RAILS API-ONLY?!

A Ruby on Rails API-only cheat sheet
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When should you use it?

✔ If your client (a SPA, a mobile native app, another application) will render all HTML pages the user will see

✔ Your Rails API has the solo responsibility to serve JSON resources to your client

How different is it from a Rails app?

rails new my_api -- api

/channels
/controllers*
/jobs
/mailers
/models
/views
    /layouts/mailer

*no new & edit actions, render :json only

rails new my_app

/assets
/channels
/controllers
/helpers
/jobs
/mailers
/models
/views

Rails API-only structure:

✖ no views
✖ no view helpers
✖ no assets
✖ no new & edit actions
✖ layouts and templates rendering
✖ no sessions & cookies
✖ no HTTP method overriding

Turn a Rails API-only into a normal app

1. Change the config.rb file;
2. Inherit ActionController from ActionController::Base
3. Generate default directories for assets, views, view helpers;
4. Add back new & edit action;
5. Add back necessary middleware (sessions, cookies, etc.)
6. Add all the modules you might need from ActionController::Base
7. Add back CSRF protection
8. Learn from this experience :)

Avoid at all costs:

✋ storing any sensitive credentials on the browser's localstorage ▯
✋ handling session management on your own
✋ not following API standards (openAPI, HTTP requests)

Coming soon:

Authentication strategy
Standards
Best practices...

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