GUI & Ruby

Farrel Lifson farrel.lifson@aimred.com http://www.aimred.com

11th June 2008 Cape Town Ruby Users Group



Introduction

- Ruby is ideal for GUI application development
- Manipulate 'business objects' on a high level
- Speed doesn't matter
- 95% of the time waiting on user input



Options

- Ruby/Tk
- QtRuby
- RubyCocoa
- JRuby/Swing
- FXRuby
- wxWindows
- Ruby/GTK



Ruby TK

- Bundled with Ruby
- Programming Ruby book
- Nice syntax
- U-G-L-Y
- Becoming minor



FXRuby

- Good cross platform support
- foxGUIb Interface Builder
- Integrates with OpenGL
- Maintained and active (1.6 June 2008)



Ruby-GNOME2

- GTK and GNOME Apps
- Glade Interface Builder
- Actively developed



The Minors

- QtRuby
 - KDE4 support?
- wxWindows
- Shoes
- JRuby/Swing
 - Could become major



GUI Application Design

- MVC For GUI before Rails
- Use an interface builder
- For small apps and dialogs use smaller libraries
 - Shoes
 - Zerenity



Zerenity

- Written to learn RubyGTK
- Almost copy of Zenity command line dialogs
- For simple once off dialogs
 - Answer a question
 - Choose an option
 - Choose a file
- Not maintained (Just found some bugs)



Zerenity

DEMO



Glade GTK/Gnome Interface Builder

- LibGlade deprecated
- GTKBuilder integrated into GTK
- Glade 3.6 will support GTKBuilder



Glade GTK/Gnome Interface Builder

DEMO



Questions?

- http://ruby-gnome2.sourceforge.jp
- http://www.fxruby.org
- http://www.rubycocoa.com

