

How to Get Unstuck

(or what to do when your code doesn't work)

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"His debugging skills are exceptional."

Bugs = coding errors

Debugging = finding + removing bugs



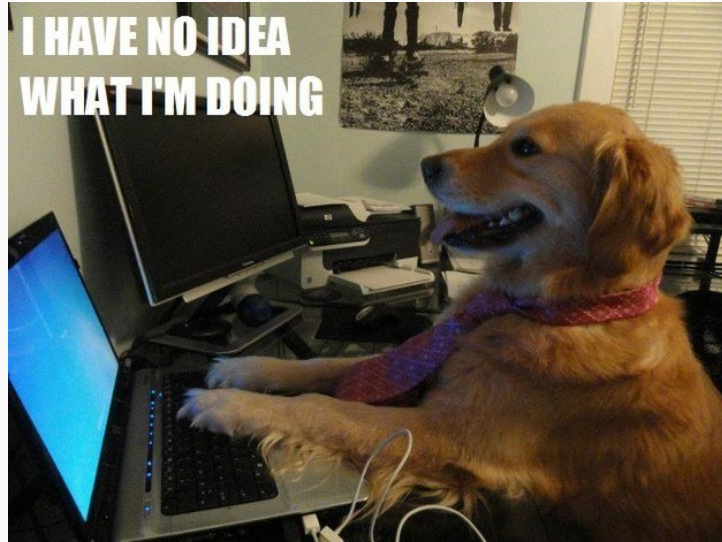
IMPORTANT

Having bugs on your first try at a program is normal...it doesn't mean "you're bad at coding"



The Scenario

- Throws an Error
- Wrong Return Value
- Returns Nothing





**KEEP
CALM
AND
CARRY
ON**

Dissecting the Error Message

```
test.rb:2:in `say_hello': undefined local variable or method `hello' for main:Object (NameError)  
    from test.rb:5:in `<main>'
```



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```

Clues about:

- What went wrong
- Where it went wrong



Dissecting the Error Message

```
test.rb:2:in `say_hello': undefined local variable or method `hello' for main:Object (NameError)  
    from test.rb:5:in `<main>'
```

Type of Error

Description of error

Dissecting the Error Message

```
test.rb:2:in `say_hello': undefined local variable or method `hello' for main:Object (NameError)  
from test.rb:5:in `<main>'
```

Name of File

Method in code that Ruby was
executing when it stopped

Type of Error

Line number in program when
Ruby stopped executing
**(NOTE: this may be different than
where your error is)**

Description of error

Places to Go

- Google
- Stack Overflow
- Documentation

Google is Your Best Friend

- Copy and paste error message
- Search for the thing you want to do. Specify language! (ie ruby, rails)
- Generalize search



StackOverflow

- Quora for coding questions
- DO NOT COPY AND PASTE.
- Some answers are better than others.

Documentation

- Reference guide for using Ruby
- Good for syntax errors
- <http://ruby-doc.org/> → core and std lib

Use Your Tools!

- Pay attention to formatting
- Sublime uses colors to help you!
- Use PRY or “puts” to check return values
- Debugging packages in Sublime?



Advice

- Challenge your beliefs about your code
- Test “edge cases”
- Check variables (type and val) and control flow
- Test hunches and intuitions
- If your logic is perfect, then it's a syntax error.



QUICK PRO TIP:

Prevention



Savage Chickens

by Doug Savage



www.savagechickens.com

Writing Healthy Code

- Write yourself useful notes as comments! (ie method explanation)
- Good formatting
- Follow conventions



Challenge: When bugs come up, practice debugging!



But at the end of the day...

...we're here for you too :)



i_XPERIENCE

