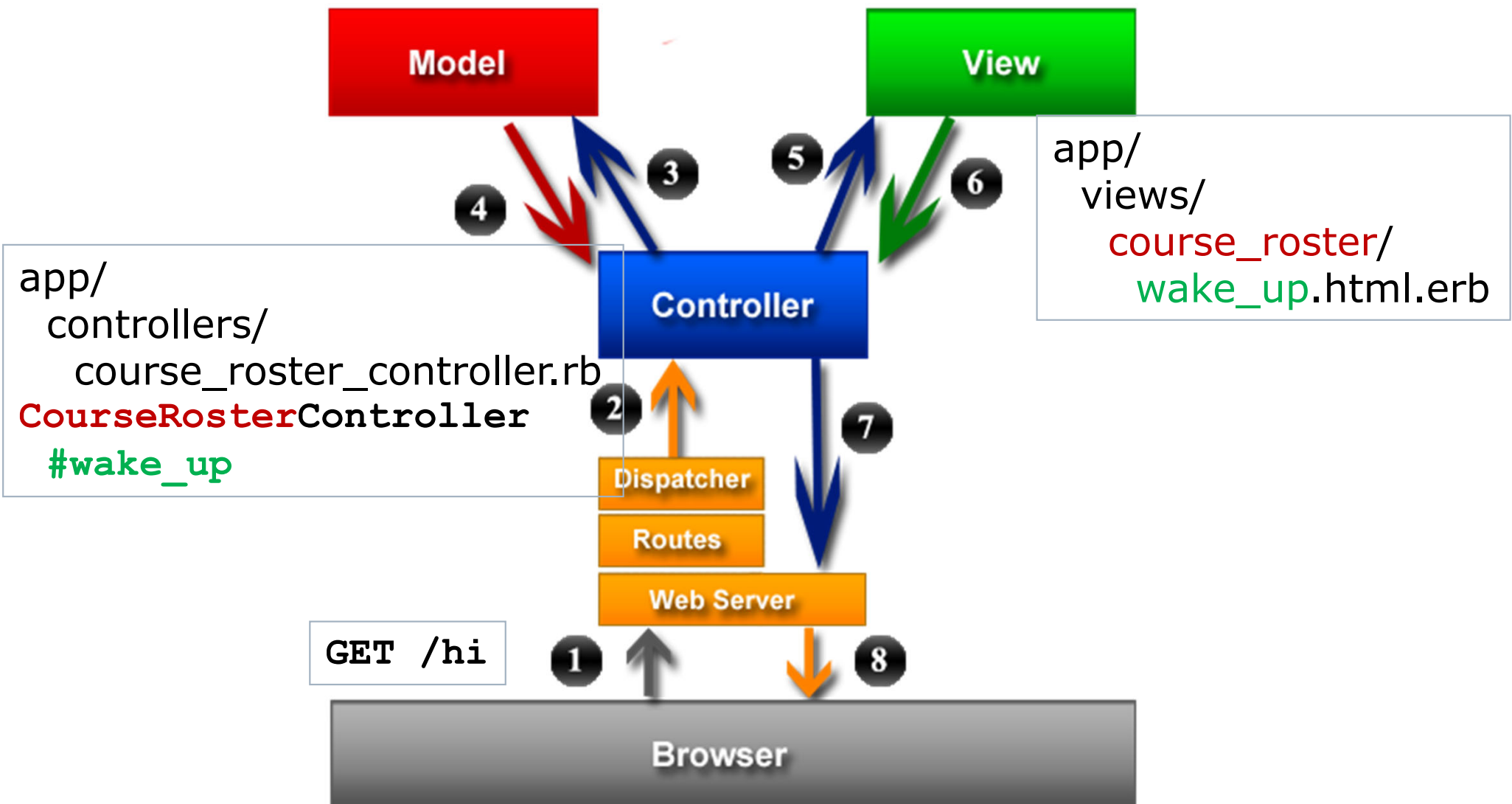


Rails: Views and Controllers II

Computer Science and Engineering ■ College of Engineering ■ The Ohio State University

Lecture 32

Recall: Rails Architecture



Wiring Views and Controllers

- A controller is just an ordinary Ruby class
 - Extends `ApplicationController`
`class CourseRosterController <`
 `ApplicationController`
 - Location: `app/controllers/`
 - Filename: `course_roster_controller.rb`
- Actions are methods in that class
 `def wake_up`
 `...`
 `end`
- A view is an HTML page (kind of) that corresponds to that action
 - Location: `app/views/course_roster/`
 - Filename: `wake_up.html.erb`
 - Has access to *instance* variables (e.g., `@student`) of corresponding controller!

