

# Craic Computing Tech Tips

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A collection of computer systems and programming tips that you may find useful.

Brought to you by [Craic Computing LLC](#), a bioinformatics consulting company.

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

## Using Older Versions of Rails

You want to develop with the latest version of Rails but you have an existing application that uses an older version that you are not ready to bring up to date. What do you do?

By default gem will keep older versions of installed gems until you tell it not to. To see what you have installed:

```
$ gem list --local
[...]  
rails (2.1.0, 1.2.3, 1.2.1)
```

To use a specific version in your application add a line like this to the bottom of your config/environment.rb file

```
RAILS_GEM_VERSION = '1.2.3'
```

That should just work.

You can get rid of old versions of gems with this command:

```
$ gem cleanup
```

If you remove an old version by mistake you can always reinstall it with this gem command:

```
$ sudo gem install rails --version 1.2.3
```

When you are ready to move your application to the current version of rails then remove the line from environment.rb and bring your application files up to date with:

```
$ rake rails:update
```

Now, let's say you have installed the current version of Rails (say, 2.1.0) but you need to build an application that uses an older version. According to 'rails --help' there is no way to specify a version to use. It turns out that there is a hidden option available that does this:

```
$ rails _1.2.6_ myapp
```

Simple! Why this isn't explicitly documented I don't know. I found out about it from this post: <http://rubybook.ca/2008/08/06/downgrade-older-version-rails/>. Obviously you need to have the older version of Rails available on your system.

Posted by [Robert Jones](#) at 2:41 PM 

**2 comments:****geo1004 said...**

Actually, to generate a rails application with a specific version the command is rails \_numberOfVersion\_ new app\_name. You just forget the "new".  
So for example to generate an application "MyApp", with rails version 3.0.3 you have to do : rails \_3.0.3\_ new MyApp.

Cheers

June 13, 2011 at 1:11 AM

**klairvoyant info solutions said...**

geo1004 commend help he in a critical time

November 22, 2011 at 8:31 PM

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