

What Happened to RubyGems and What Can We Learn?



Mike McQuaid

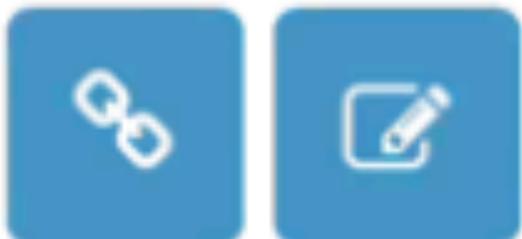
Your proposals

Title

State

What happened to
RubyGems and what
can we learn?

 confirmed



Oh fuck. First main stage talk at FOSDEM
accepted. 😬

Your proposals

Title

State

What happened to
RubyGems and what
can we learn?

 confirmed



Oh fuck. First main stage talk at FOSDEM
accepted. 😬

Congrats!

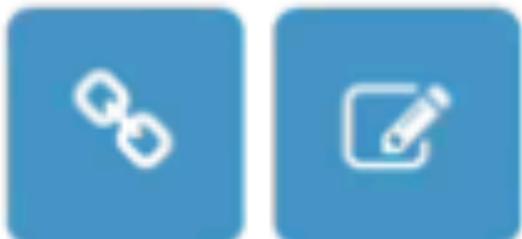
Your proposals

Title

State

What happened to
RubyGems and what
can we learn?

 confirmed



Oh fuck. First main stage talk at FOSDEM
accepted. 😬

Congrats!

What a title.

Your proposals

Title

State

What happened to
RubyGems and what
can we learn?

 confirmed



Oh fuck. First main stage talk at FOSDEM
accepted. 😬

Congrats!

What a title. You're fucked

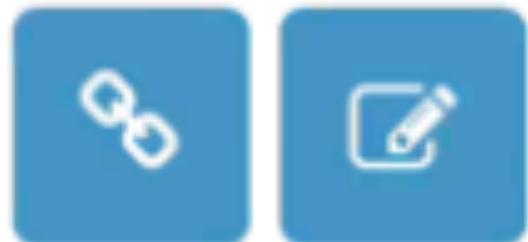
Your proposals

Title

State

What happened to
RubyGems and what
can we learn?

 confirmed



Oh fuck. First main stage talk at FOSDEM
accepted. 😬

Congrats!

What a title. You're fucked

lol

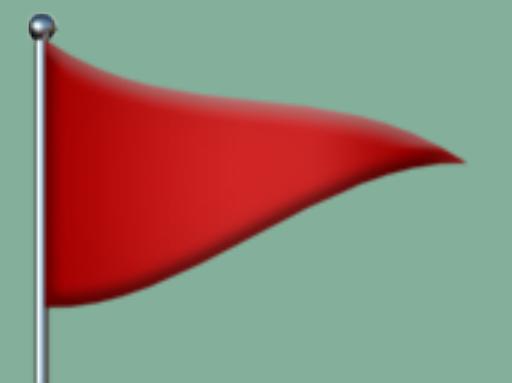
framing



this is
not a trial



certainty is
a red flag



incentives
are everything



learning
over drama



FOSS infrastructure



invisible when
it works



critical when
it fails



this story
is about that



who?





Project Leader of Homebrew
(Homebrew Maintainer 2009 – Present)



Principal Engineer at GitHub
(GitHub Engineer 2013 - 2023)



Rubyist
(2005 – Present)



CTPO at Administrate
(2025 - Present)

not a RubyGems
maintainer



not a RubyCentral
person



asked to mediate



failed to mediate



September -
October 2025



helped gem.coop
governance



learned some things



what?



RubyGems



Founded 2004



Millions of
applications



Not a
"side project"



money?



servers:
cost money



on-call:
costs money



incidents:
costs money



not everything:
costs money



comparison



Homebrew



hosting:
provided freely



trade-off:
independence



trade-off:
dependence



timeline



RubyCentral
founded: 2001



RubyGems

released: Mar 2004



RubyTogether
founded: 2015



RubyTogether/RubyCentral
merged: 2022



timeline



September 2025



access removed



no notice



no governance



recovery attempt



mid September 2025



governance
proposed



access
restored



Proposal for RubyGems Organizational Governance #61

↳ Code ▾

Open

master ← martinemde/governance



Conversation 53

Commits 2

Checks 0

Files changed 1

+185 -0



Martin Emde on Sep 14, 2025 · edited

Contributor

Reviewers

4 more reviewers

- duckinator
- MikeMcQuaid
- colin dean
- deivid-rodriguez

As an organization that has long held its governance in trust by the maintainers of the project, I propose that we establish a transparent public governance plan.

It would be beneficial for everyone in the community to understand how we choose and control ownership of the public open source projects that power the ruby community.

Clarity around the ownership and governance of the project ensures that donors, maintainers, and users alike can understand how the ownership and direction of the project is decided, with the goal of providing stability and trust through transparency.

