

# Rails Girls Galway

Designing Your App  
@gerryk

# who am i?

- \* Application Developer
- \* Linux System Administrator
- \* Web & WebApp Developer
- \* Free Open Source Advocate
- \* Telecoms Consultant
- \* Information Security Analyst
- \* Telecoms Platform Architect

# birth of a webapp



it starts with an idea...

# first steps

Ask yourself...

1. what problem is being solved?
2. who is having the problem?
3. how will the user use the application?

# the rails girls *Attendees App*

"Develop a WebApp for recording  
attendee details"

# design, design, design

Design the model: how you will represent the world in data.

Design the view: how you will interact with the user.

Design the controller: the logic that ties it all together.

# UI: communication

UI is the designer talking to the user

UI is a teacher & a guide

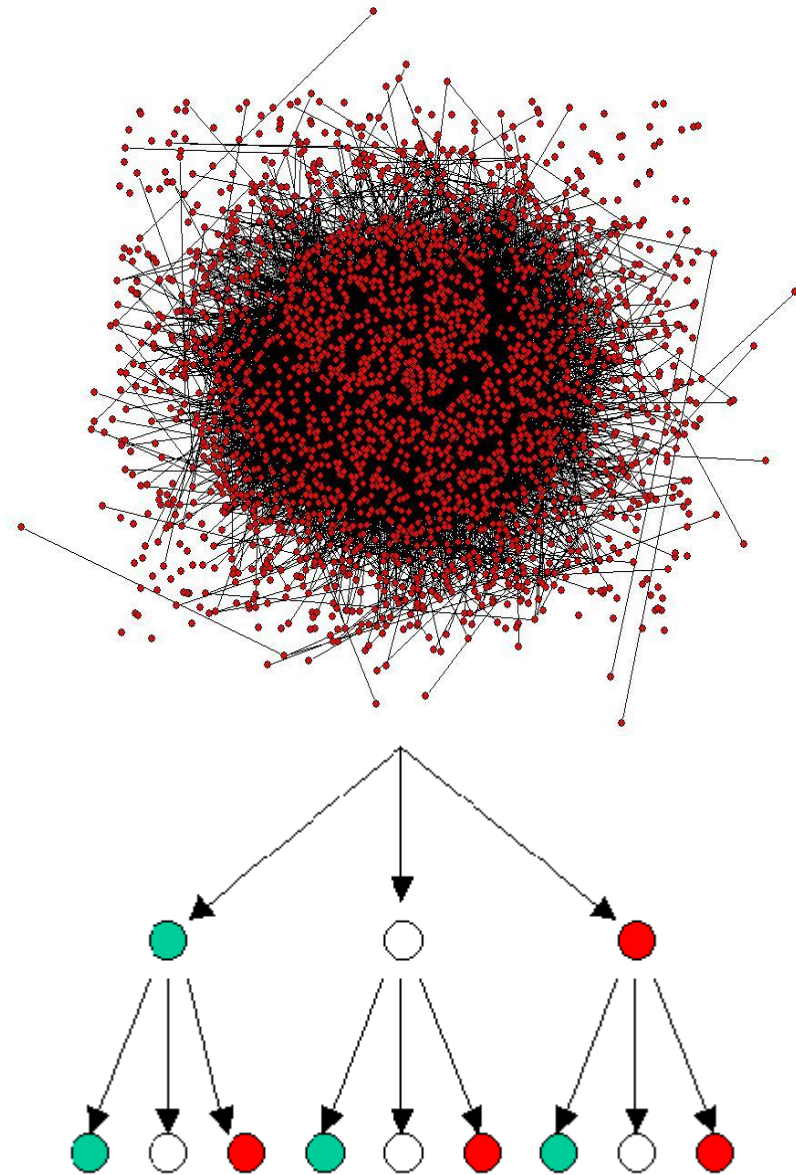
UI is a toolkit

UI is a safety-net

data

data models the real  
world

good data modelling  
reduces application  
