Open Source Collaboration
Apps in Rails

BoF Session
Railsconf 2007
Themes

Rails

Open Source

Web-based collaboration apps (and RIAs generally)

Integration, interoperability, CMSes, modular apps
Proposed Session Plan

We discuss and show our app (Deme) - 15 minutes

Questions (1-2 minutes)

Other app demos by BoF attendees

Discussion of themes (open source, collaboration apps, integration)
Deme: web-based group deliberation and dialogue

Todd Davies - background

Leo Perry - Deme in Rails

Ben Newman - New client-side features
Deme is aimed at...

Volunteer advisory boards
Neighborhood associations
Consortia of nonprofits
Grassroots activist groups
Labor union chapters and caucuses
Clubs and religious congregations
University-based groups
Ad-hoc citizen groups (e.g. for community planning)
Supporting groups to...

Get to know each other and share information
Define their mission and goals
Make and observe rules (e.g. bylaws)
Plan joint activities
Make budgets and spend money
Issue joint statements (e.g. press releases, flyers)
Form committees and work with other groups
Keep and retrieve records of all these things
History

PHP development (2003-2005)

Redesigned UI, Ajax development (2005-2006)

Reimplementation in Rails (2006-2007)
This is the description of the group, which can be edited by anyone with access to the group. In this case, you are in the Demo Group, which is meant as an interactive introduction to Deme and its features.

Welcome, todd

**Meeting Areas**
- Learn Deme Here
- Sandbox
- Deme Discussion
- mymeetingname
- RM Players
- testi testi
- Discussion
- Members assembly
- Eureka!
- Puppen
- The Cybernetics of on-line deliberation

**Announcements**
- Jan-14: test
- Dec-29: Test2
- Nov-29: This is a short announcement.
- Sep-17: Test
- Mar-15: Welcome to the Demo Group! Click the "Learn Deme Here" meeting area link on the left to get an introduction to meeting area features.

View all announcements
Add new announcement

**General Options**
- My profile
- Member List
- Calendar
- Links
- Library
- FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)
- Search
- Chat
- Leave this group
A document can be anything that contains text you want people to read. It is possible to post and view documents other than plain text ones (e.g., pictures, Word documents, video clips), but currently only plain text documents support in-text commenting (explanation of in-text commenting will follow shortly). But there are many possible documents that can be posted in a meeting area even now. A document could be the proposed bylaws of your group, a press release you are drafting together, an interesting article you want everyone to read, or something else, as long as it is in text form.

Deme was designed to support document collaboration, document-centered discussion, and decision making about documents. "Document collaboration" means that two or more people work together to draft and/or revise a document. In the action menu (the pulldown menu filled in light blue) you can always select "New document" to post a document from scratch. When you are currently viewing a document in the folio viewer's item display, the action menu will also contain an option for...
Example: Decision [Decision]

Question: Let's try to make a decision. The decision concerns whether the text of Example: Document is sufficient as an overview of how documents function in a meeting area. Click 'Vote now' to make your choice known, and note that you can annotate your vote with a comment. I have selected 'consensus' as the decision rule, meaning that everyone has to agree for this proposal to pass.

Decision called for by: andrew, Feb 02, 17:31

Voting has closed. Closing message

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Total votes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approve &quot;Example: Document&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't Approve &quot;Example: Document&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Member choices/comments:

**Approve "Example: Document"**

*andrew*  
Feb-02, 17:32

I agree with the current state of "Example: Document"

**Don't Approve "Example: Document"**

*guest*  
Jul-05, 07:05

Just to see what happens.

**Did not vote:**

*todd, broder, bhathy, melendez, salt, minnes*
Redesign – meeting area
Redesign – group homepage
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