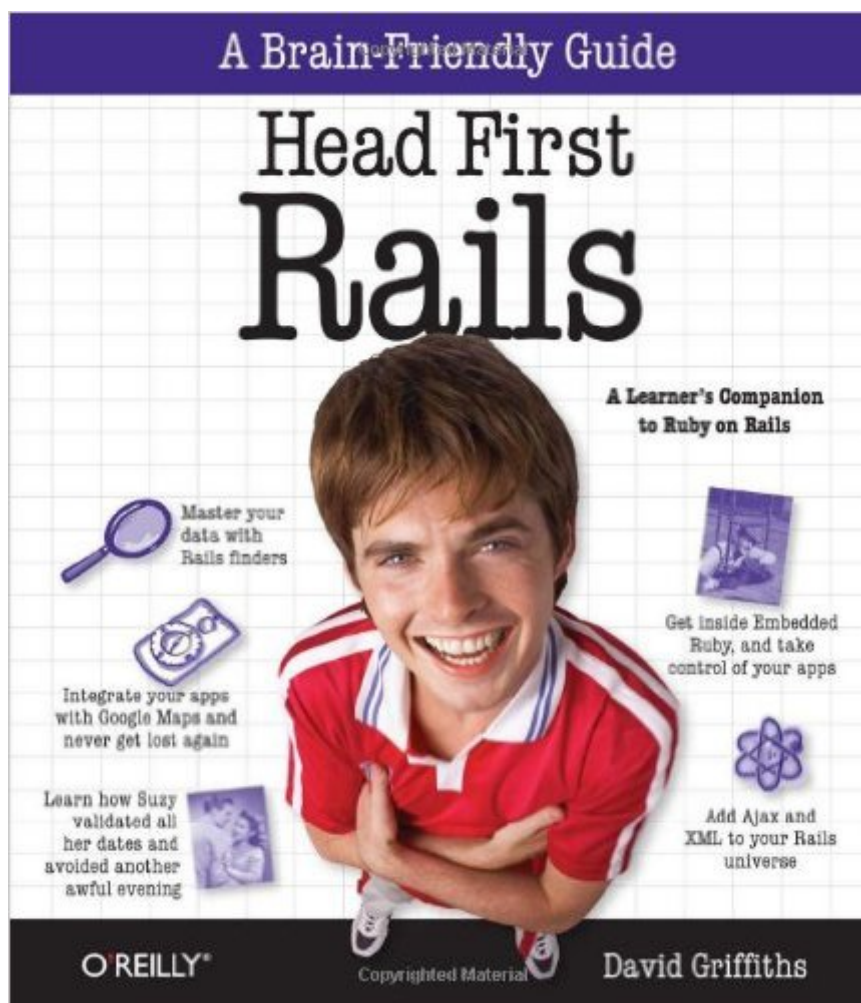# Head First Rails: A Learner's Companion To Ruby On Rails

Synopsis

Ready to transport your web applications into the Web 2.0 era? Head First Rails takes your programming -- and productivity -- to the max. You'll learn everything from the fundamentals of Rails scaffolding to building customized interactive web apps using Rails' rich set of tools and the MVC framework. By the time you're finished, you'll have learned more than just another web framework. You'll master database interactions, integration with Ajax and XML, rich content, and even dynamic graphing of your data -- all in a fraction of the time it takes to build the same apps with Java, PHP, ASP.NET, or Perl. You'll even get comfortable and familiar with Ruby, the language that underpins Rails. But you'll do it in the context of web programming, and not through boring exercises such as "Hello, World!" Your time is way too valuable to waste struggling with new concepts. Using the latest research in cognitive science and learning theory to craft a multi-sensory learning experience, Head First Rails uses a visually rich format designed to take advantage of the way your brain really works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Over the last year, I have picked up a few books on Ruby on Rails but the information exits me as soon as it enters. Creating a Rails book in the Head First style is what I needed personally. This is a beginners book, but when a book is subtitled "A learner's Companion", one shouldn't expect anything advanced. For those who are looking for an advanced book, then they should check out The Rails Way by Obie Fernandez.Ruby on Rails is an interesting and controversial framework, and

is often difficult to get beginners help for. There are quite a few elitists who frown on designers and newbies like us trying to learn a framework, so we can make our designs more interactive. But you know what...Tough. There are countless cases where an engineer falls short at the CSS/DOM level and the designer has to take over. This leads to designers having to learn a bit of engineering....The best thing to do is start at the beginning and practice a lot. Head First Rails covers a lot of projects (interesting) instead of just one (an easy way to lose interest).In a nutshell, Head First books are designed for a certain type of person. Some don't understand, and complain about them..."theres a lot of pictures", etc... but they miss the point of the books. They're for beginners who want to learn fast and want to retain. They're designed as an educational experience and not a reference. For reference, there's plenty of books by O'reilly and Addison Wesely and others to cover that.One reviewer here claims that this book teaches old conventions, i.e. the doesn't teach the RESTful method. This is not true. There is an entire chapter devoted to REST, and the project is mashing up a Google map. REST is a trendy term, and can be learned in an hour.

