Using Ruby on Rails

Erik Hetzner, California Digital Library

Digital Library Federation Spring Forum 2007

Developer’s Forum
Why not use Ruby on Rails?

⏰ You are not building a dynamic web application.
Why not use Ruby on Rails?

- You are not building a dynamic web application.
- You have an enormously complicated legacy database.
Why not use Ruby on Rails?

- You are not building a dynamic web application.
- You have an enormously complicated legacy database.
- You have a lopsided budget: a lot of money for salaries, but no money for machines.
Ruby is...

_object oriented_
Ruby is...

- Object oriented
- Late binding
Ruby is...

- Object oriented
- Late binding
- Interpreted
Ruby is...

- Object oriented
- Late binding
- Interpreted
- Like Smalltalk mixed with Perl
Ruby is...

- Object oriented
- Late binding
- Interpreted
- Like Smalltalk mixed with Perl
- ...not too weird
Rails is...

(HTTP request dispatching)
Rails is...

- HTTP request dispatching
- Object relational mapping
Rails is...

- HTTP request dispatching
- Object relational mapping
- HTML Templating
Rails is...

- HTTP request dispatching
- Object relational mapping
- HTML Templating
- A community of support & free add-ons
Web Archiving

Building a friendly interface for Heritrix
Web Archiving

‑ Building a friendly interface for Heritrix
‑ For librarians
Web Archiving

💡 Building a friendly interface for Heritrix

💡 For librarians

💡 Especially for government information librarians
Web Archiving

- Building a friendly interface for Heritrix
- For librarians
- Especially for government information librarians
- For long term preservation
How we use Rails

⚠️ We do not use Rail’s ORM
How we use Rails

- We do not use Rail’s ORM
- We access SOAP services
How we use Rails

- We do not use Rail’s ORM
- We access SOAP services
- We use Ruby’s standard SOAP library
How we use Rails

- We do not use Rail’s ORM
- We access SOAP services
- We use Ruby’s standard SOAP library
- With a custom API to make things easier
How we use Rails

- We do not use Rail’s ORM
- We access SOAP services
- We use Ruby’s standard SOAP library
- With a custom API to make things easier
- We also use Nutch’s OpenSearch API
Ruby libraries of interest

Solr (Flare)
Ruby libraries of interest

- Solr (Flare)
- Ruby Zoom (Z39.50 client library utilizing Yaz)
Ruby libraries of interest

- Solr (Flare)
- Ruby Zoom (Z39.50 client library utilizing Yaz)
- Ruby OpenSearch
Other systems to consider

💡 Newspapers and other publishing or content management systems, try Django
Other systems to consider

- Newspapers and other publishing or content management systems, try Django
- For highly dynamic applications built of many small pieces, try Seaside
Other systems to consider

- Newspapers and other publishing or content management systems, try Django
- For highly dynamic applications built of many small pieces, try Seaside
- For even more bleeding edge: Lift, a system built on Scala
Erik Hetzner
erik.hetzner@ucop.edu