

Rewriting IRB

putting it on a diet

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About IRB

- IRB is probably about the oldest Ruby program in active use
- It's very fragile with regards to scoping (i.e. constant lookup) and other subtle Ruby changes
- It has been accumulating code, and fixes, for all these years, thus becoming more and more unmaintainable

Mkay, so why a complete rewrite?

- MRI has more features nowadays that could make IRB's code leaner. Read: Ripper
- In MacRuby we have the chance to more easily cleanup the standard library, without affecting the normal MRI user base
- There are no good tests describing all the more obscure parts of IRB. So a 'simple' cleanup, would not be simple

DietRB

- Smaller, in terms of LOC
- But does come with a completion, history, and colorization extension
- Spec descriptions
- Already merged in MacRuby HEAD:
\$ /usr/local/bin/macirb -v
0.4.2 (DietRB)

Now what?

- Needs more eyes to scrutinize my work (before MacRuby 0.7 is released)
- Especially since Yugui, and now Matz, have shown interest in such a rewrite for MRI as well
- Create them issue tickets!

Get it!

- `$ gem install dietrb`
- <http://github.com/alloy/dietrb>
- <http://github.com/alloy/slides>

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