnectBy
  module MigrationTablePrefix
    def table_prefix
      ConnectBy.table_name_prefix
    end
  end
end
```

```
def table_name_options(config = ActiveRecord::Base)
  {
    table_name_prefix: "#{table_prefix}#{config.table_name_prefix}",
    table_name_suffix: config.table_name_suffix
  }
end
```

```
end
```

```
end
```



table_name_prefix

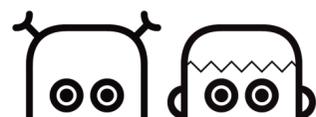
```
# config/application.rb  
config.connect_by.table_name_prefix = "connect_"
```



Factories

```
# engines/my_engine/lib/my_engine/engine.rb
initializer "my_engine.factories" do |app|
  factories_path = root.join("spec", "factories")
  ActiveSupport.on_load(:factory_bot) do
    require "connect_by/ext/factory_bot_dsl"
    FactoryBot.definition_file_paths.unshift factories_path
  end
end
```

Custom load hook



Factories: Aliasing

```
using ConnectBy :: FactoryBotDSL
```

Takes engine namespace into account

```
FactoryBot.define do
  # Uses ConnectBy.factory_name_prefix + "city" as the name
  factory :city do
    sequence(:name) { |n| Faker::Address.city + " (#{n})" }

    trait :private do
      visibility { :privately_visible }
    end
  end
end
```



Factories: Aliasing

```
# spec/support/factory_aliases.rb
unless ConnectBy.factory_name_prefix.empty?
  RSpec.configure do |config|
    config.before(:suite) do
      FactoryBot.factories.map do |factory|
        next unless factory.name.to_s.starts_with?(ConnectBy.factory_name_prefix)

        FactoryBot.factories.register(
          factory.name.to_s.sub(/^#{ConnectBy.factory_name_prefix}/, "").to_sym,
          factory
        )
      end
    end
  end
end
```



Factories: Aliasing

- Use short (local) name when testing the engine
- Use long (namespaced) when using in other engines



Shared Contexts

```
my_engine/  
  lib/  
    my_engine/  
      testing/  
        shared_contexts/...  
        shared_examples/...  
      testing.rb
```



Shared Contexts

```
# other_engine/spec/rails_helper.rb
```

```
require "connect_by/testing/shared_contexts"
```

```
require "connect_by/testing/shared_examples"
```



How to test engines?



Testing. Option #1

Using a full-featured Dummy app:

```
spec/  
  dummy/  
    app/  
      controllers/  
      ...  
    config/  
    db/  
    test/  
    ...
```



Testing. Option #2

```
gem 'combustion'
```

A library to help you test your Rails Engines in a simple and effective manner, instead of creating a full Rails application in your spec or test folder.



Combustion

begin

```
Combustion.initialize! :active_record, :active_job do
  config.logger = Logger.new(nil)
  config.log_level = :fatal
  config.autoloader = :zeitwerk
```

```
  config.active_storage.service = :test
  config.active_job.queue_adapter = :test
```

end

rescue => e

```
# Fail fast if application couldn't be loaded
```

```
$stdout.puts "Failed to load the app: #{e.message}\n" \
               "#{e.backtrace.take(5).join("\n")}"
```

exit(1)

end



Combustion

```
spec/  
  internal/  
    config/  
      storage.yml  
db/  
  schema.rb
```



Combustion

- Load only required Rails frameworks
- No boilerplate, only the files you need
- Automatically re-runs migrations for every test run



CI

commands:

engem:

description: Run engine/gem build

parameters:

target:

type: string

steps:

- run:

name: "[<< parameters.target >>] bundle install"

command: |

`.circleci/is-dirty` << parameters.target >> || \

bundle exec bin/engem << parameters.target >> build

Skip if no relevant
changes



.circleci/is-dirty