I am deeply disappointed. I should have read the more recent reviews. This book is about an earlier version of Rails and Ruby. Even the most basic commands, such as how to start the web server, are totally different (">ruby script/server" in the book, ">rails server" in the current version). If there is a way to find the versions of Ruby and Rails about which this book was written, I haven't found it, mainly because--as far as I can tell--there is no mention in the book about what version of Ruby and Rails it was written to support.I also haven't found a cross-reference on the web that tells me what a given command's analog is between the old and new versions. It took an hour of utilizing the most well-known search engine on the web to just figure out the current command for starting the web server--I don't have time to do that for every single command supported by Ruby OR Rails!Apparently the site the book directs you to for the software downloads only has (or directs you to--it isn't all in lone location) the latest versions. It also wouldn't have hurt to put four or five pages of instructions outlining how to actually install Ruby and Rails onto a given platform, I'm baffled how they say their rationale for this is that "this is not a how-to book" (direct quote) when that is EXACTLY WHAT IT IS!!! "HOW TO" use Rails! Ruby and Rails (and Ruby Gems) all use different methods to install onto a given machine. I'm still a bit perplexed about Ruby Gems. I'm not sure exactly what they are--I have a couple of hunches, but the book certainly doesn't explain it.As soon as Rails 3.1 became available (October 2010), this book should have become unavailable.

I recently decided to learn some programming so I can start creating some web apps of my own,

since I felt that the world of business was gaining a lot of traction towards this direction. I know my fair share about HTML and CSS, and can even hack through a tiny little bit of PHP given my experience with Wordpress sites.I thought a great deal about my business goals and decided that RoR would be the better option for me over objective C and the iOS platform. I've heard nothing but good things about Ruby on Rails and seen way too many great web apps created with it so I decided to give it a shot.But after thumbing through the many books on the subject, I almost gave up on trying to learn this language on my own -- most of them completely lost me, and I had absolutely no idea what the hell they were talking about. I mean, I didn't even know what Ruby on Rails is exactly (it's a framework for the Ruby language -- wait, what??)My brother, a computer science major, told me good things about the Head First series. As I looked through this book, it seemed beginner-friendly enough so I went ahead and bought it.I have to say I'm quite disappointed with the book.At first, it looks great. They give you hypothetical scenarios ("Your friend's boss needs an app created that can do X, Y, Z... Can you help?" and walks you through how to do it with Rails) -- perfect for me, given that I'm mostly a "how/if" learner. There are lots of visual cues and pictures, so it feels like you're learning in a classroom environment and the teacher is drawing lots of diagrams to help you better understand the material you're reading.

Head First Rails: A Learner's Companion to Ruby on Rails Ruby: Learn Ruby in 24 Hours or Less - A Beginner's Guide To Learning Ruby Programming Now (Ruby, Ruby Programming, Ruby Course) Ruby on Rails Tutorial: Learn Web Development with Rails (3rd Edition) (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) Ruby on Rails Tutorial: Learn Web Development with Rails (4th Edition) (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby Series) Ruby on Rails 3 Tutorial: Learn Rails by Example (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) Head First Physics: A learner's companion to mechanics and practical physics (AP Physics B - Advanced Placement) Metaprogramming Ruby 2: Program Like the Ruby Pros (Facets of Ruby) Head First Data Analysis: A learner's guide to big numbers, statistics, and good decisions Learning Rails 5: Rails from the Outside In The Rails 4 Way (3rd Edition) (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) Agile Web Development with Rails 4 (Facets of Ruby) Data Visualization Toolkit: Using JavaScript, Rails, and Postgres to Present Data and Geospatial Information (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby Series) Head First Ruby Ruby's Tea for Two (Max and Ruby) Ruby's Cupcakes (Max and Ruby) Ruby's Rainbow (Max and Ruby) Max & Ruby's Storybook Treasury (Max and Ruby) Ruby's Falling Leaves (Max and Ruby) Practical Object-Oriented Design in Ruby: An Agile Primer (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) Eloquent Ruby (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby)