

# **ruby nation**

**WASHINGTON D.C.'S RUBY AND RAILS CONFERENCE**

A large, stylized graphic of a five-pointed star is positioned on the left side of the poster. The star is composed of several overlapping semi-circles in shades of red, yellow, and orange. It has a metallic, reflective quality with highlights and shadows. The star is oriented towards the right.

**chad fowler**

yeHUDA kATZ  
david black  
joe o'brien  
hal fULTON  
russ olsen  
ben scofield  
luc castera  
david eisinger  
david keener  
mark cornick  
adam blum  
david medinets  
tony pitale  
danny philpot  
aaron bedra  
pradeep elankumaran  
paul barry

**June 11-13, 2009**



# bringing ruby on rails to the enterprise

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# ★ friday 06.12

## track 1

## track 2

8-9:00am

### Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 Preparing for Ruby 1.9  
David A. Black

10:15 **Break**

10:30 Design Patterns In Dynamic Languages  
Russ Olsen

Creating A World-Class RESTful Web Services API  
David Keener

11:15 **Break**

11:30 "Comics" Is Hard: Domain Modeling Challenges  
Ben Scofield

Bringing Content Management to Rails  
Paul Barry

12:15pm **Lunch Buffet**

Ruby Marketplace: Open mic for potential  
**Employers** to present job opportunities

1:30 Reia: The Next Big Thing?  
Hal Fulton

Fast and Scalable Front/Back-end Services  
Pradeep Elankumaran

2:15 **Break**

3:00 **Lightning Talks**  
Multiple Presenters

3:45 **Coffee/Snack**

4:15 Handling Legacy DBs with Rails & DataMapper  
Tony Pitale

Learning To Write Better Code & Love Refactoring  
Mark Cornick

5:00 **Break**

5:15 The Passionate Programmer  
Chad Fowler

**Schedule subject to change without notice.**

# ★ saturday 06.13



8-9:00 am **Continental Breakfast**

9:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:15 Be Careful, Your Java is Showing  
Joe O'Brien

10:15 **Break**

10:30 Paralysis to Static Analysis: Upgrading Rcov  
Aaron Bedra

Herding Tigers - Software Dev. & The Art of War  
Daniel Philpott

11:15 **Break**

11:30 Building Native Mobile Apps in Ruby  
Adam Blum

Optimizing Perceived Performance  
David Eisinger

12:15 pm **Lunch Buffet**

1:30 Rails 3  
Yehuda Katz

2:15 **Break**

3:00 **Lightning Talks**  
Multiple Presenters

3:45 **Coffee/Snack**

4:15 Facet-based navigation  
Bruce Tate

5:00 **Break**

5:15 Distrib. Computing with Ruby & TupleSpaces  
Luc Castera

ActiveScaffold  
David Medinets



**Schedule subject to change without notice.**

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## **Keynote**

### **Chad Fowler: *The Passionate Programmer***

What should the career path of a programmer be? How do you know what you're aiming for? What defines success? Many of us started out assuming the answers to these questions included slowly climbing a corporate promotion structure, ultimately becoming a manager and no longer a programmer.

But we didn't get into software development so we could fill out spreadsheets and attend status meetings. We got into software development because we were excited about it. We wanted to be creative and to build great things.

The author of **The Passionate Programmer** will discuss how a software developer can work toward building a remarkable career, by using a structured framework for radically succeeding in the software industry.

### **Yehuda Katz: *From Rails to Rack: Making Rails 3 a Better Ruby Citizen***

Yehuda Katz is giving RubyNation a sneak peek at Rails 3! With the advent of the Rack spec and library, Ruby web frameworks can interact in unprecedented ways. Imagine a Rails application routing to a Sinatra application, or Merb-style exception pages that catch exceptions from Rails or Cloudkit.

Yehuda Katz works full time at Engine Yard as a Core Team Member on the Rails and Merb projects. He is the co-author of **jQuery in Action** and the upcoming **Merb in Action**, and is a contributor to Ruby in Practice.

### **David A. Black: *Preparing for Ruby 1.9***

With the release of Ruby 1.9.1, the 1.9 series has really come into its own. There are a lot of new features, as well as snags for anyone migrating code from 1.8. David will discuss both: what's new in 1.9, and things to be aware of when updating existing code.

David is a highly-regarded Ruby and Rails programmer, author, and trainer. He has over a decade of teaching experience, and is the author of **Ruby for Rails: Ruby techniques for Rails developers**.

### **Bruce Tate: *Requires SEO; acts\_up***

Rails has great tools for building highly interactive excellent web applications quickly. Some of these very tools, including complex routes with flexible URL parameters, remote JavaScript, and navigation strategies can hurt you big time in search engines. In this talk, Bruce Tate talks about the experience he gained in building three commercial web applications and the lessons learned with each.

The Chief Technologist for WellGood, LLC, Bruce uses Ruby technologies to build web sites that make a difference.

### **Joe O'Brien: *Be Careful, Your Java is Showing***

Have you ever opened up a Rails application could instantly tell it was someone's first Rails app? Are you new to Rails and have wondered why you don't have any interfaces?

Joe deals with common pitfalls for people coming from a background in Java, begining with simple idomatic issues, to larger issues such as IOC containers and AOP

programming. Joe will dig into some of the mental disconnect that many developers have when coming over to Rails.

Before helping found EdgeCase, LLC, Joe was a developer with ThoughtWorks and spent much of his time working with large J2EE and .NET systems.

### **Hal Fulton: *Reia—The Next Big Thing?***

Reia is in its infancy but shows great promise. It borrows heavily from Ruby, Python, and Erlang. Some speculate that the marriage of object-oriented and functional programming may be the next incremental leap in our thinking. Hal will examine Erlang benefits, and how Reia brings them into a language with Ruby-like syntax and semantics.

Hal Fulton is a developer for Collective Media, in Austin, Texas. He has two degrees in computer science and has used Ruby since 1999. He is the author of **The Ruby Way**.

### **Russ Olsen: *Design Patterns In Dynamic Languages***

Most Ruby or Groovy programmers will tell you that design patterns are among the things they would like to leave behind. Design patterns are clearly a part of the old world of heavyweight processes and overblown designs that just doesn't work. Or are they? In this talk, Russ Olsen takes a fresh look at the original ideas behind design patterns to see how they fit with more the more flexible, dynamic languages of today.

Russ Olsen's career spans almost three decades, during which he has written graphics device drivers, geographic information systems, power system simulators and document management systems. Russ currently a senior engineer with FGM, building enterprise information systems with J2EE and Rails. Russ is the author of **Design Patterns in Ruby** and lives outside of Washington DC with his family and two turtles.

### **Ben Scofield: *Comics is Hard: Domain Modeling Challenges***

"It sometimes seems like all domains easily map onto relational database—that we live in a happy land where all Employees are People, and all People are Mammals. Unfortunately there are many domains that just don't map so easily onto a standard relational schema. Here are three general alternatives to the familiar model, illustrated by specific examples.

Ben is the development director at Viget Labs, where he builds Rails applications for Web 2.0 startups. He's been using Ruby and Rails for over four years, and is the author of **Practical REST on Rails 2 Projects**.

### **Luc Castera: *Distributed Computing with Ruby and TupleSpaces***

Ruby threads are limited due to the Global Interpreter Lock. Therefore, the best way to do parallel computing with Ruby is to use multiple processes but how do you get these processes to communicate? Luc will present strategies for handling multi-process communication in Ruby, with a focus on the use of TupleSpaces.

Luc Castera is a curious software engineer, always trying to learn new technologies and improve his skills. He is currently the lead-developer at ShareMeme Inc.

### **David Eisinger: Optimizing Perceived Performance**

"There are only two hard things in Computer Science: cache invalidation and naming things." Despite enormous advances in web development, it remains difficult to use caching for scaling sites with expanding user bases. Fortunately, JavaScript libraries take a lot of the pain out of client-side programming. This talk explores techniques for making sites feel faster, without complicated caching schemes, while maintaining strict separation of content, style, and behavior.

David is a web developer at Viget Labs, building web applications for companies ranging from startups to established brands, as well as internal and open source projects.

### **David Keener: Creating World-Class RESTful APIs**

Many major companies have published web services APIs that empower developers to create mash-ups, add-ons and full-scale applications—yet this creation is not exclusive to them. Learn how to architect, build and field an API that will allow your business to leverage the capabilities of the developer community.

David Keener is a writer and technical architect with over 20 years of experience. He is a technical architect for Grab Networks, the company known for streaming the Beijing Olympics over the web.

### **Mark Cornick: Code Stinkers Anonymous:**

#### ***Learning To Write Better Code And Love Refactoring***

We hear a lot about quality code. Testing code makes it easy to maintain. We all try to write quality, maintainable, reusable code. We're all human, and make mistakes, so we have to work at preventing code smells. Mark will talk about how he learned to program, and ways in which he is improving his craft.

Mark is a web developer and systems administrator at Viget Labs in Virginia.

### **Adam Blum: Building Native Mobile Apps in Ruby**

Rhodes is an open source Ruby-based framework for building locally executing, device-optimized mobile apps for all major smartphone devices. These apps work with synchronized data and take advantage of native device capabilities. The majority of the interface is written with high productivity in HTML and Ruby. Rhodes enables an app to be written once, then run on all iPhone, Windows Mobile, BlackBerry, Symbian and Android smartphones.

Adam Blum is CEO of Rhomobile, the open mobile framework company. He is a founder/CTO/VP and advisor for several successful startups in web services and mobile spaces. He is also an adjunct professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

### **David Medinets: ActiveScaffold**

ActiveScaffold produces on-the-fly scaffolding that is better than the default Rails version, that is almost completely customizable. It uses Ajax to create, update, and delete without page reloads. David will produce a custom user interface while still letting the tool do the hard work of generating forms.

David Medinets has been programming since 1980, starting with a TRS-80 Model 1. David is a SCRUM Master and expert application developer specializing in Ruby and Java.

### **Tony Pitale: Legacy DBs with Rails and DataMapper**

DataMapper has pushed the Ruby ORM market to new heights of speed, strength, and flexibility. The rails\_datamapper plugin is the best way to bring DM and Rails together. In the future we will need to deal with many legacy databases, from corporate Java projects or aging PHP web apps. Here are some strategies for handling them, whether through use, wrapping, or migration.

Tony Pitale is a developer at Viget Labs, where he builds Rails applications for startups and conventional businesses.

### **Danny Philpott: Herding Tigers - Software Development & the Art of War**

Herding Tigers is a presentation describing the creation and function of Super Agile Tiger Teams for fast, high quality development. Daily activities, roles and necessary disciplines are also described. This presentation parallels Maneuver Warfare and Agile development, Psychology, Leadership, and expected results.

Danny is a veteran of the industry, having built and managed systems for Citibank, Dell, Ticketmaster, Quest, and other organizations. Danny is currently a development manager and agile evangelist for AT&T Interactive.

### **Aaron Bedra: From Paralysis to Static Analysis: Upgrading Rcov**

Aaron will show a real-life example of updating RCov to work with the new Ruby 1.9 platform.

Aaron brings the ability to quickly ninja any application. His passion for security helping to foster security consciousness throughout the Ruby community and creating better development practices.

### **Pradeep Elankumaran: Fast and Scalable Front/Back-end Services using Ruby, Rails and XMPP**

Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol is a set of open standards for real-time presence and communication. Apart from powering high-traffic instant messaging systems, XMPP can also be used to write real-time web apps using Ruby web frameworks. Pradeep will examine various messaging architectures, and discuss front-end browser interfaces that use XMPP to provide lightning-quick and elegant user interfaces.

A former computational scientist, Pradeep was writing astrophysical simulations in Ruby well before the language was fashionable. Since then, he has worked with social networks, machine learning and applying mathematical models to social data. At Intridea, he researches emerging web technologies, and launches new products.

### **Paul Barry: Bringing Content Management to Rails with BrowserCMS**

BrowserMedia recently released the open source BrowserCMS 3.0, which runs on Rails. Paul will cover content management system features, and demo implementation, to show how easy it is to build websites using BrowserCMS.

Paul Barry is a Senior Software Engineer with BrowserMedia. He has over 10 years experience developing web applications in a variety of languages and frameworks.

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