```
pattern = File.join(__dir__, " ../{engines,gems}/*/*.gemspec")

gemspecs = Dir.glob(pattern).map do |gemspec_file|
  Gem::Specification.load(gemspec_file)
end

names = gemspecs.each_with_object({}) do |gemspec, hash|
  hash[gemspec.name] = []
end

# see next slide
```



.circleci/is-dirty

```
tree = gemspecs.each_with_object(names) do |gemspec, hash|
  deps = Set.new(gemspec.dependencies.map(&:name)) +
Set.new(gemspec.development_dependencies.map(&:name))
  local_deps = deps & Set.new(names.keys)
  local_deps.each do |local_dep|
    hash[local_dep] << gemspec.name
  end
end

# invert tree to show which gem depends on what
tree.each_with_object(Hash.new { |h, k| h[k] = Set.new }) do |(name, deps), index|
  deps.each { |dep| index[dep] << name }
  index
end
```



.circleci/is-dirty

```
def dirty_libraries
  changed_files = `git diff $(git merge-base origin/master HEAD) --name-only`
    .split("\n")
  raise "failed to get changed files" unless $?.success?

  changed_files.each_with_object(Set.new) do |file, changeset|
    if file =~ %r{^(engines|gems)/([^\/]+)}
      changeset << Regexp.last_match[2]
    end
  end
end
```



CI

```
engines:  
  executor: rails  
  steps:  
    - attach_workspace:  
      at: .  
    - engem:  
      target: connect_by  
    - engem:  
      target: perks_by  
    - engem:  
      target: chat_by  
    - engem:  
      target: manage_by  
    - engem:  
      target: meet_by
```



Dev Tools

- `rails plugins new` is too simple
- Use generators: `rails g engine`



Generators

```
# lib/generators/engine/engine_generator.rb
class EngineGenerator < Rails::Generators::NamedBase
  source_root File.expand_path("templates", __dir__)

  def create_engine
    directory(".", "engines/#{name}")
  end
end
```



Dev Tools

- `rails plugins new` is too simple
- Use generators: `rails g engine`
- Manage engines: `bin/engem`



bin/engem