Example: books/show.html.erb

```
<p style="color: green"><%= notice %></p>
```

```
<%= render @book %>
```

```
<div>
```

```
  <%= link_to "Edit this book",  
    edit_book_path(@book) %> |
```

```
  <%= link_to "Back to books", books_path %>
```

```
  <%= button_to "Destroy this book", @book,  
    method: :delete %>
```

```
</div>
```

Creating a Response

- There are 3 ways a controller action can create the HTTP response:
 1. Do nothing: defaults are used
 2. Call render method
 3. Call redirect method
- The first 2 result in HTTP status 200 (OK)
 - Body of response is the HTML of the view
- The 3rd results in HTTP status 302 (temporary redirect)
- Different formats for body of response are possible (HTML, JSON, plain text...)

1: Default Response

- If the action does not call render (or redirect), then render is implicitly called on corresponding view

```
class BooksController <
  ApplicationController

  def index
    @books = Book.all
  end
end
```

- Results in call to render

```
app/views/books/index.html.erb
```

2: Explicitly Calling Render

- Argument: *action* whose *view* should be rendered

```
def wake_up
  render :show # or render "show"
end
def show ...
```

- Action (show) does *not* get executed

- Action could be from another controller

```
render 'products/show'
```

- Can return text (or json or xml) directly

```
render plain: "OK"
render json: @book # calls to_json
render xml: @book # calls to_xml
```

- Note: render *does not* end action, so don't call it twice ("double render error")

3: Calling Redirect

- Sends response of an HTTP redirect (3xx)
 - Default status: 302 (temporary redirect)
 - Override for permanent redirection (301)
- Consequence: client (browser) does *another* request, this time to the URL indicated by the redirect response
 - New request is a GET by default
- Need URL, can use named route helpers

```
redirect_to user_url(@user)
redirect_to users_path
redirect_to edit_user_path(@user)
redirect_to @user # calls url_for(@user)
```
- Or :back to go back in (client's) history

Redirect vs Render

□ Similarity

- Point to a different view
- Neither ends the action

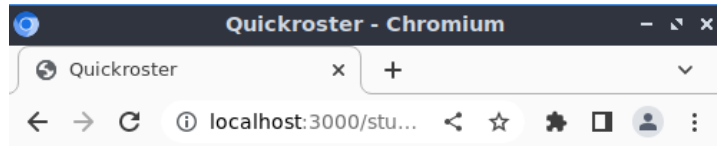
render... and return # *force termination*

□ Difference

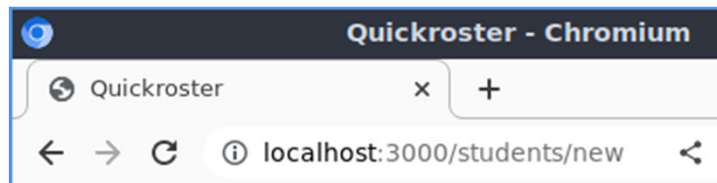
- Redirect entails 2 round-trips: request action response; request action response
- Redirect requires a URL as argument, Render takes a view (action)

