Stefan Daschek / @noniq@chaos.social

Using live request data for testing while upgrading a Rails app

Stefan Daschek (aka noniq)

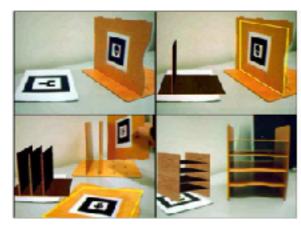
- Stefan Daschek (aka noniq)
- studied Computer Sciences (TU Wien)

- Stefan Daschek (
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4 Framework







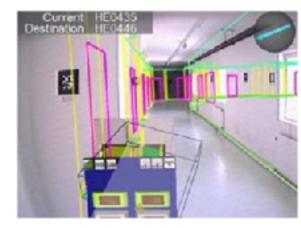


Abbildung 4.6: Studierstube-Applikationen. Von links oben im Uhrzeigersinn: Construct3D, Der Türkische Schachspieler, SignPost, AEKI

Reality-Animationen¹¹.

 SignPost leitet – mit einem mobilen Augmented-Reality-Setup ausgerüstete – Personen durch ihnen unbekannte Gebäude¹².

Abbildung 4.6 zeigt Beispiele der genannten Applikationen.

4.2 Open Tracker

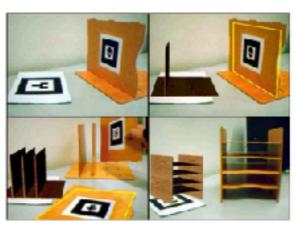
*Open Trucker*¹³ ist ein unter der LGPL¹⁴ verfügbares flexibles Tracking-Framework. Es erlaubt die Definition eines beliebigen *Datenfluss-Netzwerks* (Abbildung 4.7), repräsentiert durch einen gerichteten Graph aus Knoten dreier Typen:

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4 Framework







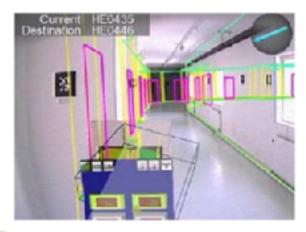


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(The state of Augmented Reality in 2005) mit einem mobilen Augmented-Reality-Setup ausgerüstete – Personen ekannte Gebäude¹².

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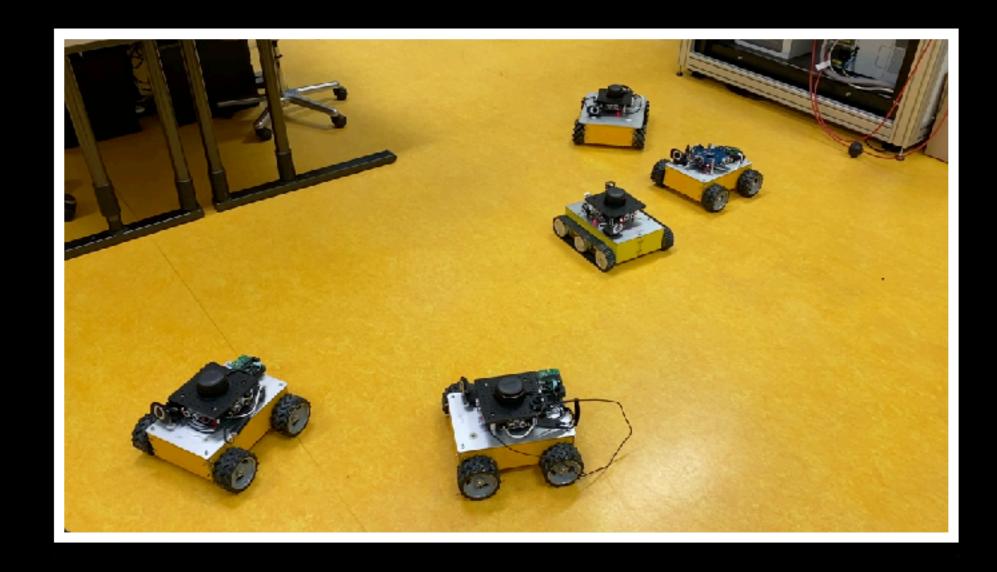
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Final results presentation at Jugend hackt Linz Petra Moser, CC BY 4.0

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Was wir machen funktioniert.