```
# run a specific test
```

```
$ ./bin/engem connect_by rspec spec/models/connect_by/city.rb:5
```

```
# runs `bundle install`, `rubocop` and `rspec` by default
```

```
$ ./bin/engem connect_by build
```

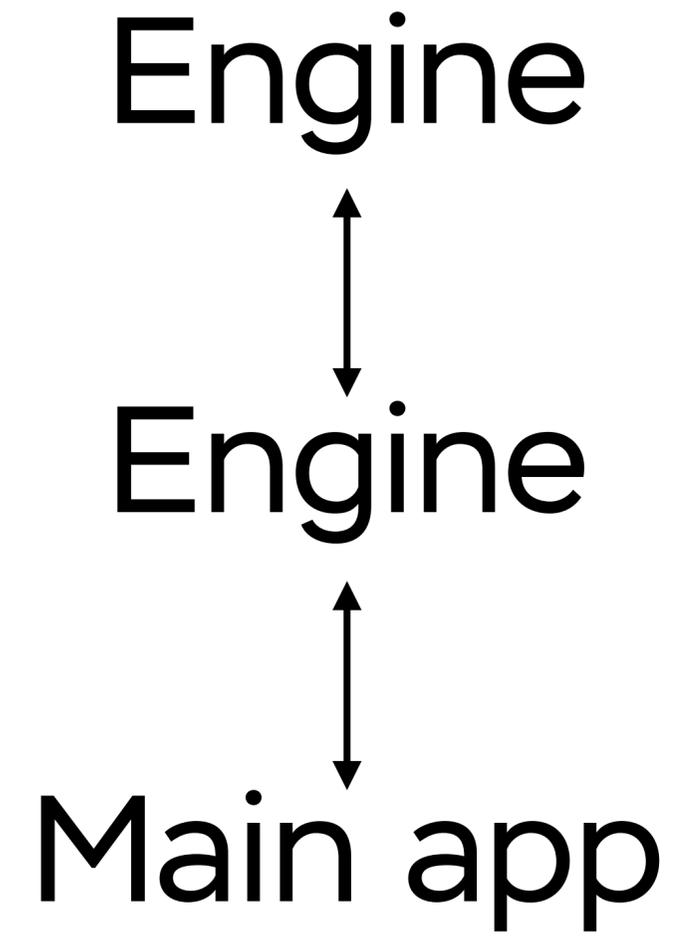
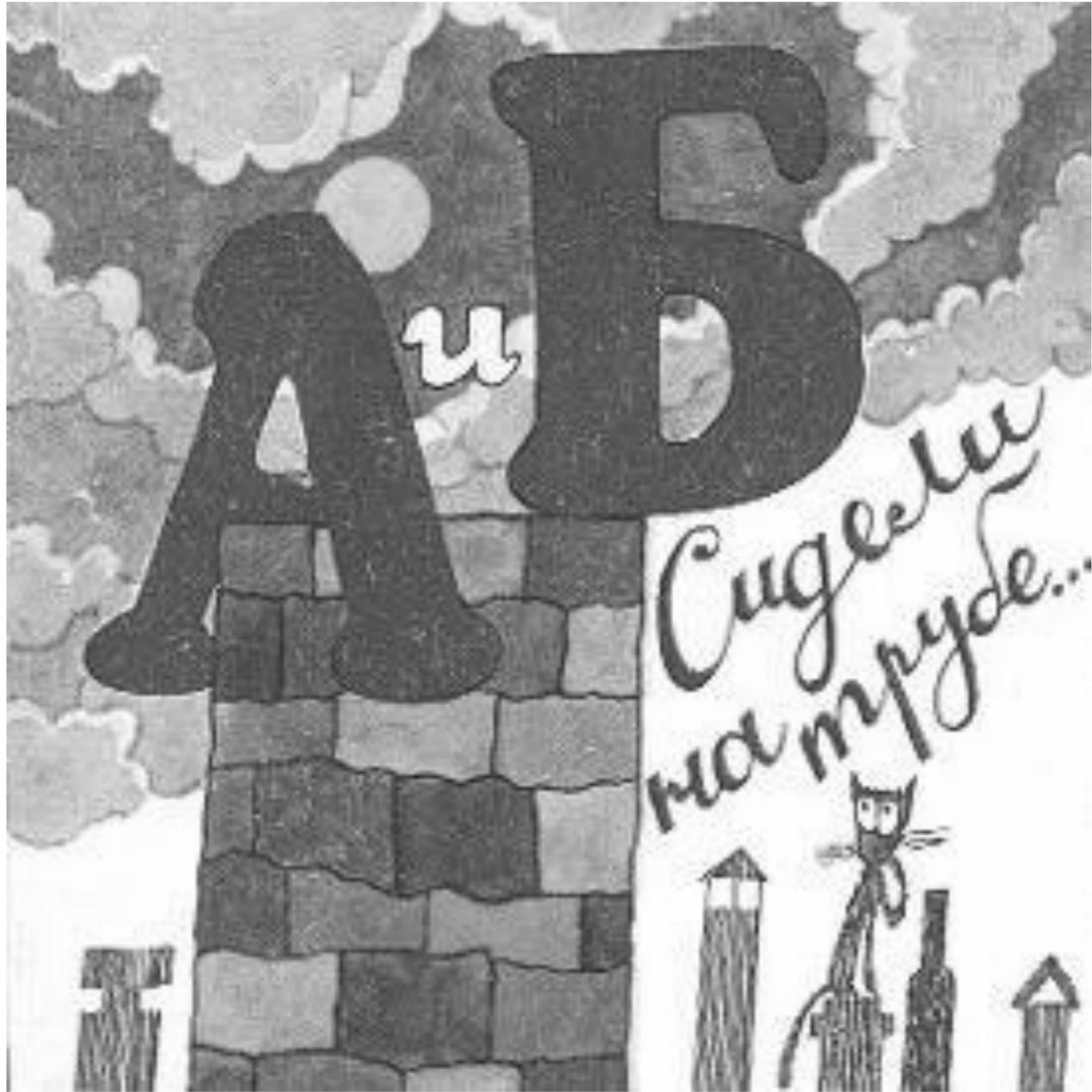
```
# generate a migration
```