□ Common usage for Redirect: POST-Redirect-GET pattern

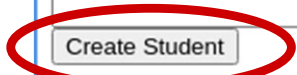
GET Blank Form, POST the Form



GET *"a blank form"*

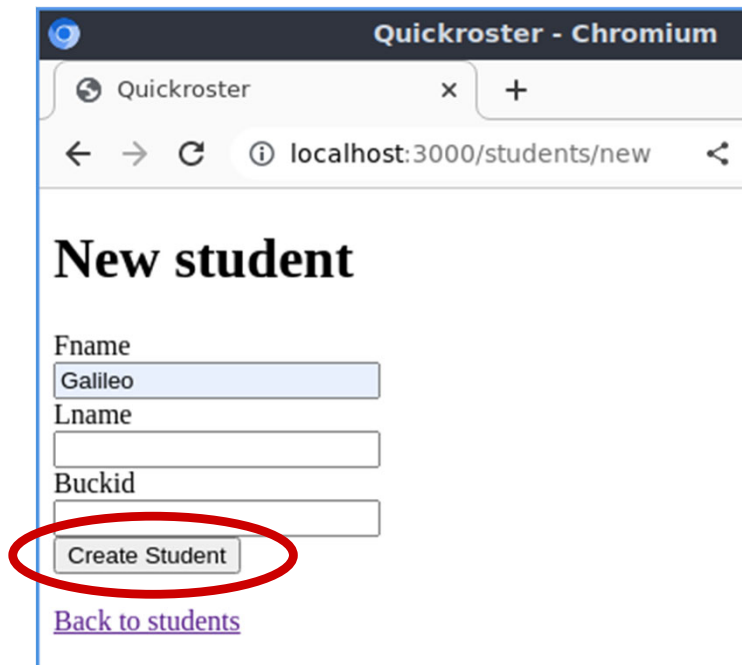


POST /students
lname: ...etc



[Back to students](#)

GET Blank Form, POST the Form



Quickroster - Chromium

Quickroster x +

localhost:3000/students/new

New student

Fname
Galileo

Lname

Buckid

Create Student

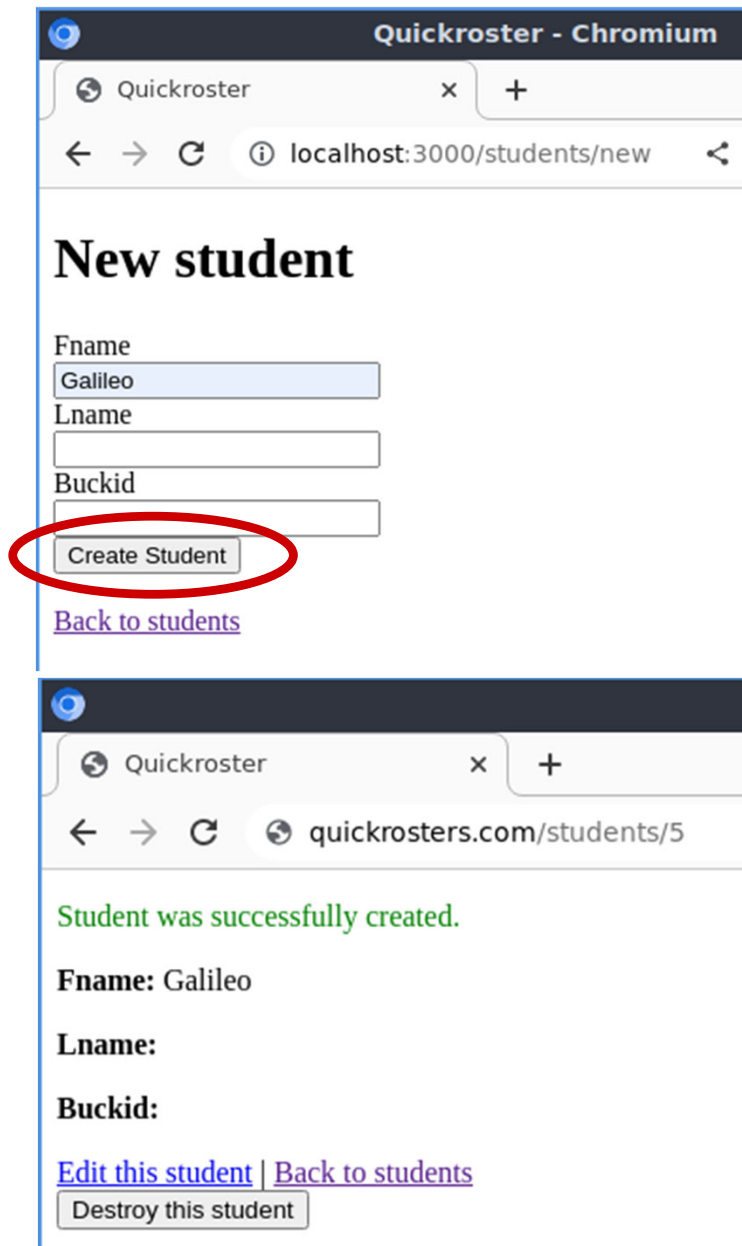
[Back to students](#)

POST /students
lname: ...etc



?