Wir sind ...



Stefan Daschek

Half star B. Debuttying einer C128 belowwen, und seltdem sicht mehr aufschört zu prossummieren. Kann seinen Perfeldischungs inzwischen ganz gubim Zaumbaher, Hat DE WYTWORT nech während. seines informatik Studiums 2004 gegründet. Sieht sich als Hacker im umprünglichen Sinn und engagiert sich is seiner Ereizeit u.a. bei Chaos macht Schole. und Justind Notive.

9 0 E 6



nan Kellangan bei DE KNEWDET dahei. Extransan ala Kind private Telefontehungen ins Nachbarhaup verlegt. Kommit auf miedenstens eine oode sideproject-idee pro Monat, kann als Meinkind-Paos aber momentien nur die Hälfte devon umsetzen. bitgründer von Budtins Stories.

0 2 2

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Stefan Daschek (aka noniq)

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Was wir machen









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About me

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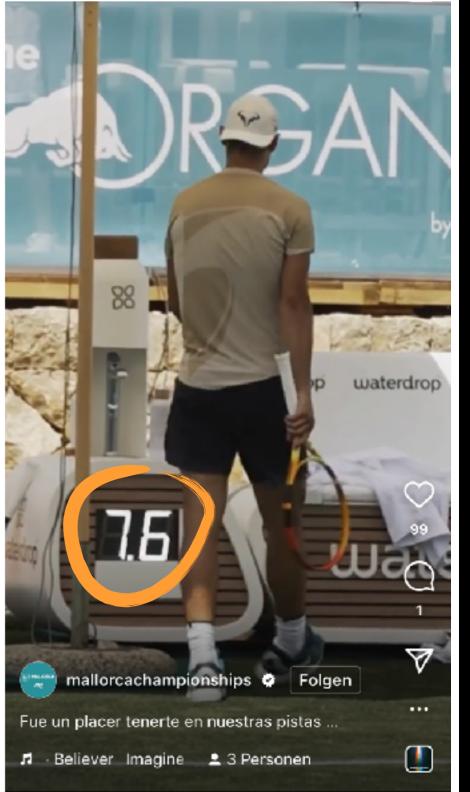
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```
COMpanv
--- config/environment.rb (revision 195)
+++ config/environment.rb (revision 196)
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# config/environment.rb (revision 196)

# config/environment.rb (revision 196)

# you don't control web/app server and can't set it the proper way

# ENV['RAILS_ENV'] ||= 'production'

# Specifies gem version of Rails to use when vendor/rails is not present

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+# AILS_GEM_VERSION = '1.1.4'

# Bootstrap the Rails environment, frameworks, and default configuration

require File.join(File.dirname(__FILE__), 'boot')
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```

Figure 3 to thing started

Was wir machen funktioniert.

webapplikationen Security Testing State

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Assess Remember syn | subversion? Wir sind 🔣

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Back on track:

Using live request data for testing while upgrading a Rails app

Starting point:

A legacy Rails app

Initial commit in 2012

- Initial commit in 2012
- ~50 models and controllers each (~18k LoC)

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- Rails 3.2 / Ruby 2.3

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-ones.
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Initial commit in 2012

~50 models and controllers each (~18k LoC)

- Rails 3.2 / Ruby 2.3
- Few tests
- Complex database logic

Challenge accepted!

```
ones, scopes,
```

Rails 5.2 / Ruby 2.6

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- More tests (and they were passing)

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- More tests (and they were passing)
- ▶ But: Did we miss anything?



- Rails 5.2 / Ruby 2.6
- More tests (and they were passing)
- But: Did we miss anything?



What if we could run the upgraded version in parallel to the production app, feeding it live data?







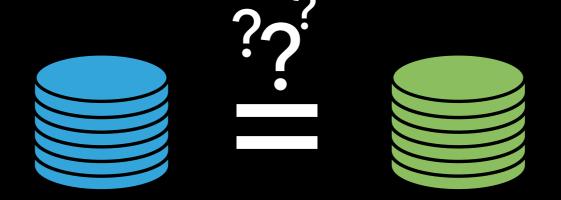




Production App Upgraded App







But how?

