

# HOW TO USE PRY TO KILL HEADCRABS AND OTHER BUGS



# A LITTLE ABOUT ME...

**JASON CARTER**

**SOFTWARE ENGINEER AT MAVENLINK**

“Mavenlink delivers cloud-based software and services that transform how businesses do work with distributed teams, contractors, and clients.”

(but really we're a kickass software development team that practices extreme programming, pair programming, and test driven development)

We're hiring in SLC!

# BUGS HAPPEN...

- » test gaps
- » human error
- » unforeseen side effects
- » black mesa incidents

**WE'VE ALL SPENT  
HOURS TRACKING ONE  
DOWN...**



**...AND WE'VE ALL USED PRY**



# WHAT IS PRY

“Pry is a powerful alternative to the standard IRB shell for Ruby. It features syntax highlighting, a flexible plugin architecture, runtime invocation and source and documentation browsing.”

--<http://pryrepl.org/>

# PRY IS A REPL

```
loop { p eval gets }
```

Takes user input, evaluates it, prints the result,  
and loops again



# IN A RAILS APP

```
gem 'pry'
```

```
gem 'pry-byebug'
```

`pry` is the base gem that replaces `irb`

`pry-byebug` allows us to stop execution in a rails app



# THE BASICS

- » Make sure you're running rails s not unicorn
- » Toss a `binding.pry` in your code somewhere
- » Call that code somehow!

# HOW I USED PRY...

```
def ravenholm
  binding.pry
  freeman = GordonFreeman.new(weapon: crowbar)
  while headcrabs_alive do
    binding.pry
    freeman.attack
  end
  binding.pry
end
```

**LETS LEARN SOME  
(HOPEFULLY) NEW  
STUFF**

# THE `help` COMMAND

Type `help` to get a handy list of pry commands

You can also type `help` before a command to learn more about it

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(main) >> help wtf?
```

```
Usage: wtf[?!]
```

Show's a few lines of the backtrace of the most recent exception (also available as ``_ex_.backtrace``). If you want to see more lines, add more question marks or exclamation marks.

```
wtf?
```

```
wtf?!???!?!?
```

# To see the entire backtrace, pass the ``-v`` or ``--verbose`` flag.

```
wtf -v
```

<code>-v, --verbose</code>	Show the full backtrace
<code>-h, --help</code>	Show this message.

# RUNNING SHELL COMMANDS

Simply prepend your command with .

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(main) >> . ps aux | grep ruby
```

---

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> ["gravity gun", "shotgun", "crowbar"]
[
  [0] "gravity gun",
  [1] "shotgun",
  [2] "crowbar"
]
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> weapon_types = _
[
  [0] "gravity gun",
  [1] "shotgun",
  [2] "crowbar"
]
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> weapon_types
[
  [0] "gravity gun",
  [1] "shotgun",
  [2] "crowbar"
]
```



# GETTING SOME CONTEXT

<code>cd</code>	Move into a new context (object or scope).
<code>find-method</code>	Recursively search for a method within a class/module or the current namespace.
<code>ls</code>	Show the list of vars and methods in the current scope.
<code>pry-backtrace</code>	Show the backtrace for the pry session.
<code>raise-up</code>	Raise an exception out of the current pry instance.
<code>reset</code>	Reset the repl to a clean state.
<code>watch</code>	Watch the value of an expression and print a notification whenever it changes.
<code>whereami</code>	Show code surrounding the current context.
<code>wtf?</code>	Show the backtrace of the most recent exception.

# whereami

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> whereami
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 32 HalfLife2#play_ravenholm:
```

```
28: def play_ravenholm
29:   freeman = GordonFreeman.new("crowbar")
30:   while headcrabs_alive do
31:     binding.pry
=> 32:     freeman.attack
33:   end
34: end
```

