

# Pragmatic Community Driven Development in Ruby

NYC.rb, preview of MWRC talk : G. Brown

2007.03.13

What's Community  
Driven Development?

Free-Libre-Open-Source

Software Freedom

Church of Emacs

License Compatibility

FSF

*GPL*

GNU Project

*Copyleft*

Quality through open development

Cathedral vs. Bazaar

Economic Strategy      License Compatibility

OSI

Resource optimization      *Linus Torvalds*

*Linux in the marketplace*

Too Many Concepts!

People + Problems  
are all you need.

# What's Pragmatic?

We want to  
produce good software  
and collaborate with  
each other.





What makes  
Ruby special?

3

# 1

We have lots of *fresh* problems

# 2

Our community is still *evolving*

3

We have the *extreme* bikeshed

Still not perfect.

Ruby has onions.



How many practices in our  
community are rooted in old  
methodologies?

# Ruport: The Five Onion Soup

Reporting Sucks

# Lies, Damned Lies, and Statistics

5 developers, 2 active.

Code from ~15 people.

Active Users estimated 150-300

Under Development since August `05

Enough activity  
to make some bad  
decisions.

- Software Licensing
- Infrastructure
- Community Interaction
- Development Funding
- Design Decisions

## The Onions



# ONION #1

## Licensing Decisions

License Choices  
depend on conditions



# GPL

*Holy War God-King*

Projects can benefit  
from choosing the  
least common  
denominator

MIT is not Ruby's LCD  
(sorry)

License of Ruby comes close

If we use the same  
license, we have less  
confusion / conflicts.

# ONION #2

## Infrastructure Decisions

I love that we have  
RubyForge.

It's great for archival  
and software  
distribution



Not great for  
project management

GForge is not what  
we need.

We like Trac,  
so we use it.

# Bridges Don't Hurt.

```
svk smerge -sIB --verbatim //mirror/ruport-master //mirror/ruport-slave
```

Tool Wrangling takes  
away from hacking  
on your project.

# Onion #3 Community Interaction

Exposure is good.

RubyTalk  
subscribers:

It just isn't 2003  
anymore.



Do you live in your  
favorite bar?