Step 1: Apply some nginx magic

```
location / {
  mirror /_mirror;
  # ...
}

location = /_mirror {
  internal;
  proxy_pass http://upgraded_app$request_uri;
}
```

Step 1: Apply some nginx magic

```
location / {
  mirror /_mirror;
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location = /_mirror {
  internal;
  proxy_pass http://upgraded_app$request_uri;
}
```

The ngx_http_mirror_module module (1.13.4) implements mirroring of an original request by creating background mirror subrequests. Responses to mirror subrequests are ignored.

Step 2: Disable all the modern goodies

```
# For example (non-exhaustive):
config.action_controller.per_form_csrf_tokens = false
config.action_controller.forgery_protection_origin_check = false
config.action_dispatch.cookies_serializer = :marshal
config.action_dispatch.use_authenticated_cookie_encryption = false
```

Step 3: Make sure cookies are compatible

- Make sure config.secret_token is identical
- Do not use config.secret_key_base in the upgraded app (yet)

Step 3: Make sure cookies are compatible

- Make sure config.secret_token is identical
- Do not use config.secret_key_base in the upgraded app (yet)

Please note that you should wait to set secret_key_base until you have 100% of your userbase on Rails 4.x and are reasonably sure you will not need to rollback to Rails 3.x. This is because cookies signed based on the new secret_key_base in Rails 4.x are not backwards compatible with Rails 3.x.

But even then ...

