Quick Start: What is Rails?

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What It Is … and Isn't

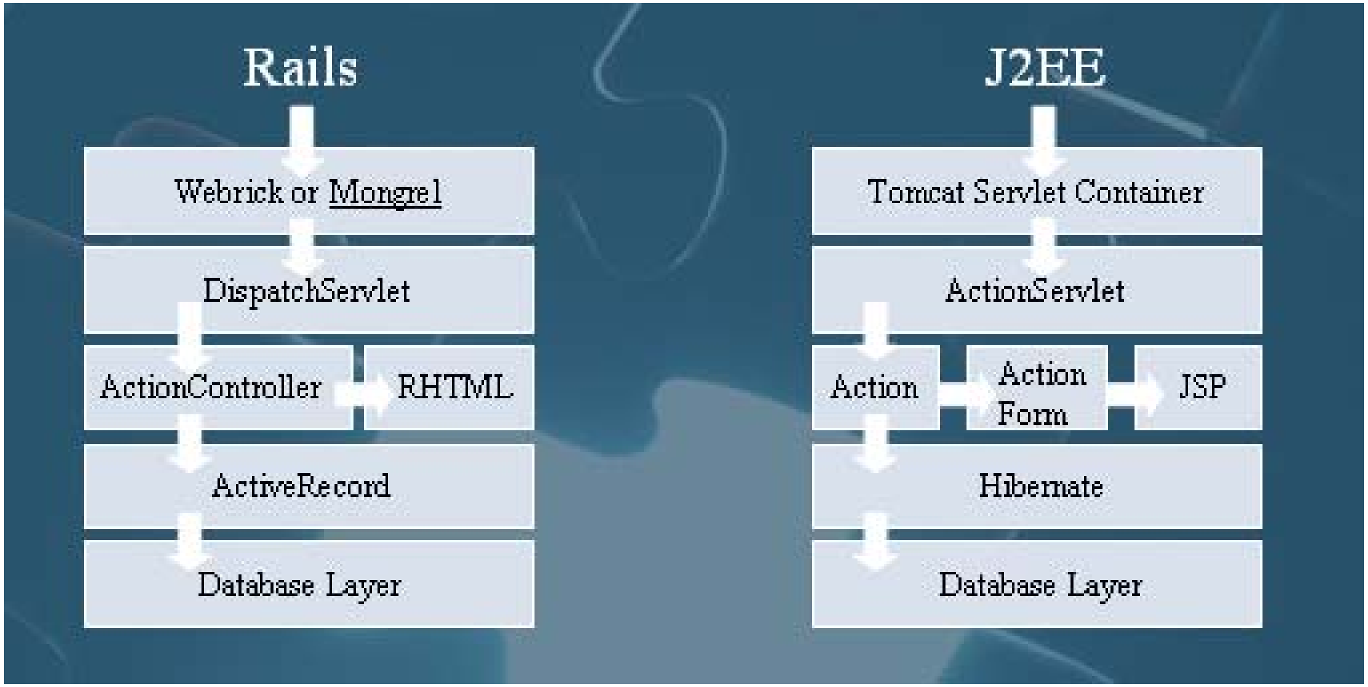
Rails is a framework implemented in the Ruby object-oriented language that facilitates the creation of web sites, particularly CRUD-oriented (create, read, update & delete) web pages.

- It's a tool
- It's optimized to create web pages quickly
- It's MVC without config files
- It's a productivity enhancer
- It's got a learning curve

- It's not magic
- It's not a silver bullet
- It's not going to replace Java for all applications

It’s a Full Stack Framework

Rails provides an integrated full stack framework. J2EE provides similar functionality with a variety of separate frameworks / tools (each with their own learning curves).