GET Blank Form, POST the Form



Quickroster - Chromium

Quickroster x +

localhost:3000/students/new

New student

Fname
Galileo

Lname

Buckid

Create Student

[Back to students](#)

Quickroster x +

quickrosters.com/students/5

Student was successfully created.

Fname: Galileo

Lname:

Buckid:

[Edit this student](#) | [Back to students](#)

Destroy this student

POST /students
lname: ...etc



GET Blank Form, POST the Form

The image shows two screenshots of a web browser. The top screenshot shows the 'New student' form with fields for 'Fname' (filled with 'Galileo'), 'Lname', and 'Buckid'. A 'Create Student' button is at the bottom. The bottom screenshot shows the confirmation page with the message 'Student was successfully created.' and the details 'Fname: Galileo', 'Lname:', and 'Buckid:'. It also includes links for 'Edit this student', 'Back to students', and a 'Destroy this student' button. A red circle highlights the refresh button in the browser's address bar of the bottom screenshot.

Quickroster - Chromium

Quickroster x +

localhost:3000/students/new

New student

Fname
Galileo

Lname

Buckid

Create Student

[Back to students](#)

Quickroster x +

quickrosters.com/students/5

Student was successfully created.

Fname: Galileo

Lname:

Buckid:

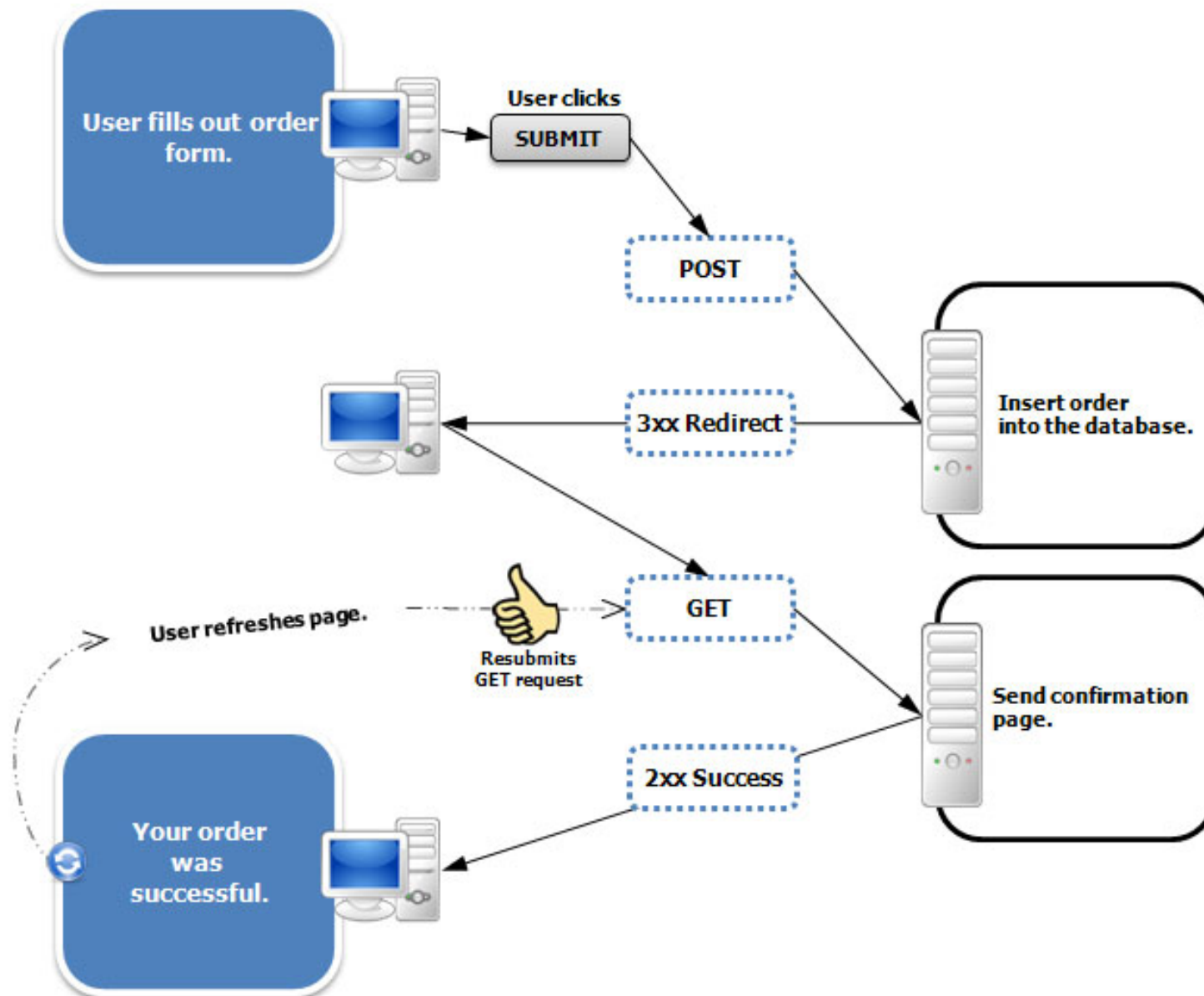
[Edit this student](#) | [Back to students](#)