... the data will diverge over time

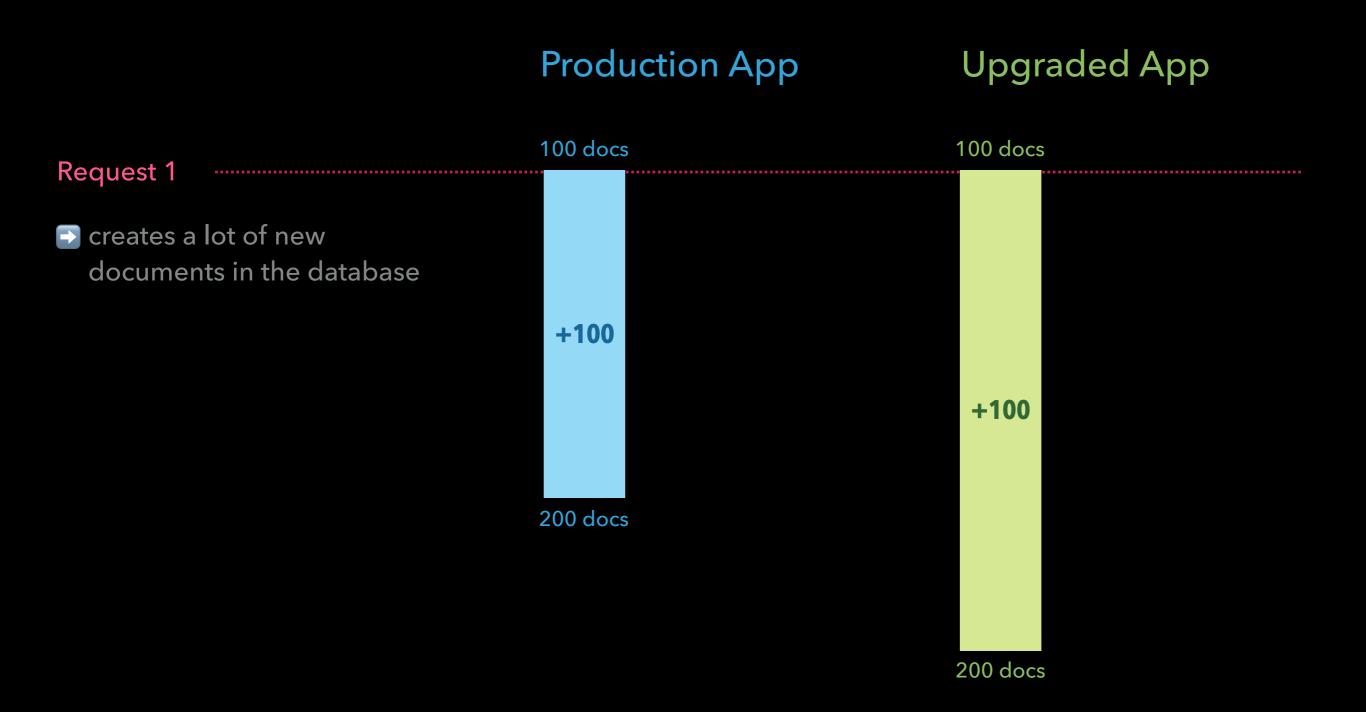
Production App

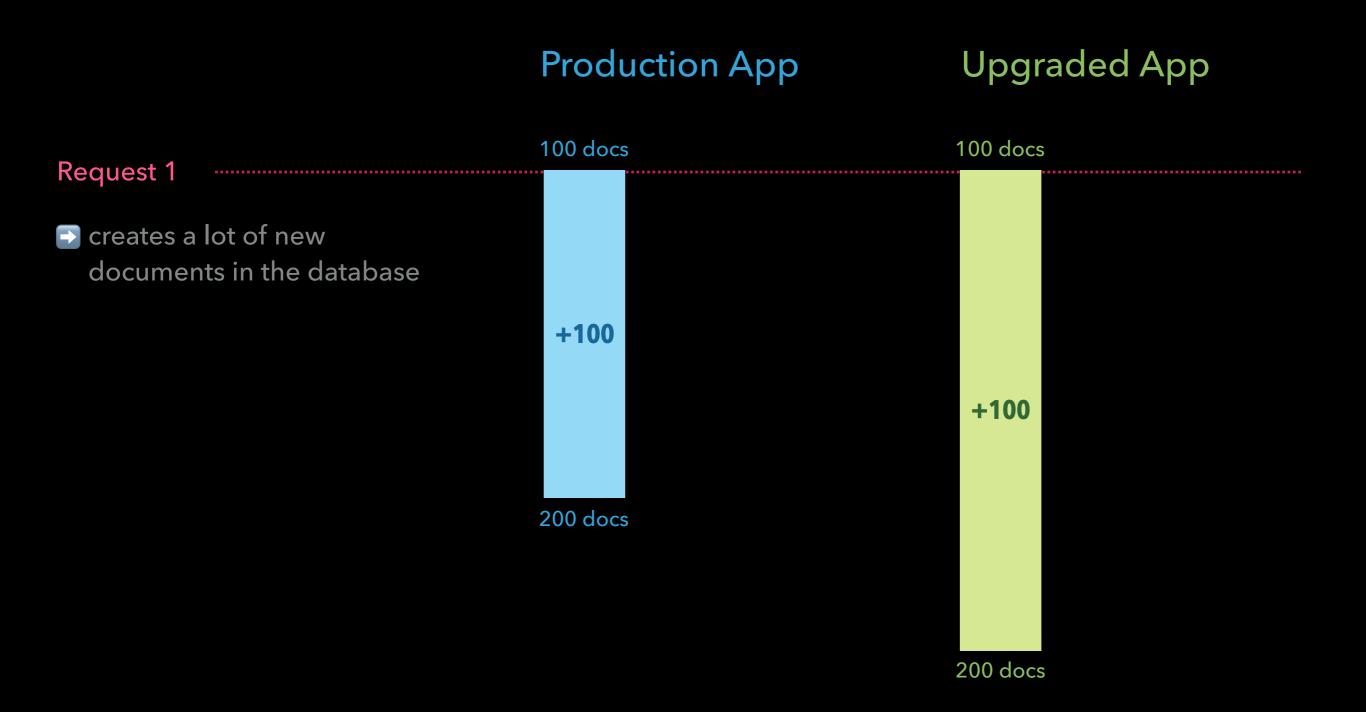