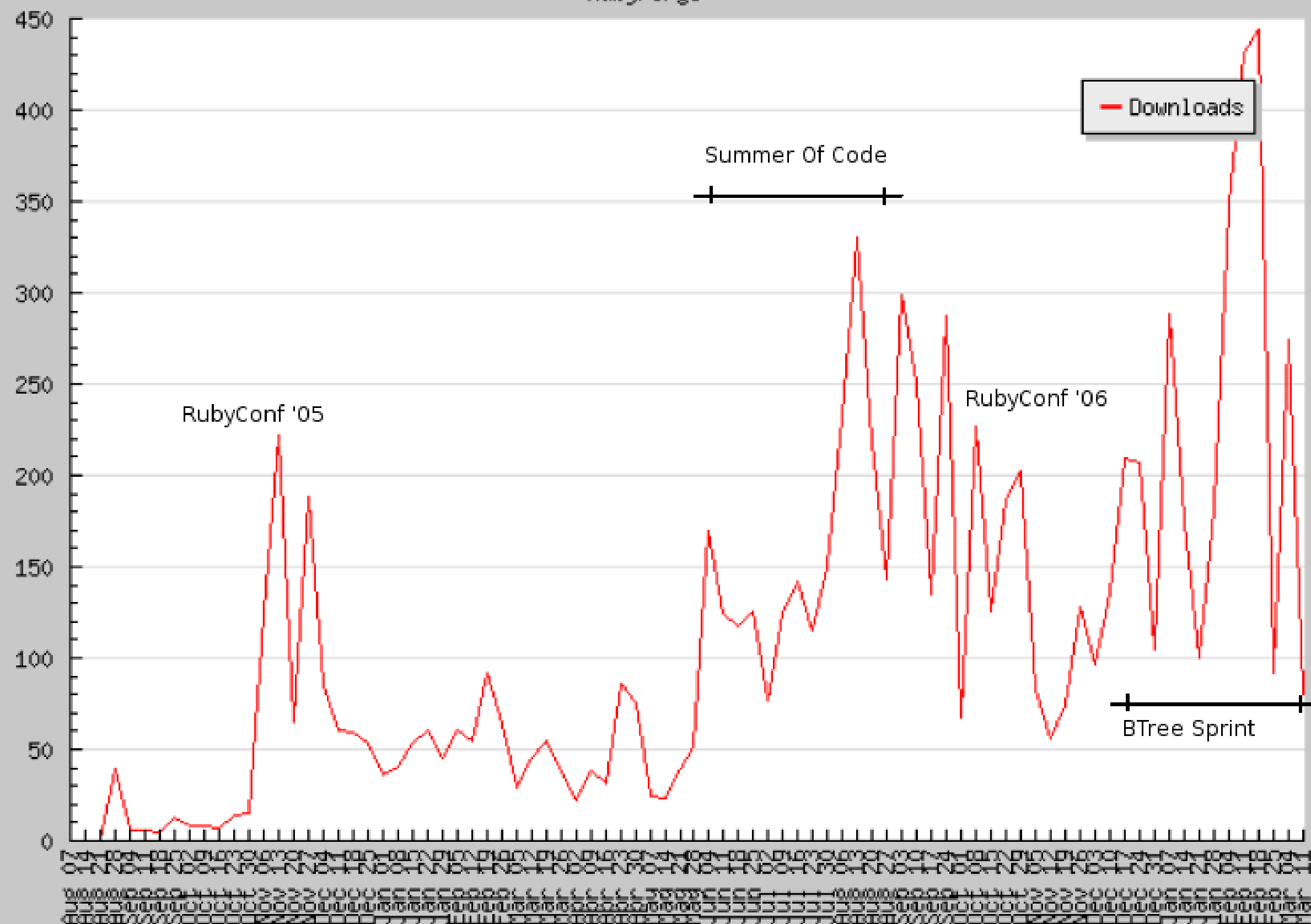
Begin developing  
communication  
channels early.

Once you pick your  
preferred mediums,  
stick to them.