Destroy this student

POST /students
lname: ...etc



POST-Redirect-GET Pattern



Example of POST-Redirect-GET

```
class BooksController <
  ApplicationController

  def create
    @book = Book.new(book_params)
    if @book.save
      redirect_to book_url(@book),
        notice: 'Book successfully created'
    else
      render :new
    end
  end
end
```

Example of POST-Redirect-GET

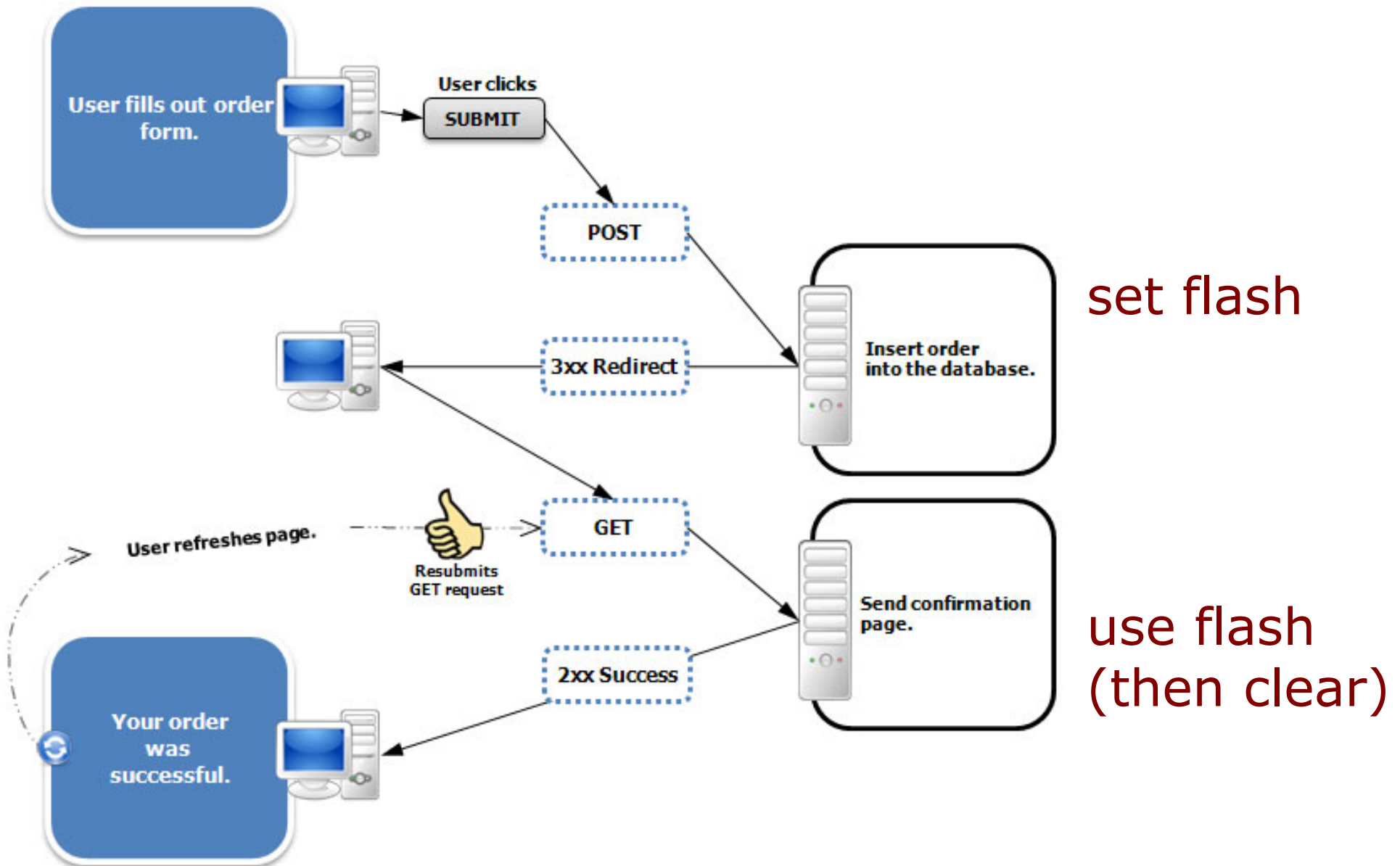
```
class BooksController <
  ApplicationController

  def create
    @book = Book.new(book_params)
    if @book.save
      redirect_to book_url(@book),
        notice: 'Book successfully created'
    else
      render :new
    end
  end
end
```


