

The Joy of Cooking - Whip up a Rails environment with Chef

By: Joe Sak

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This article is the sixth part in a [series of RubyNation Recaps](http://www.neotericdesign.com/blog/the-rubynation-2012-recap-series) (<http://www.neotericdesign.com/blog/the-rubynation-2012-recap-series>). The first part was [Cannibalize Yourself](http://www.neotericdesign.com/blog/cannibalize-yourself-rubynation-recap) (<http://www.neotericdesign.com/blog/cannibalize-yourself-rubynation-recap>), and the introductory post contains a [list of all the articles posted](http://www.neotericdesign.com/blog/the-rubynation-2012-recap-series) (<http://www.neotericdesign.com/blog/the-rubynation-2012-recap-series>) and coming up.

The Joy of Cooking: Whip up a Rails environment with Chef

by Nathen Harvey

Nathen Harvey is the manager of Web Operations for CustomInk, a website that allows you to design and purchase custom apparel for your group or special event. Nathen is the co-organizer of the Washington DC MongoDB Users' Group and DevOps DC. Nathen contributes to open source projects including the Opscode Chef framework. When not working or hosting meetups, Nathen enjoys going to concerts, drinking craft beer, and over sharing on sites like twitter, untappd, and foursquare.

Resources:

Railscasts Pro has a screencast (<http://railscasts.com/episodes/339-chef-solo-basics>) on using Chef-Solo

Admittedly, my notes here turned out more sparse than I'd like them to be. So, I uploaded Nathen's slides here: <http://rn2012-nharvey-chef.herokuapp.com/> (<http://rn2012-nharvey-chef.herokuapp.com/>) (use your arrow keys to navigate)

Infrastructure as Code

Rebuild your business' entire production environment with nothing more than a repository, a data backup, and bare metal resources.

Introduction to Chef

- **Declarative:** you specify what you need
- **Idempotent:** only take action if required
- **Convergent:** takes care of itself

Building a project in Chef

1. Come up with your **policy** / specification
2. Abstract the **resources** in your spec (database, redis, memcached, etc, whatever)
3. Write **recipes**
4. Package your recipes in **cookbooks**
5. Apply recipes to **nodes**
6. Group things into **roles**

What is Chef?

It is a Server, an API that you call into, and a Web UI

- Client - **chef-client**

- Command line tool - **knife**
- Inspection library - **ohai**
- REPL - **shuf** (think irb)

Chef, knife, and ohai are extendable. The Chef community (<http://community.opscode.com>) has lots of addons.

Deployment

chef-solo (disk or url)

- no central server, authentication, authorization, search, or persistence

chef server

- open source, run it yourself, complicated setup and management

hosted chef

- opscode runs the chef infrastructure for you (monthly price plans)
- up to 5 nodes for free

private chef

- managed by opscode, monthly fees, installation fee

Configure your client

Check your keys, knife config, chef-repo directory, and validation files

Verify setup

"Which clients are allowed to connect to this hosted chef?"

\$ knife client list

Provision a server for your Rails App

You can run it locally to manage your development environment

```
$ knife ec2 server create
```

```
$ knife rackspace server create
```

Vagrant (everyone should be using [vagrant \(http://vagrantup.com/\)](http://vagrantup.com/))

Cookbooks for Apache, Passenger, MySQL, Rails application

- passenger_apache2 (community site has it for download, use the knife command)
- mysql (community site, knife command grabs dependencies for you)
- write your web & database cookbooks

To continue, please refer to Nathen's slides: <http://rn2012-nharvey-chef.herokuapp.com> (<http://rn2012-nharvey-chef.herokuapp.com>) (use your arrow keys to navigate)



Joe Sak

Joe was Neoteric's lead developer. When not working, he's playing the drums, spending quality time with friends and family, and riding his bike.

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