Use special events  
to attract newcomers

# Project Activity For: Ruby Reports (Ruport) (05/01/2005-03/31/2007)

RubyForge



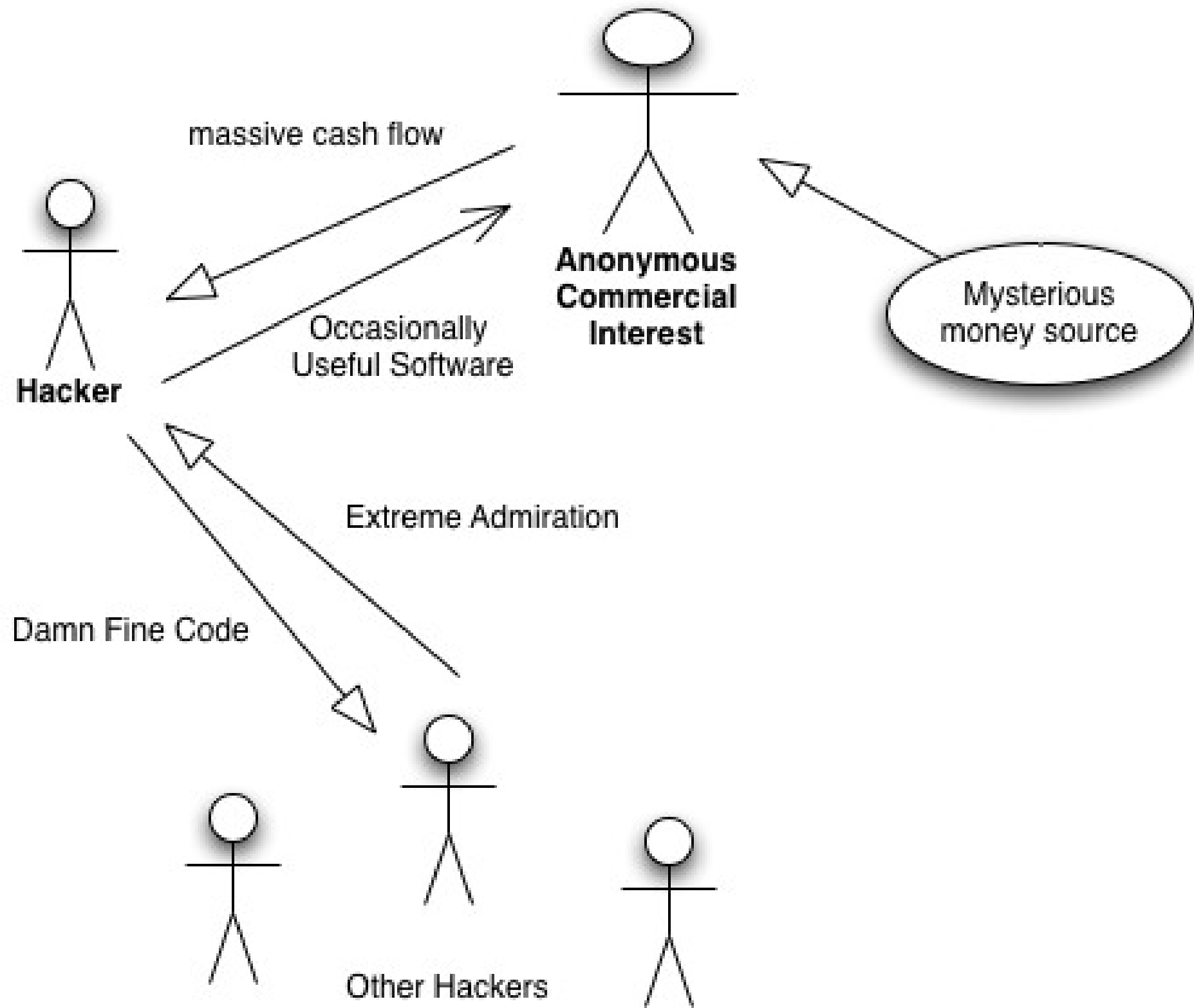
# Onion #4 Development Funding

Do you want your  
open source projects  
to just be a hobby?

Commercial Software Development  
costs money.



A 'donate' banner  
is not funding



Working on Real  
Problems helps.

Students:

Consider GSoC and  
other academic  
opportunities

# Onion #5

## Design Decisions

Rails is a good place  
to look for design tips

Myth:

Rails fell from on high  
and represents Ruby  
coding divinity.

```
$ rake -T
(in /home/batsman/src/rcov/pimki)
/home/batsman/src/rcov/pimki/config/boot.rb:42:Warning: require_gem is obsolete
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-1.14.4/lib/active_record
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-1.14.4/lib/active_record
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-1.14.4/lib/active_record
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/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionpack-1.12.5/lib/action_controll
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionpack-1.12.5/lib/action_controll
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/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionpack-1.12.5/lib/action_controll
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionpack-1.12.5/lib/action_view/hel
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionpack-1.12.5/lib/action_view/hel
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionmailer-1.2.5/lib/action_mailer/
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/actionwebservice-1.1.6/lib/action_web
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:581: w
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:590: w
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:595: w
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:600: w
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:607: w
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:611: w
/home/batsman/usr/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/rails-1.1.6/lib/initializer.rb:615: w
rake clean                # Remove any temporary products.
rake clobber              # Remove any generated file.
rake db:clear             # Clears the development database
```

Not Cool!



Copy only  
what you like.

Conventions emerge.

Eventually, your  
project should have  
it's *\*own\** identity.

Just try to make it a  
good one.

I am extremely happy  
to be working on  
Ruport.

Why?

The Ruby Community Rocks!

Let's be bold and  
throw out our onions.

2007.05.15

Onion-free Ruport