Flash

- A hash returned with redirect response
 - Set by controller action issuing redirect
`flash[:referral_code] = 1234`
 - Common keys can be assigned in redirect
`redirect_to books_url notice: '...'`
`redirect_to books_url alert: '...'`
- Flash included in client's *next* request
- Flash available to *next* action's view!
`<p id="info"><%= flash[:warn] %>...`
 - But: `flash.now` available to first view!
`flash.now[:notice] = 'no such book'`

Flash: Set, Use, Clear



Using Flash in View

display just notice message

```
<p id="notice"><%= notice %></p>
```

display all the flash messages

```
<% if flash.any? %>
```

```
  <div id="banner">
```

```
    <% flash.each do |key, message| %>
```

```
      <div class="flash <%= key %>">
```

```
        <%= message %>
```

```
      </div>
```

```
    <% end %>
```

```
  </div>
```

```
<% end %>
```

Example of Render vs Redirect

```
class BooksController <
  ApplicationController

  def update
    @book = Book.find(params[:id])
    if @book.update(book_params)
      redirect_to book_url(@book),
        notice: 'Book successfully created'
    else
      render :edit
    end
  end
end
```

Why Is This Wrong?

```
class BooksController <
  ApplicationController

  def update
    @book = Book.find(params[:id])
    if @book.update(book_params)
      redirect_to book_url(@book),
        notice: 'Book successfully created'
    else
      render :edit,
        notice: 'Try again.'
    end
  end
end
```

Fix: Use Flash.now

```
class BooksController <
  ApplicationController

  def update
    @book = Book.find(params[:id])
    if @book.update(book_params)
      redirect_to book_url(@book),
        notice: 'Book successfully created'
    else
      flash.now[:notice] = 'Try again.'
      render :edit
    end
  end
end
```

Code Duplication

```
class BooksController < ApplicationController

  def show
    @book = Book.find(params[:id])
  end

  def edit
    @book = Book.find(params[:id])
  end

  def update
    @book = Book.find(params[:id])
    . . .
  end
```

DRY, aka Single-Point-of-Control

```
class BooksController < ApplicationController
  before_action :set_book,
                only %i[ show edit update destroy ]

  def show  # method is now empty!
  end

  def edit  # method is now empty!
  end

  # and other actions...

  private
    def set_book
      @book = Book.find(params[:id])
    end
  end
end
```


Sanatizing Inputs

```
def update
  if @book.update(book_params)
    redirect_to book_url(@book), notice: 'Success!'
  else
    render :edit
  end
end
```

```
private
def set_book
  @book = Book.find(params[:id])
end

def book_params
  params.require(:book).permit(:title,
                                :summary)
end
```

Recall Partial

- A blob of ERb used in multiple views
- Examples
 - Static header used throughout site
 - Dynamic sidebar used in many places
- Include in a template (or layout) with:
 - `<%= render 'menu' %>`
 - `<%= render 'users/icon' %>`
- Filename of partial has "_" prefix
 - Default location: app/views
`app/views/_menu.html.erb`
 - Organize into subdirectories with good names
`app/views/users/_icon.html.erb`

Example: views/layouts/applic...