```
$ ./bin/engem connect_by rails g migration <name>
```

```
# you can run command for all engines/gems at once by using "all" name
```

```
$ ./bin/engem all build
```





How to modify other
engine's entities?



Base & Behaviour

- Base Rails classes within an engine **MUST** be configurable
- They also **MAY** require to have a certain “interface”



Base & Behaviour

```
module ConnectBy
  class ApplicationController < Engine.config.application_controller.constantize
    raise "Must include ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour" unless
      self < ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour

    raise "Must implement #current_user method" unless
      instance_methods.include?(:current_user)
  end
end
```



Base & Behaviour

```
module ConnectBy
  class ApplicationController < Engine.config.application_controller.constantize
    raise "Must include ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour" unless
      self < ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour

    raise "Must implement #current_user method" unless
      instance_methods.include?(:current_user)
  end
end
```

Configurable



Base & Behaviour

```
# config/application.rb  
config.connect_by.application_controller =  
  "MyApplicationController"
```



Base & Behaviour

```
module ConnectBy
  class ApplicationController < Engine.config.application_controller.constantize
    raise "Must include ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour" unless
      self < ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour

    raise "Must implement #current_user method" unless
      instance_methods.include?(:current_user)
  end
end
```

“Interface”



Base & Behaviour

```
class ApplicationController < ActionController::API
  include ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour
  include JWTAuth
  include RavenContext if defined?(Raven)
end
```



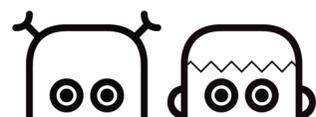
Modify Models

- Prefer **extensions** over **patches**
- Use **load hooks** (to support autoloading/reload)



Load Hooks

```
# engines/connect_by/app/models/connect_by/city.rb
module ConnectBy
  class City < ActiveRecord::Base
    # ...
    ActiveSupport.run_load_hooks(
      "connect_by/city",
      self
    )
  end
end
```



Load Hooks

```
# engines/meet_by/lib/meet_by/engine.rb
initializer "meet_by.extensions" do
  ActiveSupport.on_load("connect_by/city") do
    include ::MeetBy::Ext::ConnectBy::City
  end
end
```



Load Hooks

```
# engines/meet_by/app/models/ext/connect_by/city.rb
module MeetBy
  module Ext
    module ConnectBy
      module City
        extend ActiveSupport :: Concern

        included do
          has_many :events, class_name: "MeetBy :: Events :: Member",
            inverse_of: :user,
            foreign_key: :user_id,
            dependent: :destroy
        end
      end
    end
  end
end
```



How to communicate
between engines?



Problem

- Some “events” trigger actions in multiple engines
- E.g., user registration triggers chat membership initialization, manager notifications, etc.
- But user registration “lives” in `connect_by` and have no idea about chats, managers, whatever 🤔



Solution

- Events
- Events
- Events



Tools

- Hanami Events
- Rails Events Store
- Wisper (?)
- dry-events (?)



RAILS EVENT STORE

The open-source implementation of an Event Store for Ruby and Rails

[Get Started](#)

[Get Support](#)

Rails Event Store is a library for publishing, consuming, storing and retrieving events. It's your best companion for going with an Event-Driven Architecture for your Rails application.



Railsy RES

Railsy Rails Events Store

Since our architecture is modularized, we need a way for our components/engines to communicate with each other.

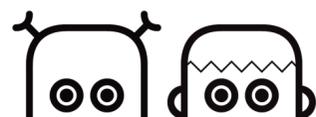
We do this by adding a pub/sub (or *event sourcing*) layer to our application via [Rails Event Store](#).

We do not use RES directly but through the `railsy-events` engine, which wraps RES functionality and provide its own API. That would allow us to replace RES in the future (if necessary) without changing our application code.



Railsy RES vs RES

- Class-independent event types
- Uses RES as interchangeable adapter
- Better testing tools
- Less verbose API and convention over configuration



Railsy RES

