

Helpers for Rails Authentication and Authorization

This document provides helpers and examples for using them. It assumes that the id of the user is stored in the session table as **session[:user_id]**. Also **login** (using get) and **logout** (using delete) paths should be defined.

Helper definitions for application_controller.rb

```
def check_login
  unless logged_in?
    redirect_to login_url
  end
end

def logged_in?
  if session[:user_id]
    return true
  else
    return false
  end
end

helper_method :current_user

def current_user
  if session[:user_id]
    @current_user ||= User.find(session[:user_id])
  else
    @current_user = nil
  end
end
```

Using Helpers

Method definitions for helpers can be placed in the file application_controller.rb (noted at the end of this document). With these helpers, a view can indicate who is logged in:

```
<%= current_user ? current_user.name : "Not logged in" %>
```

The following provide links to common authentication pages:

```
<%= link_to "Login", login_path %>
```

```
<%= link_to "Logout", logout_path, :method => 'delete' %>
```

```
<%= link_to "Register", new_identity_path %>
```

Finally, the method check_login can be used as a before_filter to require that the user is logged in before the request goes any further.