Debuggable Ruby

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"Beware of bugs in the above code; I have only proved it correct, not tried it."

— Donald Knuth

Dealing with bugs

Java Let's make interfaces simple enough that bugs don't happen.

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Dealing with bugs

Java	Let's make interfaces simple enough that bugs don't happen.
Haskell	Let's make the type-system powerful enough to catch all bugs.
Ruby	Bugs happen anyway, let's make it really easy to debug.

Debugging process

- Find something that's broken.
- Narrow it down until you know why it's broken.
- Fix the underlying cause.
- Check that it now works.

How people debug

- `puts foo.inspect`
- `raise "zomg wtf bbq" if foo?`
- Run the code in `rails c`
- Read the code...
- `binding.pry`

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- `p foo`
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Debuggable code

- Easy to inspect objects.
- Easy to run short snippets.
- Easy to locate the problem.

`Object#inspect` in Ruby

- Lists all instance variables by default.
- Almost always good enough.
- Override if the default is too noisy.
- Override if you define `#to_s`.

```
Object.instance_method(:inspect).
  bind(Authorization::Base.first).call
```

```
#<Authorization::LinkedIn:0x007f85c23c2748
  @changed_attributes={}, @previously_changed={},
  @marked_for_destruction=false, @destroyed=false,
  @attributes={"id"=>"87", "user_id"=>"38", "type"=>"Authoriza
tion::LinkedIn", "status"=>"pending", "created_at"=>"2013-06-18
23:21:07.138227", "updated_at"=>"2013-06-18 23:21:07.138227",
"account_identifier"=>nil, "properties"=>
   #<struct ActiveRecord::AttributeMethods::Serialization::Attribute
     coder=JSONProperties, value=nil, state=:serialized>,
"encrypted_properties"=>
   #<struct ActiveRecord::AttributeMethods::Serialization::Attribute
    coder=#<EncryptedJSONProperties:0x007f85c23757b8
    @encryptor=#<ActiveSupport::MessageEncryptor:0x007f85c2392200
    @cipher="aes-256-cbc",
    @verifier=#<ActiveSupport::MessageVerifier:0x007f85bbbf9a80
    @serializer=ActiveSupport::MessageEncryptor::NullSerializer,
    @secret="dummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecre",
    @digest="SHA1">,
    @secret="dummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecretdummysecre",
    @serializer=JSONProperties>>, value=nil, state=:serialized>},
  @readonly=false, @new_record=false, @attributes_cache={}, @relation=nil,
  @aggregation_cache={}, @association_cache={}>
```

```
Authorization::Base.first.inspect

#<Authorization::LinkedIn
  id: 87, user_id: 38,
  type: "Authorization::LinkedIn",
  status: "pending",
  created_at: "2013-06-18 23:21:07",
  updated_at: "2013-06-18 23:21:07",
  account_identifier: nil,
  properties: {},
  encrypted_properties: {}>
```

```
Object.instance_method(:inspect).
  bind(URI.parse("http://google.com/")).call
=> "http://google.com/"
```

```
URI.parse("http://google.com/").inspect
=> "#<URI::HTTP:0x007fcaa
            URL:http://www.google.com/>"
```

Getting the default #inspect back

```ruby
# If you override to_s, inspect will use that.
# This is never what you want.
# Can restore the default with this:
def inspect
  pointer = "0x#{(object_id * 2).to_s(16)}"
  ivars = instance_variables.map do |ivar|
    "#{ivar}=#{instance_variable_get(ivar).inspect}"
  end.join(" ")
  "#<#{self.class.name} #{pointer} #{ivars}>"
end
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Example from pry

- Pry lets you edit methods:
  `[1] pry(main)> edit Module#inspect.`
- Bug in the edit command.
- `edit Module.inspect` would sometimes redefine `Module#inspect`.

Hard to debug

- Pry::Commands::Edit “method name”
- — Uses Pry::CodeObject to get a method
- — Invokes MethodPatcher(pry, method)
- — Uses pry.edit to open code in vim
- — Evals the changed source code

Hard to debug

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Minimal test case...

```ruby
module Foo
  def self.foo; :wrong; end
end

binding.pry

# type "edit Foo.foo" into pry...
# type "def foo; :right; end" into vim...

puts Foo.foo == :right
```

Minimal test case...

```ruby
module Foo
  def self.foo; :wrong; end
end

meth = Pry::CodeObject.lookup("Foo.foo")
pry = Pry.new
Commands::Edit::MethodPatcher.new(pry, meth)
# type "def foo; :right; end" into vim...

puts Foo.foo == :right
```

Minimal test case...

```ruby
module Foo
  def self.foo; :wrong; end
end

meth = Pry::CodeObject.lookup("Foo.foo")
Commands::Edit::MethodPatcher.new(meth,
  "def foo; :right; end")

puts Foo.foo == :right
```

Minimal test case...

```ruby
module Foo
  def self.foo; :wrong; end
end

meth = Pry::Method(Foo.method(:foo))
meth.redefine "def foo; :right; end"

puts Foo.foo == :right
```

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Don't rescue nil

```ruby
# Fuzzily find a command for a user.
# @param [String] search The user's search.
# @return [Pry::Command?]
def find_command_for_help(search)
 find_command(search) ||
 (find_command_by_listing_or_match(search) rescue nil)
end
```

Don't rescue nil

```ruby
# Fuzzily find a command for a user.
# @param [String] search The user's search.
# @return [Pry::Command?]
def find_command_for_help(search)
  find_command(search) || (begin
    find_command_by_match_or_listing(search)
  rescue ArgumentError
    nil
  end)
end
```

When in doubt, raise

```ruby
def do_delivery
  begin
    if perform_deliveries
      delivery_method.deliver!(self)
    end
  # Net::SMTP errors or sendmail pipe errors
  rescue Exception => e
    raise e if raise_delivery_errors
  end
end
```

Preserve __FILE__ and __LINE__

```
def __define_callback(kind, object)
  name = __callback_runner_name(kind)
  unless object.respond_to?(name, true)
    str = object.send("_#{kind}_callbacks").compile
    class_eval <<-RUBY_EVAL, __FILE__, __LINE__ + 1
      def #{name}() #{str} end
      protected :#{name}
    RUBY_EVAL
  end
  name
end
```

Preserve __FILE__ and __LINE__

```
# Create a new rack app from a config.ru
def new_from_string(builder_script, file="config.ru")
  eval "Rack::Builder.new {\n" +
        builder_script + "\n}.to_app",
    TOPLEVEL_BINDING, file, 0
end
```

Good code is debuggable

- Single Responsibility Principle
- Seperation of Concerns.
- KISS.

Final words

- Programmers spend 50 – 85% of their time debugging.
- Costs the world $312,000,000 each year.
- A little effort goes a long way.

Thanks

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