```
class ProfileCompleted < Railsy::Events::Event
  # (optional) event identifier is used for transmitting events
  # to subscribers.
  #
  # By default, identifier is equal to `name.underscore.gsub('/', '.')`.
  self.identifier = "profile_completed"

  # Add attributes accessors
  attributes :user_id

  # Sync attributes only available for sync subscribers
  sync_attributes :user
end
```



Railsy RES

```
event = ProfileCompleted.new(user_id: user.id)
```

```
# or with metadata
```

```
event = ProfileCompleted.new(  
  user_id: user.id,  
  metadata: { ip: request.remote_ip }  
)
```

```
# then publish the event
```

```
Railsy::Events.publish(event)
```



Railsy RES

```
initializer "my_engine.subscribe_to_events" do
  ActiveSupport.on_load "railsy-events" do |store|
    # async subscriber is invoked from background job,
    # enqueued after the current transaction commits
    store.subscribe MyEventHandler, to: ProfileCreated

    # anonymous handler (could only be synchronous)
    store.subscribe(to: ProfileCreated, sync: true) do |event|
      # do something
    end
  end

  # subscribes to ProfileCreated automatically
  store.subscribe OnProfileCreated :: DoThat
end
end
```

Convention over
configuration



Railsy RES

```
engines/  
  connect_by/  
    events/  
      connect_by/  
        users/  
          registered.rb  
chat_by/  
  subscribers/  
    connect_by/  
      users/  
        on_registered/  
          create_chat_account.rb
```



What we implement
in the main app?



Main App

- Authentication



Authentication

```
module ConnectBy
  class ApplicationController < Engine.config.application_controller.constantize
    raise "Must include ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour" unless
      self < ConnectBy::ControllerBehaviour

    raise "Must implement #current_user method" unless
      instance_methods.include?(:current_user)
  end
end
```

Engines don't care about
how do you obtain the
current user



Main App

- Authentication
- Feature/system tests
- Locales and mailers templates
- Instrumentation and exception handling
- Configuration





Gems

Or stop putting everything
into lib/ folder



Gems

- Shared non-application specific code between engines
- Isolated tests
- Ability to share between applications in the future (e.g., GitHub Package Registry)



Gems

```
gems/  
  common-rubocop/  
  common-testing/  
  common-graphql/  
  ...
```



common-rubocop

- Standard RuboCop configuration (based on `standard` gem)
- RuboCop plugins (e.g., `rubocop-rspec`)
- Custom cops



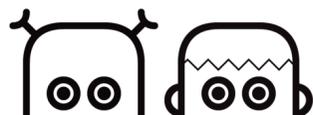
common-rubocop

```
# .rubocop.yml  
inherit_gem:  
  common-rubocop: config/base.yml
```



common-testing

- RSpec tools bundle (`factory_bot`, `faker`, `test-prof`, formatters)
- Common `spec_helper.rb` and `rails_helper.rb`



common-testing

```
# rails_helper.rb  
require "common/testing/rails_configuration"
```



common-graphql

- Base classes (object, mutation)
- Additional scalar types
- Batch loaders
- Testing helpers





Why engines?

And why not



Why engines?

- Modular monolith instead of monolith monsters or micro-services hell
- Code (and tests) isolation
- Loose coupling (no more spaghetti logic)



Why engines?

- Easy to upgrade frameworks (e.g., Rails) component by component
- Easy to re-use logic in another app
- ...and we can migrate to micro-services in the future (if we're brave enough)



Why not engines?

- Not so good third-party gems support
- Not so good support within Rails itself



Thanks!



Спасибо!