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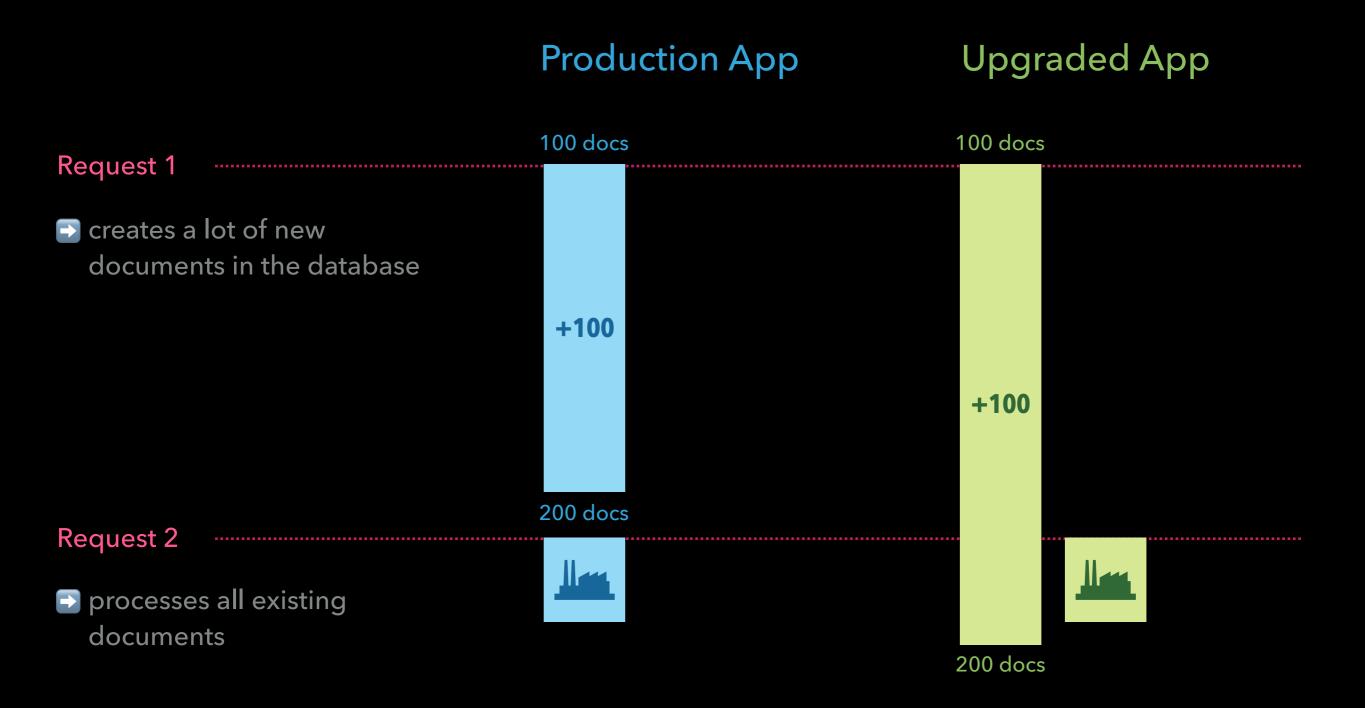
Upgraded App