The Rails Philosophy

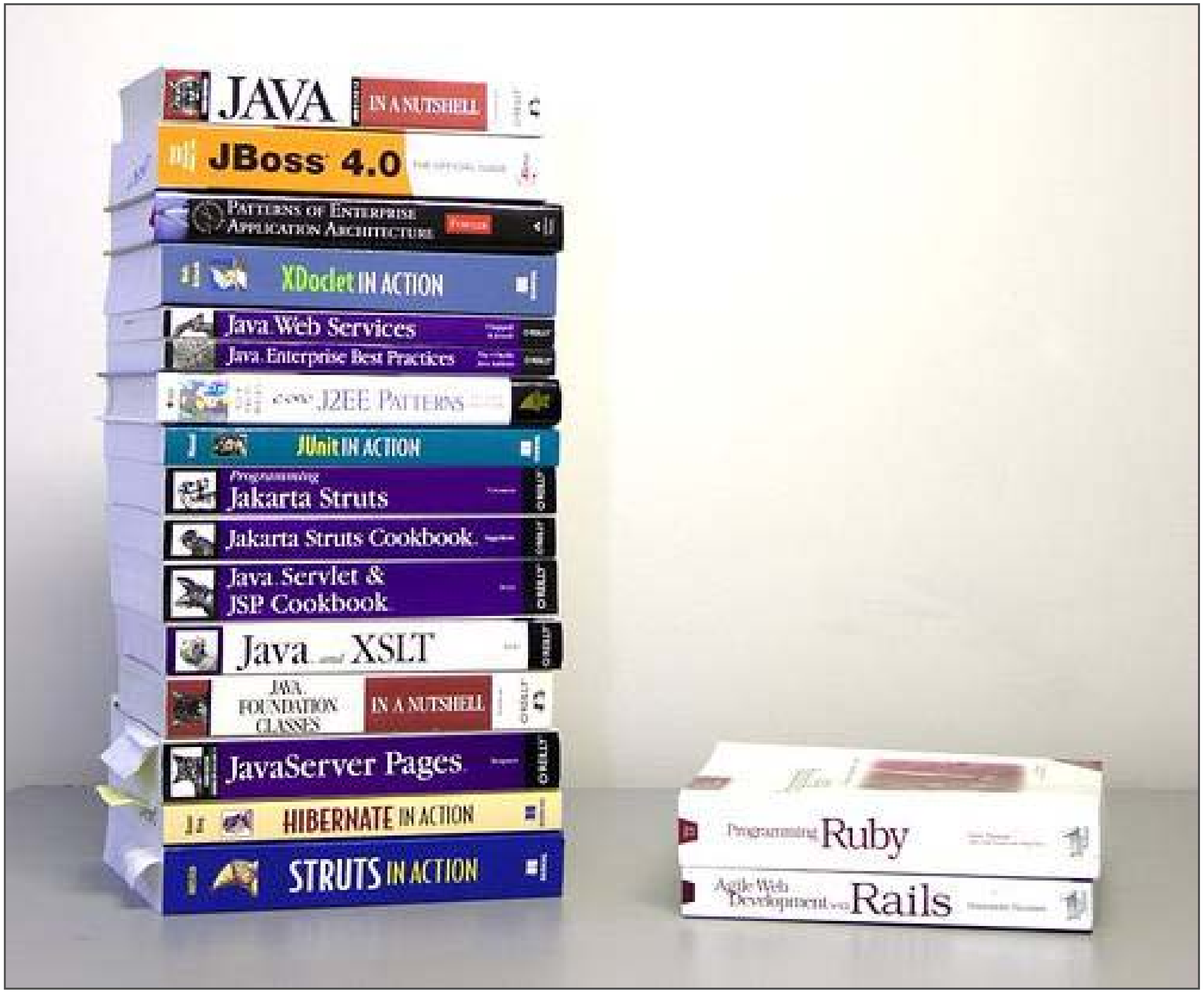
Philosophy separates Rails from Java. Where Java favors solution completeness, Rails favors simplicity and speed.

- Convention over configuration
- Do not repeat yourself (DRY)
- The 80/20 Rule: Rails implements 80% of the functionality that most users need; the other 20% is your application
- Corollary to the 80/20 Rule: You have the power to extend the framework yourself

Primary Rails Features

- **Migrations:** Facilitates DB maintenance
- **Code Generators:** Get up-and-running quickly with scaffolding (replace it later)
- **Object-Relational Mapping:** Uses ActiveRecord to automatically generate class methods based on database lookups
- **MVC:** No configuration required; just follow the Rails conventions
- **Integrated Features:** Database access, AJAX, Testing, Text/HTML emails, etc.

Summary…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Note: Graphic found on web.