# find-method

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> find-method -c true
HalfLife2
HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive:    true
Object
Object#__binding__:          # the singleton class gives false positives for `true` and `false`).
Object#DelegateClass:       klass.define_singleton_method :public_instance_methods do |all=true|
                             klass.define_singleton_method :protected_instance_methods do |all=true|
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> find-method headcrabs_alive
HalfLife2
HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive
```

# cd, ls

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> cd freeman
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> ls
```

```
GordonFreeman#methods: attack  switch_weapon  throw_grenade  weapon  weapon=  
self.methods: __pry__
```

```
instance variables: @grenades  @weapon
```

```
locals: _  __  _dir_  _ex_  _file_  _in_  _out_  _pry_
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> @weapon
```

```
"crowbar"
```

# ls FLAGS

-m, --methods	Show public methods defined on the Object
-M, --instance-methods	Show public methods defined in a Module or Class
-p, --ppp	Show public, protected (in yellow) and private (in green) methods
-q, --quiet	Show only methods defined on object.singleton_class and object.class
-v, --verbose	Show methods and constants on all super-classes (ignores Pry.config.ls.ceiling)
-g, --globals	Show global variables, including those builtin to Ruby (in cyan)
-l, --locals	Show hash of local vars, sorted by descending size
-c, --constants	Show constants, highlighting classes (in blue), and exceptions (in purple). Constants that are pending autoload? are also shown (in yellow)
-i, --ivars	Show instance variables (in blue) and class variables (in bright blue)
-G, --grep	Filter output by regular expression
-h, --help	Show this message.

# ls -q

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> ls
```

```
FPSGuy#methods: jump run walk
```

```
GordonFreeman#methods: attack switch_weapon throw_grenade weapon weapon=
```

```
self.methods: __pry__
```

```
instance variables: @grenades @weapon
```

```
locals: _ __ _dir_ _ex_ _file_ _in_ _out_ _pry_
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> ls -q
```

```
GordonFreeman#methods: attack switch_weapon throw_grenade weapon weapon=
```

```
self.methods: __pry__
```

```
instance variables: @grenades @weapon
```

```
locals: _ __ _dir_ _ex_ _file_ _in_ _out_ _pry_
```

# ls -G

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> ls -G grenade  
GordonFreeman#methods: throw_grenade  
instance variables: @grenades @weapon
```



# pry-backtrace

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> pry-backtrace
```

```
Backtrace:
```

```
--
```

```
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/pry-byebug-3.4.0/lib/byebug/processors/pry_processor.rb:115:in `block in resume_pry'  
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/pry-byebug-3.4.0/lib/byebug/processors/pry_processor.rb:28:in `block in run'  
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/pry-byebug-3.4.0/lib/byebug/processors/pry_processor.rb:27:in `catch'  
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/pry-byebug-3.4.0/lib/byebug/processors/pry_processor.rb:27:in `run'  
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/pry-byebug-3.4.0/lib/byebug/processors/pry_processor.rb:111:in `resume_pry'  
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/pry-byebug-3.4.0/lib/byebug/processors/pry_processor.rb:63:in `at_line'  
/Users/jasoncarter/.rvm/gems/ruby-2.2.3@mavenlink/gems/byebug-9.0.5/lib/byebug/context.rb:96:in `at_line'  
/Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb:46:in `play_ravenholm'  
/Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb:56:in `<main>'
```

» these get big in a rails app 😅

# watch

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> watch @weapon
```

```
Watching @weapon
```

```
watch: @weapon => "crowbar"
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> cd ..
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> freeman.switch_weapon("Gravity Gun")
```

```
watch: @weapon => "Gravity Gun"
```

```
"Gravity Gun"
```

# EDIT ON THE FLY

!	Clear the input buffer.
amend-line	Amend a line of input in multi-line mode.
edit	Invoke the default editor on a file.
hist	Show and replay readline history.
play	Playback a string variable, method, line, or file as input.
show-input	Show the contents of the input buffer for the current multi-line expression.

