

RJS Cheat Sheet

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What is RJS?

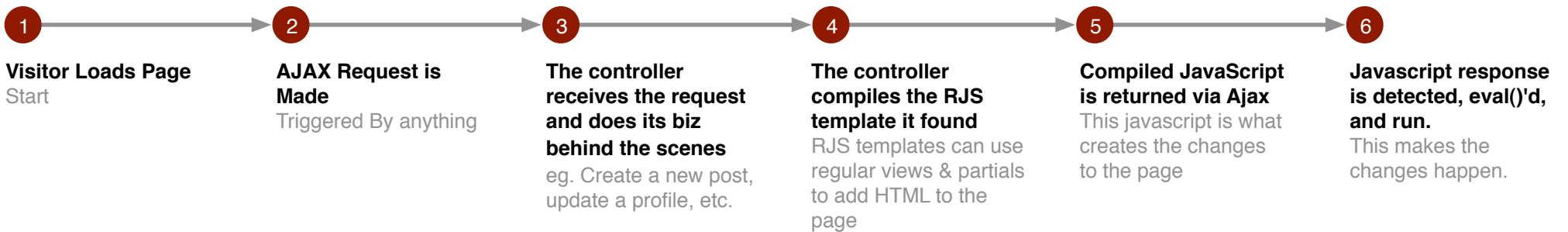
RJS, Acronym: Ruby JavaScript
A templating tool, built in Ruby, to output JavaScript.
Synonym, amazing Makes it almost utterly painless to craft sophisticated Ajax responses... with sexy results!

RJS templates are "just" another type of view template, made specifically for answering Ajax requests. The code you write in an .rjs template is based around the page you will be changing—the page that made the Ajax request (and therefore will be getting the response). Anything you can do with JavaScript, you can do with RJS.

RJS Techniques:

- Insert new HTML
- Remove HTML
- Change DOM properties
- Move things around
- Create special effects
- Hide/Show stuff

How It Works



Example Script

The controller compiles this into JS & the response is sent as
Content-Type: text/javascript

```
if @saved
  page["new_expense_form"].reset
  page.visual_effect :blind_up, :new_expense
  page.insert_html :top, :expenses, :partial => "expense"
  page.replace_html :total, "$#{@total}"
  page.delay(1) do
    page.visual_effect :highlight, "expense_#{@expense.id}"
  end
else
  page.alert("Problem saving expense: # \
    #{@expense.errors.full_messages}")
  page.visual_effect :blind_up, :new_expense
end
```

Use it Yourself

- 1** First thing you need to do is create an Ajax request that points at a controller action. Place this code in the view you want to modify with the Ajax response

```
<%= javascript_include_tag :defaults %>
<div id="rjs-testbed">Watch this space.</div>
<%= link_to_remote "Show me RJS lovin!",
:url => { :controller => "foo", :action => "test_rjs" } %>
```
- 2** Create a file named **action.rjs** where **action** is the name of the controller action, inside the controller's **view** folder. **Note:** Unless you use **respond_to**, Rails will look for action.rhtml first, and your RJS will never get called.
- 3** Finally, it's time to write some RJS! Open your **action.rjs** file and include the following:

```
page.alert "This is a test!"
page.insert_html :bottom, "rjs-testbed", "<br/> Wah!a!"
```
- 4** Now you get to try it. Start your Rails app, open your browser, and hit the action whose view houses the code from **Step 1**. Click it, and watch the magic.