Rendered



Commits Proposal for RubyGems Organizational Governance

Verified

f175cd7

Still in progress? Learn about draft PRs



Notifications

Customize

You're receiving notifications because you were mentioned.

None

All

Status

8 participants



indirect (André Arko) on Sep 15, 2025

Contributor

I think this is a good start, and using Homebrew's existing and tested policy document is very helpful. Let's see what everyone else who is currently a maintainer of Bundler, RubyGems, or RubyGems.org thinks. @bronzdoc @djberg96 @duckinator @evanphx @hsbt @segiddins @deivid-rodriguez @colby-swandise @simi does this seem good? any suggestions or requested changes?

<https://github.com/rubygems/rfcs/pull/61>

mediation
attempted



access removed

(again)



security invoked



Late September 2025



root access: active



RubyGems/Bundler move
to Ruby Core team





Rubygems.org AWS Root Access Event – September 2025

Incident Response Timeline

September 30 2025

Analysis of Events

Extent of the Incident

How Was The Incident Resolved?

Root Cause Analysis

What We Are Doing to Prevent Future Incidents?

Why Did Ruby Central Treat This Event as a Security Incident?

Editorial Notes

As part of standard incident-response practice, Ruby Central is publishing the following post-incident

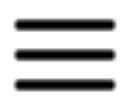
<https://rubycentral.org/news/rubygems-org-aws-root-access-event-september-2025/>

public disclosure





~~404~~



How Ruby Went Off the Rails



EMANUEL MAIBERG · SEP 29, 2025 AT 9:00 AM

What happened to RubyGems, Bundler, and the Open Source drama that controls the internet infrastructure.



<https://www.404media.co/how-ruby-went-off-the-rails/>

confidence collapses



lawsuits begin



consequences



talk fails



maintainers exit

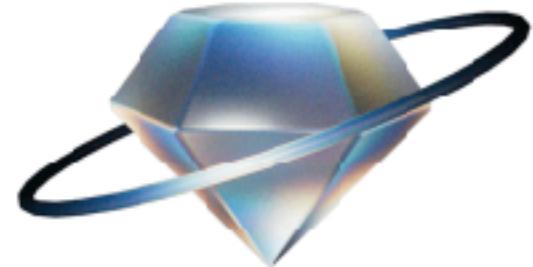


October 2025



gem.coop





[Home](#) | [Updates](#) | [Fellowship](#) | [GitHub](#)

gem.coop

We're excited to introduce **gem.coop** – a new server for gems in the [Ruby](#) ecosystem.

We aim for fast, simple hosting, that is compatible with [Bundler](#) but optimized for the next generation. It's built for the community by the former maintainers and operators of [RubyGems.org](#).

All gems published to [RubyGems.org](#) are available, updated in real time. Get started right now with a simple change to your [Gemfile](#):

```
-source "https://rubygems.org"  
+source "https://gem.coop"
```

To use gem.coop directly from the `gem` command you can either specify it for

<https://gem.coop>

professional FOSS



hard FOSS



volunteer limits



structural burnout



careers



Foss is not a career



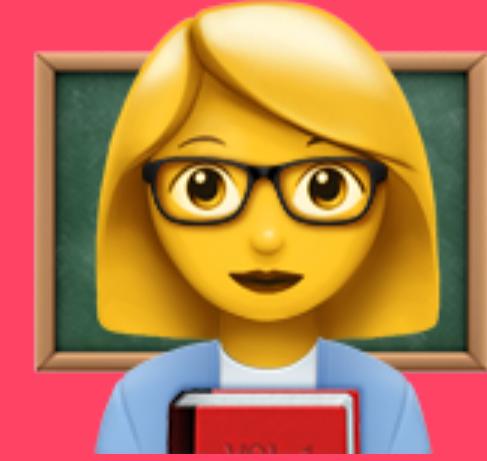
plan for your exit



One size doesn't fit all



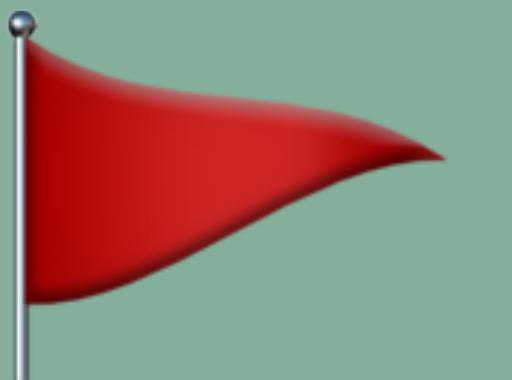
lessons



this is
not about blame



if you're
100% sure



governance is boring



governance is boring
(until it isn't)



money makes things
better?



money makes things
complicated



ask
better questions



ask
what broke and why



questions?



mike@mikemcquaid.com

<https://mikemcquaid.com>