complexity





# leave your computer



# sketch...

Goal:  
To make an app for ideas

# sketch...

## Features:

List existing ideas

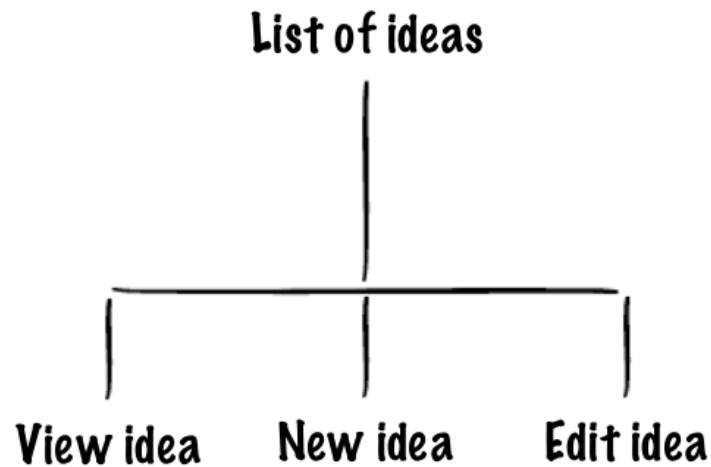
View an idea

Add a new idea

Edit existing ideas

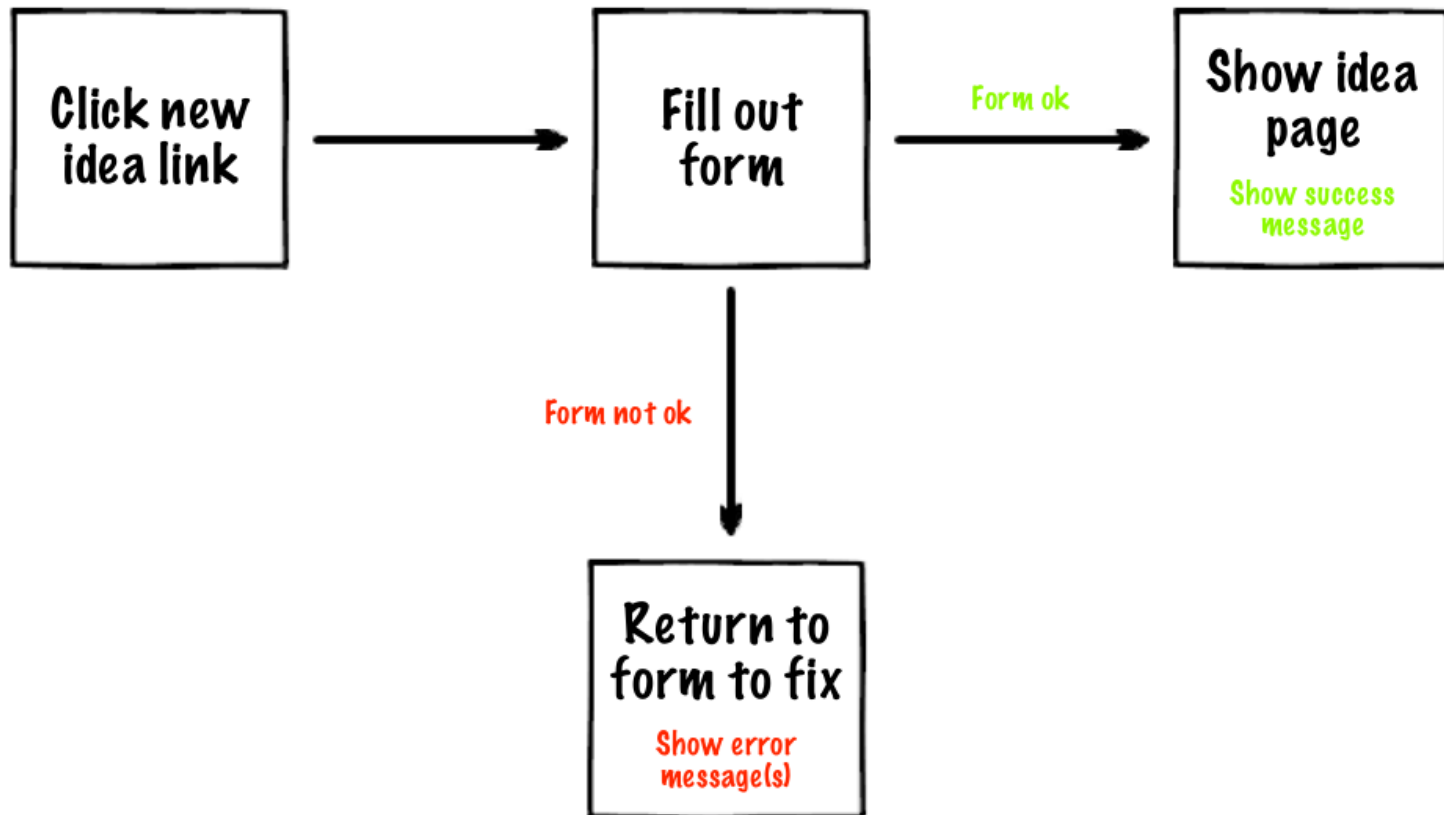
**sketch...**

(Site/app/whatever) Map:



sketch...

## New idea flow



# sketch...

## New idea text wireframe:

Standard elements:

Logo  
Nav bar

Unique elements:

Page title: New idea  
Error message(s) (if required)  
New idea form:

- Name
- Description
- Picture
- Submit button

sketch...

The sketch shows a web browser window titled "The Ideas App". The address bar contains "http://www.myapp.com/ideas/new". The page has a header with "The Ideas App" and two tabs: "Ideas" and "New Idea". The main heading is "New Idea". Below it is a red error box labeled "Errors" with the text "Form error messages". The form includes a "Name" field, a "Description" text area, a "Picture" field with a "Choose file" button, and a "Submit" button.