# hist

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> hist
```

```
1: cd freeman
```

```
2: ls
```

```
3: ls -q
```

```
4: help ls
```

```
5: ls -G weapon
```

# hist **FLAGS**

-a, --all	Display all history
-H, --head	Display the first N items
-T, --tail	Display the last N items
-s, --show	Show the given range of lines
-G, --grep	Show lines matching the given pattern
-c, --clear	Clear the current session's history
-r, --replay	Replay a line or range of lines
--save	Save history to a file
-e, --exclude-pry	Exclude Pry commands from the history
-n, --no-numbers	Omit line numbers
-h, --help	Show this message.

# DEFINE METHODS ON THE FLY!

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> def stand_stoicly  
>> puts "..."  
>>end
```

```
:stand_stoicly
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> ls
```

```
FPSGuy#methods: jump run walk
```

```
GordonFreeman#methods: attack switch_weapon throw_grenade weapon weapon=
```

```
self.methods: __pry__ stand_stoicly
```

```
instance variables: @grenades @weapon
```

```
locals: _ __ _dir_ _ex_ _file_ _in_ _out_ _pry_
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> cd ..
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> freeman.stand_stoicly
```

```
...
```

# !, show-input, amend-line

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> def say_name
```

```
>> puts "Master Chief"
```

```
>> show-input
```

```
1: def say_name
```

```
2:   puts "Master Chief"
```

```
>> amend-line 2 puts "Gordon Freeman"
```

```
1: def say_name
```

```
2:   puts "Gordon Freeman"
```

```
>>end
```

```
:say_name
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> show-input
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> def pick_up_the_can
```

```
>> !
```

```
Input buffer cleared!
```



# A LITTLE TIME FOR INTROSPECTION

<code>ri</code>	View <code>ri</code> documentation.
<code>show-doc</code>	Show the documentation for a method or class.
<code>show-source</code>	Show the source for a method or class.
<code>stat</code>	View method information and set <code>_file_</code> and <code>_dir_</code> locals.

# show-source

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> show-source switch_weapon
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 27:
```

```
Owner: GordonFreeman
```

```
Visibility: public
```

```
Number of lines: 3
```

```
def switch_weapon(weapon)  
  @weapon = weapon  
end
```

# show-source

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> show-source GordonFreeman#attack
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 36:
```

```
Owner: GordonFreeman
```

```
Visibility: public
```

```
Number of lines: 3
```

```
def attack  
  puts "Attacking with #{@weapon}"  
end
```

# show-source

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<GordonFreeman>:1) >> show-source GordonFreeman
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 18:
```

```
Class name: GordonFreeman
```

```
Number of lines: 22
```

```
class GordonFreeman < FPSGuy
```

```
  attr_accessor :weapon
```

```
  def initialize(weapon)
```

```
    @weapon = weapon
```

```
    @grenades = 4
```

```
  end
```

```
  def switch_weapon(weapon)
```

```
    @weapon = weapon
```

```
  end
```

```
  def throw_grenade
```

```
    puts "Throwing grenade!"
```

```
    @grenades -= 1
```

```
  end
```

```
  def attack
```

```
    puts "Attacking with #{@weapon}"
```

```
  end
```

```
end
```

# TRAVERSE AROUND LIKE A PRO

break	Set or edit a breakpoint.
continue	Continue program execution and end the pry session.
down	Move current frame down.
finish	Execute until current stack frame returns.
frame	Move to specified frame #.
next	Execute the next line within the current stack frame.
step	Step execution into the next line or method.
up	Move current frame up.

# break

## Examples:

<code>break SomeClass#run</code>	Break at the start of <code>`SomeClass#run`</code> .
<code>break Foo#bar if baz?</code>	Break at <code>`Foo#bar`</code> only if <code>`baz?`</code> .
<code>break app/models/user.rb:15</code>	Break at line 15 in <code>user.rb</code> .
<code>break 14</code>	Break at line 14 in the current file.

<code>break --condition 4 x &gt; 2</code>	Add/change condition on breakpoint #4.
<code>break --condition 3</code>	Remove the condition on breakpoint #3.

<code>break --delete 5</code>	Delete breakpoint #5.
<code>break --disable-all</code>	Disable all breakpoints.

<code>break</code>	List all breakpoints.
<code>break --show 2</code>	Show details about breakpoint #2.

<code>-c, --condition</code>	Change condition of a breakpoint.
<code>-s, --show</code>	Show breakpoint details and source.
<code>-D, --delete</code>	Delete a breakpoint.
<code>-d, --disable</code>	Disable a breakpoint.
<code>-e, --enable</code>	Enable a disabled breakpoint.
<code>--disable-all</code>	Disable all breakpoints.
<code>--delete-all</code>	Delete all breakpoints.
<code>-h, --help</code>	Show this message.

