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Rails, Angular, Postgres, and Bootstrap

Powerful, Effective, and Efficient Full-Stack Web Development

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Rails Angular Postgres Bootstrap

Powerful Effective Efficient Full-Stack Web Development

David Bryant Copeland

edited by Fahmida Y. Rashid

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Printed in the United States of America. ISBN-13: 978-1-68050-126-1 Encoded using the finest acid-free high-entropy binary digits. Book version: B1.0—July 29, 2015

Paginating the Results using Bootstrap's Components

Adding pagination can be done in just two steps: adjusting the query to find the right "page", and adding pagination controls to the view. There are several RubyGems out there that can help us, but it's actually not that much code to just do it ourselves. Since we'll be porting our view over to Angular in the next chapter, there's little benefit to integrating a gem at this point.

We'll take it one step at a time. First, we'll adjust the controller to handle pagination.

Handling Pagination in the Controller

For simplicity, we'll hard-code the size of a page to 10 results, and look for a new parameter, :page that indicates which page the user wants, with a default of 0.

```
search/pagination/shine/app/controllers/customers_controller.rb
class CustomersController < ApplicationController
PAGE_SIZE = 10
def index
@page = (params[:page] || 0).to_i
# ...
end
end</pre>
```

Next, we'll use both PAGE_SIZE and @page to construct parameters to ActiveRecord's offset and limit methods. Since our results are sorted, we can rely on these two methods to allow us to reliably page through the results without the order changing between pages.

```
search/pagination/shine/app/controllers/customers_controller.rb
@customers = Customer.where(
    customer_search_term.where_clause,
    customer_search_term.where_args).
    order(customer_search_term.order).
    offset(PAGE SIZE * @page).limit(PAGE SIZE)
```

That's all there is to our controller. Now, we'll adjust the view to allow paging.

Adding Pagination Controls to the View

≻

To keep things simple, we'll go with a previous/next style of pagination. This means we'll need two links on the page, which we can create by adding or

subtracting 1 to @page and passing that to the Rails-provided customers_path helper.

To style the links, Bootstrap provides a component we can use, called a *pager*. Let's set it up in a partial, which we'll then use to place the pager before *and* after the results list (this allows the user to always have the pager handy). We've highlighted the markup and classes Bootstrap requires to style the pager. Pay special attention to disabled, which will give our Previous button a disabled look if we're on the first page.

```
search/pagination/shine/app/views/customers/_pager.html.erb
   <nav>
≻
    >
      class="previous <%= page == 0 ? 'disabled' : '' %>">
        <%= link to "&larr; Previous".html safe,
                   customers path(keywords: keywords, page: page - 1) %>
      ≻
      class="next">
        <%= link to "Next &rarr;".html safe,</pre>
                    customers path(keywords: keywords, page: page + 1) %>
      </nav>
```

Now, we'll include the partial in app/views/customers/index.html.erb.

If we start our server and search, we'll now only see 10 results, and our pager controllers work to allow us to step through them.

Customer Search

bob123@somewhere.net	Find Customers
Results	
+ Previous	Next →
Robert Jones bobby_nellie.skiles bob123@somewhere.net	JOINED 2015-03-14
Winston Bob reuben_hilpert0 boyd0@dibbertgoyette.biz	JOINED 2015-03-14
Emery Bob daphne1 ivy1@boylekohler.net	JOINED 2015-03-14
Vada Bob cleta2 maye_lind2@leschfeeney.biz	JOINED 2015-03-14
Humberto Bob stephan.gulgowski3 greg.sanford3@dickensmoriette.info	JOINED 2015-03-14
Godfrey Bobby albertha.cole5 cristina5@pouros.net	JOINED 2015-03-14
Bob Little gerard.jaskolski0 linda0@borerpouros.org	JOINED 2015-03-14
Bob Mayert kathlyn.wuckert2 kelley2@welch.net	JOINED 2015-03-14
Bob Mosciski alberta3 jodie_mccullough3@stark.org	JOINED 2015-03-14
Bob Rosenbaum naomi1 florian_stehr1@macgyverdamore.org	JOINED 2015-03-14
+ Previous	Next →

Because of our indexes, Postgres' powerful implementation of order by, and Bootstrap's pre-made components, we were able to add performant pagination in just a few lines of code.