The Ideas App

http://www.myapp.com/ideas/new

The Ideas App

Ideas New Idea

## New Idea

Errors

Form error messages

Name

Description

Picture

Choose file

Submit

# styling

The Ideas App

http://www.myapp.com/ideas/new

The Ideas App Ideas New Idea

## New Idea

Errors

Form error messages

Name

Description

Picture  Choose file

Submit



# styling

## layout/wireframing

- Photoshop
- Fireworks
- Denim
- Gliffy



# styling

## typography

Alba<sup>SAIL</sup> bellbottom VIDEO-EZY Bleeding  
Brush BUBBLESUM BURNT Cartoon<sup>TRIBAL</sup> Today  
CheapFire CigarStore Cracked DARKCRYSTAL  
DESDEMONA EVANESCENCE Fashion Victim Frail&Bedazzled  
French Script<sup>curly</sup> Ginger HappyHell HarryPotter Lover  
HERCULES<sup>BugsLife</sup> JAZZLET Jellyka Castles Queen MonaLisa  
HolidayHome<sup>YellowSubmarine</sup> MONSTERS INC Lollipop<sup>WAO!</sup> MULAN<sup>1968</sup>  
Blackletter Papyrus PartyTime PetalFont<sup>Wanted</sup> PlayBill  
NARNIA PRINCETOWN SMALLVILLE SantaClaus  
SNICKERS StoryBook<sup>Porcupine</sup> FancyPens<sup>WILLYWONKA</sup> WALT DISNEY

styling

typography

**Helvetica**

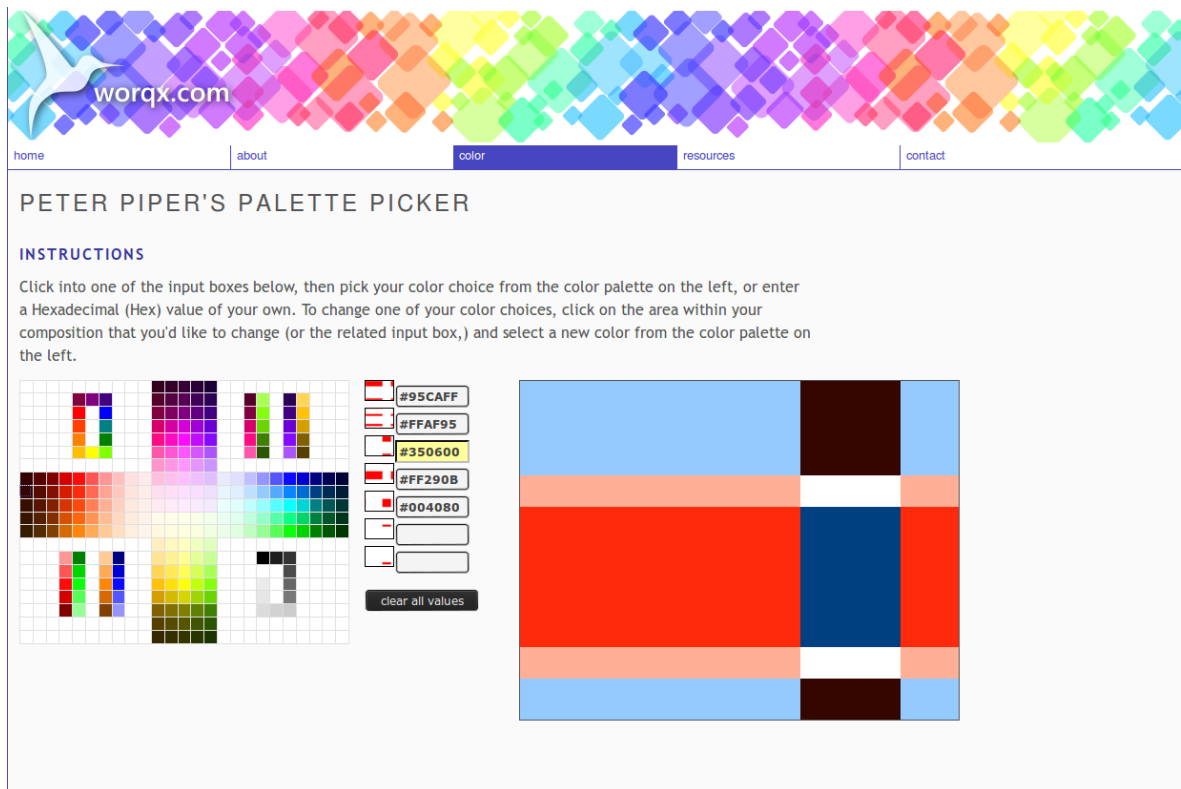
Arial, sans-serif

Georgia, Times New Roman, serif


Monaco, Times New Roman, monospace

# styling

## colour



# build



```
$ mkdir projects  
$ cd projects  
$ rails new railsgirls  
$ cd railsgirls  
$ rails server_
```

**test**

unit testingunit testingunit  
testingunit **testing**unit testingunit  
testingunit testingunit testingunit  
testingunit testing

feature testing**feature**  
**testing**feature  
testingfeature testing

**system testing**

**improve**



Fail Early!  
Fail Fast!  
Fail Often!

# how to find me

@gerryk

[github.com/gerryk](https://github.com/gerryk)

[launchpad.net/~gerryk](https://launchpad.net/~gerryk)