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
```

```
<html>
```

```
... etc
```

```
<body>
```

```
  <%= render 'layouts/header' %>
```

```
  <div class="container">
```

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

```
    <%= render 'layouts/footer' %>
```

```
  </div>
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

Example: views/layouts/_footer

```
<footer class="footer">
  <small>
    <a href="http://www.osu.edu">OSU</a>
  </small>
  <nav>
    <ul>
      <li><%= link_to "About",
                    about_path %></li>
      <li><%= link_to "Contact",
                    contact_path %></li>
    </ul>
  </nav>
</footer>
```

Recall: Tricks with Partials

- Content of partial can be customized with arguments in call

- In call: pass a hash called `:locals`

```
<%= render partial: "banner",  
      locals: { name: "Syllabus",  
                amount: @price } %>
```

- In partial: access hash with *variables*

```
<h3> <%= name %> </h3>
```

```
<p> Costs <%= "#{amount}.00" %></p>
```

Parameter Passing to Partial

- Partial also has one *implicit* local variable
- In the partial, parameter name *same* as partial

```
# in partial nav/_menu.html
```

```
<p> The price is: <%= menu %></p>
```

- Argument value assigned explicitly

```
<%= render partial: 'nav/menu',  
      object: cost %>
```

- Idiom: Begin partial by renaming this parameter

```
# in partial nav/_menu.html
```

```
<% price = menu %>
```

Example: books/show.html.erb

```
<p style="color: green"><%= notice %></p>
```

```
<%= render @book %>
```

```
<div>
```

```
  <%= link_to "Edit this book",  
            edit_book_path(@book) %> |
```

```
  <%= link_to "Back to books", books_path %>
```

```
  <%= button_to "Destroy this book", @book,  
              method: :delete %>
```

```
</div>
```

Partial: books/_book.html.erb

```
<div id="<%= dom_id book %>">
  <p>
    <strong>Title:</strong>
    <%= book.title %>
  </p>

  <p>
    <strong>Author:</strong>
    <%= book.author %>
  </p>
</div>
```


Demo: Scaffolding

- Generate many things at once
 - Migration for table in database
 - Model for resource
 - RESTful routes
 - Controller and corresponding methods
 - Views for responses
- Command

```
$ rails g scaffold Student lname:string  
buckid:integer  
$ rails db:migrate  
$ rails server
```

Summary

- Controller generates a response
 - Default: render corresponding view
 - Explicit: **render** some action's view
 - Explicit: **re-direct**
 - POST-redirect-GET (aka “get after post”)
 - Flash passes information to next action
- Reuse of views with partials
 - Included with render (*e.g.*, `<%= render...`)
 - Filename is prepended with underscore
 - Parameter passing from parent template
 - Can iterate over partial by iterating over a collection

Partials With Collections

- Iteration over partials is common

```
<% for item in @items %>
  <%= render partial: 'item_brief',
    object: item %>

<% end %>
```

- Short-hand: Replace above with

```
<%= render partial: 'item_brief',
  collection: @items %>
```

- Renders partial once for each element
- Initializes partial local variables each time
 - `item_brief` (the member of the collection)
 - `item_brief_counter` (integer 0..size of collection)
- Can also add separator *between* each partial

```
<%= render partial: 'item_brief',
  collection: @items,
  spacer_template: 'line_space' %>
```

Partial Super Shorthands

- For a model *instance* (e.g. `@book`) in a template
 - `<%= render @book %>`
 - Includes `_book.html.erb` partial
 - Passes in `@book` to partial (as `:object`)
 - Value available as local variable `book` in partial
- For a model *collection* (e.g. `@books`) in a template
 - `<%= render @books %>`
 - Call `render` multiple times, once/member
 - Each call uses same partial (`_book.html.erb`)
 - Each call passes in different member as argument
 - Value available as local variable `book` in partial
- Returns `nil` if collection is empty
 - `<%= render @books || 'No books to see.' %>`