# break

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> break HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive
```

```
Breakpoint 1: HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive (Enabled)
```

```
50: def headcrabs_alive
51:   true
52:   # when are there not headcrabs?
53: end
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> continue
Attacking with crowbar
```

```
Breakpoint 1. First hit
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 50 HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive:
```

```
=> 50: def headcrabs_alive
    51:   true
    52:   # when are there not headcrabs?
    53: end
```



# up, down

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> continue  
Attacking with crowbar
```

```
Breakpoint 1. Hit 2 times.
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 50 HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive:
```

```
=> 50: def headcrabs_alive  
    51:   true  
    52:   # when are there not headcrabs?  
    53: end
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> up
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 44 HalfLife2#play_ravenholm:
```

```
    42: def play_ravenholm  
    43:   freeman = GordonFreeman.new("crowbar")  
=> 44:   while headcrabs_alive do  
    45:     binding.pry  
    46:     freeman.attack  
    47:   end  
    48: end
```

```
Ruby:(2.2.3) object:(#<HalfLife2>) >> down
```

```
From: /Users/jasoncarter/Documents/pry-talk-code.rb @ line 50 HalfLife2#headcrabs_alive:
```

```
=> 50: def headcrabs_alive  
    51:   true  
    52:   # when are there not headcrabs?  
    53: end
```

# CONFIGURATION

- » Pry is configured through a `.pryrc`
- » Can also be configured at runtime

# .PRYRC

- » Our .pryrc is configured by ansible-workstation
- » Submit a pr maybe?

# I PROPOSE

```
Pry.commands.alias_command 'c', 'continue' rescue nil  
Pry.commands.alias_command 's', 'step' rescue nil  
Pry.commands.alias_command 'n', 'next' rescue nil  
Pry.commands.alias_command 'r!', 'reload!' rescue nil
```

# SOME RAD STUFF IN THERE ALREADY

```
command "copy", "Copies any supplied string to the system clip board" do |string|
  IO.popen('pbcopy', 'w') { |f| f << string.to_s }
end

command "sql",
  "Send any supplied SQL statement to the currently connected ActiveRecord database.",
  requires_gem: ['activerecord'] do |query|
    ActiveRecord::Base.connection.select_all(query)
  end

command "caller_method", "Reveal the caller of the current method." do |depth|
  depth = depth.to_i || 1
  if /^^(.+?):(\d+)(?:::in `(.*)')?/ =~ caller(depth+1).first
    file = Regexp.last_match[1]
    line = Regexp.last_match[2].to_i
    method = Regexp.last_match[3]
    output.puts [file, line, method]
  end
end

command "array_toy",
  "Returns an Array object keyed from 1 to 10. This is helpful for experimenting with the Array library.",
  keep_retvai: true do
    Array.new(10) { |i| i+1 }
  end

command "hash_toy",
  "Returns a hash object keyed from 'a' to 'j'. This is helpful for experimenting with the hash library.",
  keep_retvai: true do
    Hash[("a".."j").to_a.zip[(1..10).to_a]]
  end

command "local_methods", "Shows the local methods of the current object", keep_retvai: true do |object|
  case object.class
  when Class
    object.public_methods.sort - Object.public_methods
  when Module
    object.public_methods.sort - Module.public_methods
  else
    object.public_methods.sort - Object.new.public_methods
  end
end
```

# SOME HELPFUL ALIASES

!!!	Alias for `exit-program`
!!@	Alias for `exit-all`
\$	Alias for `show-source`
?	Alias for `show-doc`
@	Alias for `whereami`
breakpoint	Alias for `break`
breaks	Alias for `breakpoints`
clipit	Alias for `gist --clip`
file-mode	Alias for `shell-mode`
history	Alias for `hist`
quit	Alias for `exit`
quit-program	Alias for `exit-program`
reload-method	Alias for `reload-code`
show-method	Alias for `show-source`

# RESOURCES

» `pry github`

» `pry wiki`

» `pry-byebug github`

**NOW GO KILL SOME  
BUGS...**