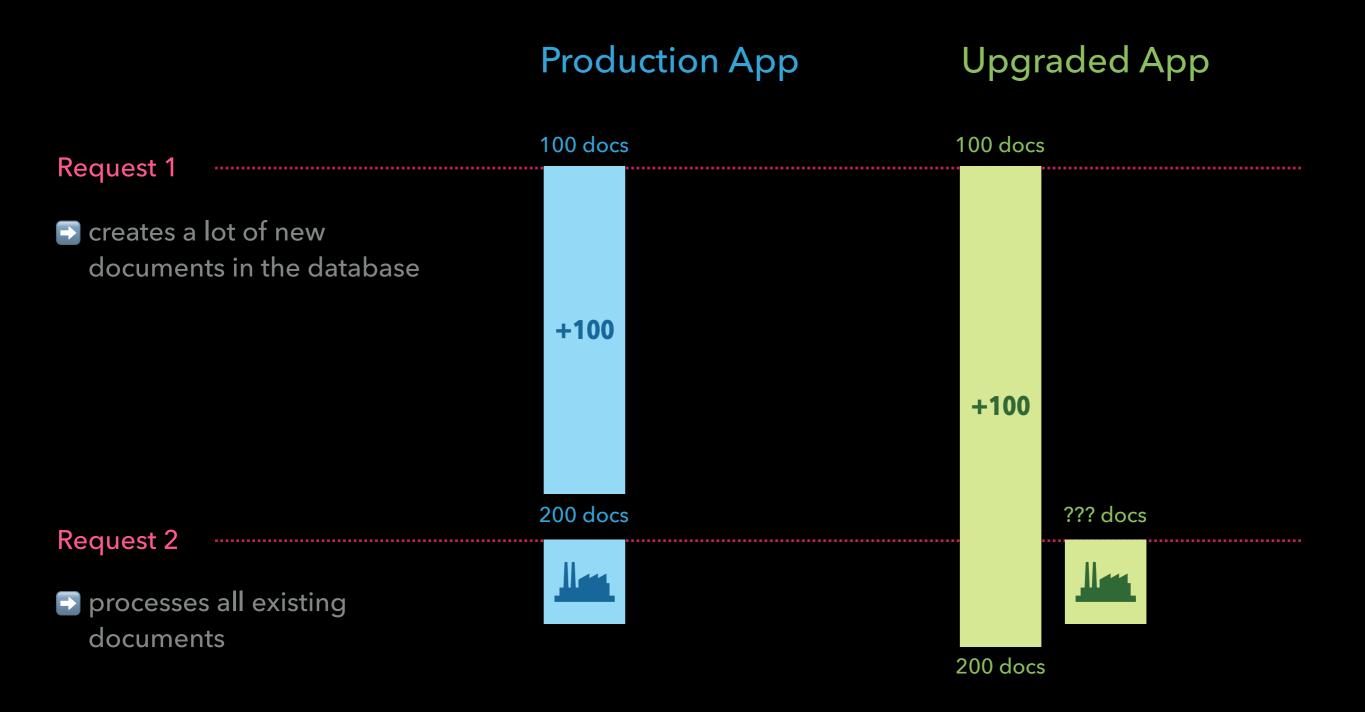
100 docs

100 docs









Production App

Production App

Upgraded App

GET /password/new

renders password reset form

renders password reset form

Production App

Upgraded App

GET /password/new

renders password reset form

renders password reset form

POST /password

- reset token ("foo")
- ⇒ sends password reset
 link (to user)
- creates random password
 reset token ("bar")
- sends password reset
 link (to sandbox)

Production App

Upgraded App

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GET /password/edit?token=foo

- valid token, continue to change password
- new password "456"

- invalid token, password
 remains unchanged
- password still "123"

Production App

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GET /password/edit?token=foo

- → valid token, continue
 to change password
- new password "456"

- invalid token, password
 remains unchanged
- password still "123"

Surprisingly though ... it doesn't matter!

Production App

Production App

Upgraded App

GET /sign_in

renders sign in form

□ renders sign in form

Production App

Upgraded App

GET /sign_in

renders sign in form

renders sign in form

POST /sign_in?password=456

- correct password
- creates session cookie
- incorrect password
- responds with 401

Production App

Upgraded App

GET /sign_in

renders sign in form

renders sign in form

POST /sign_in?password=456

correct password

reates session cookie

➡ incorrect password

responds with 401

GET /my_profile

receives valid
session cookie

□ allows access

receives valid session cookie

→ allows access

Production App

Upgraded App

GET /sign_in

renders sign in form

→ renders sign in form

POST /sign_in?password=456

, = =g..<u>_</u>=...p...e.....

GET /my_profile

correct password

reates session cookie

➡ incorrect password

responds with 401

receives valid session cookie

allows access

receives valid session cookie

→ allows access

Some workarounds needed (of course . . .)

```
class User < ApplicationRecord</pre>
 # ...
 # Fix backward compatibility for Devise (Authenticatable):
   The older version used in the production app serializes 3 arguments into
   the session, but the newer version in the upgraded app expects only 2
   arguments.
   For now our code needs to support both: old-style sessions for requests
   mirrored from the production app, and new-style sessions for requests
 # when browsing the upgraded app directly.
 def self.serialize_from_session(*args)
    key = args.size == 2 ? args[0] : args[1]
    to_adapter.get(key)
 end
end
```

Was it worth the effort?

What did we get out of it?

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 noticed (and fixed) a handful of upgrade-related bugs that our tests missed

What did we get out of it?

- noticed (and fixed) a handful of upgrade-related bugs that our tests missed
- found no (relevant) differences in data even after several weeks of running the upgraded app in parallel

Was it worth the effort?

Was it worth the effort?



Thanks!

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