

# You'll Be Seeing Ruby

## An Introduction to the Ruby Programming Language

We hope you enjoy our presentation, and are inspired to learn more about Ruby on your own. Below are some links that will help you continue exploring this easy to learn yet powerful scripting language.

This handout and other material from the presentation—including slides and sample source—will be available from:

[http://blogs.missiondata.com/?page\\_id=30](http://blogs.missiondata.com/?page_id=30)

### Presentation Outline

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- What is Ruby?
  - Installing Ruby
  - Ruby's Toolset
  - Editors and IDEs
  - Documentation
- Language Fundamentals
  - Strings
  - Numbers
  - Objects
  - Variables
  - Dynamic Typing and Duck Typing
  - Methods
  - Classes
  - Mixins
- More Objects and Blocks
  - Regular Expressions
- Arrays
- Hashes
- Don't Repeat Yourself: Use Blocks
  - Iterations and Transactions
  - Blocks from Both Sides
- Demos

## Additional Ruby Resources

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### Getting Ruby

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#### Try Ruby with Nothing to Install (and no money down)

[tryruby.hobix.com](http://tryruby.hobix.com)

Try the Ruby language with nothing more than 10 minutes and a modern web browser. The tutorial mode is great.

#### \*nix

Linux distros will include a release in the package manager. Mac OS X ships with a Ruby build (although many people prefer to build with source). FreeBSD includes Ruby in Ports. [Cygwin](#) includes a build, but the Ruby Installer for Windows may be a better choice.

#### One-click Ruby Installer for Microsoft Windows

<http://rubyinstaller.rubyforge.org>

No external dependencies. You'll get the base distribution and a few extras including the [SciTE](#) text editor and the RubyGems package tool.

#### Ruby Source Distribution

<http://ruby-lang.org>

Grab the source and compile on Linux, BSD, Mac OS X, and several other platforms.

### Documentation

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#### *Programming Ruby: The Pragmatic Programmer's Guide*

2nd Edition, October 2004

Dave Thomas, with Chad Fowler and Andy Hunt

ISBN: 0-9745140-5-5

<http://pragmaticprogrammer.com/titles/ruby/>

Available both in dead tree and PDF format, the Pickax Book has become the de facto Ruby introduction and reference. Free copies of the [first edition](#) can be found on the web.

#### Ruby-doc.org: Documenting the Ruby Language

<http://ruby-doc.org>

This site includes the standard API references, bibliographies, and lots of downloadable content including [first edition of the Pickax](#).

#### Ruby QuickRef

<http://www.zenspider.com/Languages/Ruby/QuickRef.html>

Concentrates on the Ruby language syntax rather than the objects.

### **Ruby Cheat sheet**

<http://www.cenophobia.com/ruby/rubycheat.php>

A nice printable quick reference in png and PDF formats.

### **why's (Poignant) Guide to Ruby**

<http://poignantguide.net/ruby/>

Irreverent, silly, yet informative book-in-progress that teaches you Ruby with the help of cartoon foxes.

## **Libraries and Projects**

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### **Ruby Application Archive**

<http://raa.ruby-lang.org>

A categorized directory of Ruby projects. Think [Fresh Meat](#) for Ruby.

### **Rubyforge**

<http://rubyforge.org>

Hosting for open-source Ruby projects. Think [Sourceforge](#) for Ruby.

### **RubyGems**

<http://docs.rubygems.org>

Package management for Ruby libraries and applications. Rubyforge is the default source for gems, but anyone can package up their code as a gem and even run their own gemservers. Think [CPAN](#) for...say it with me...

### **Ruby on Rails**

<http://www.rubyonrails.org>

The open source web framework that many people are hearing about before Ruby. A very well organized effort with great documentation and an impressive kit for rapidly developing, testing, and deploying websites that integrate with databases. Don't forget to check out the [screencasts](#).

## **Community**

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### ***ruby-talk***

<http://www.ruby-lang.org/en/20020104.html>

The *ruby-talk* mailing list is a very active forum for Rubyists, including creator Yukihiro "Matz" Matsumoto. The archives are an excellent resource. The Ruby Weekly News (<http://rubyweeklynews.org>) summarizes the previous week's post. The mailing list is mirrored on both the Usenet (comp.lang.ruby) and on the web (<http://www.ruby-forum.com>).

### **RedHanded: Sneaking Ruby Through the System**

<http://redhanded.hobix.com>

RedHanded is a hopping blog for Ruby developers focused on doing exciting and crazy stuff with Ruby.

## Appendix A | Who We Are

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### **Mission Data**

[www.missiondata.com](http://www.missiondata.com)

2300 Hurstbourne Village Drive

Suite 1100

Louisville, KY 40299

502.493.1050

3070 Lakecrest Circle #213

Lexington, KY 40513

859.389.7177

### **Darren Day**

Software Developer

Darren Day was planning for his career in computer programming in grade school, and even after a decade of tight deadlines, requirement changes, & pernicious bug hunts he has yet to regret the decision. In 2001 he joined Mission Data, where he continues to learn more about and love solving problems using technology.

### **Chuck Fouts**

Software Developer

Chuck has worked with systems and languages ranging from embedded applications in C to web services using Java and Perl. He began using Ruby after attending the No Fluff Just Stuff conference last year and hasn't looked back since then. He started with Mission Data a little over a year ago.

## Mission Data Partners

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### **Alvin Alexander**

Partner/Founder and Chief Technology Officer

Al is an aerospace engineer with a BS from Texas A&M. His Information Technology background comes from projects during his professional aerospace experiences at Atlantic Research Corp and Lockheed Corporation from 1987 to 1992. In 1992 he moved to Louisville to introduce Unix and Internet service lines-of-business while employed at Micro Computer Solutions from 1992 to 1995. Al started Mission Data in 1996. He has been a contributing writer to numerous technical journals for Ziff-Davis and the Cobb Group. He is the creator and author of Developer's Daily ([www.devdaily.com](http://www.devdaily.com)), a technical education web site for Java and Perl software developers. Advertisers include Microsoft, Sun, IBM, Novell, etc.

### **Tim McWilliams**

Managing Partner

Tim manages the day-to-day operations of the company and leads our business development department. He has many years experience in sales and operations for technology organizations. Tim was the sales director for Micro Computer Solutions and served in a similar position at Kizan before joining Al to form Mission Data.

### **Steven Yelton**

Partner and Lead Architect

Steven serves as the lead developer and architect on numerous middleware and e-commerce projects for Mission Data. He is also one of the four partners in Mission Data. Notable clients include Adware Systems, Presbyterian Church [USA]. His core competencies are object-oriented software engineering and Java. Previous employment experiences include Perot Systems Corporation, and IBM Global Services. Steven has a MS in Computer Science from the University of Kentucky.

### **Carson McDonald**

Partner and software engineer

Former IBM Global Services Consultant and Transylvania University graduate. Carson is instrumental in designing and maintaining our internal systems infrastructure in addition to his consulting and programming work for clients.