

Using devcontainers with Ruby

Jonathan James



How Long does Onboarding Take?

Non-technical

- HR Nonsense
- Mandatory Training
- Make offerings to the Elder Gods that live in the basement

Technical

- Account Setup (Github, AWS etc)
- Workspace / Machine Configuration



Workspace Configuration

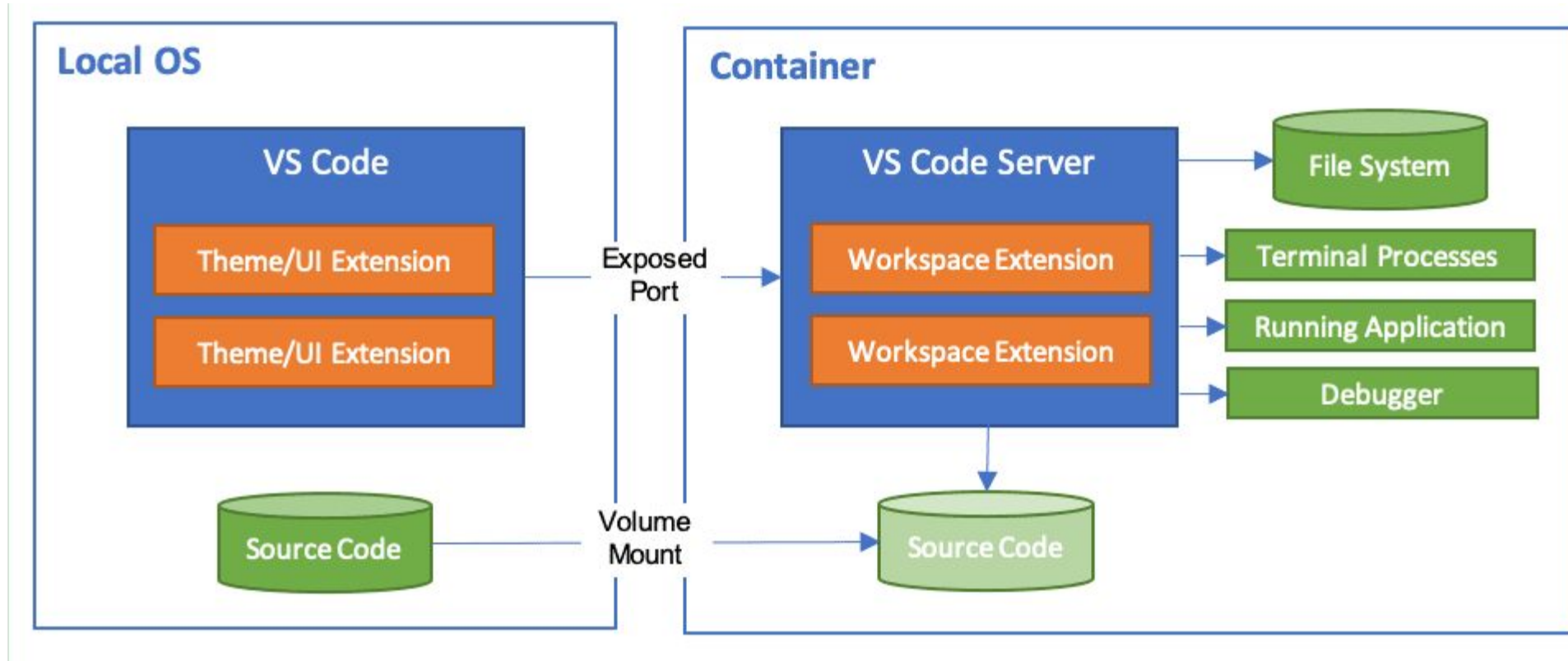
- Account details for Source control, Artifact storage, CI/CD etc
- Instructions are scattered, incomplete and/or inconsistent
- Instructions are out of date
- Have to ask for help
- Other developers have forgotten / suppressed their own setup experience



A solution: Throw Docker at it!



A solution: devcontainers (+ VSCode)



Some details...

.devcontainer/devcontainer.json

```
{  
  "name": "Some Ruby Thing",  
  "image": "mcr.microsoft.com/vscode/devcontainers/ruby:0-3-bullseye",  
  "postCreateCommand": "bundle install",  
  "customizations.vscode": {  
    "extensions": ["castwide.solargraph"],  
    "settings": {"solargraph.useBundler": true}  
  }  
}
```



Some details...

`.devcontainer/devcontainer.json`

```
{  
  "name": "Some Ruby Thing",  
  "image": "mcr.microsoft.com/vscode/devcontainers/ruby:0-3-bullseye",  
  "postCreateCommand": "/bin/bash .devcontainer/setup.sh",  
  "customizations.vscode": {  
    "extensions": ["castwide.solargraph"],  
    "settings": {"solargraph.useBundler": true}  
  }  
}
```



Some details...

.devcontainer/setup.sh

```
#!/bin/bash

setup() {
    /usr/local/rvm/bin/rvm install "$(cat .ruby-version)"
    /usr/local/rvm/bin/rvm-exec . bundle install
    /usr/local/rvm/bin/rvm-exec . bundle exec yard gems # for solargraph
}

setup
```



More details

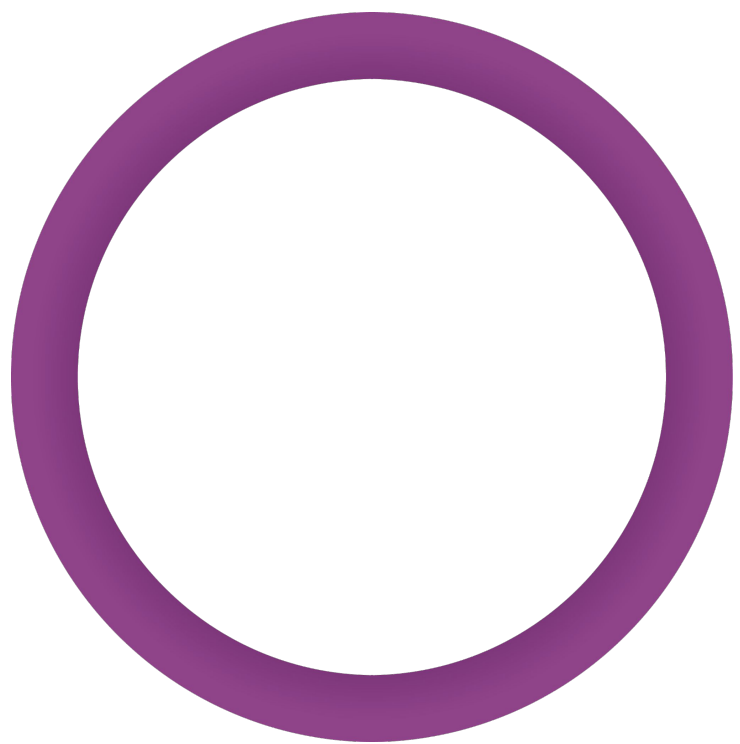
- Install other things (Node, kubectl, ...)
- Configure databases
- Shared devcontainers
- Shared Volumes



Observations

- Relies on using VSCode
- Senior Engineers can be curmudgeonly
- VPNs and Proxies are annoying
- “Continuous setup”
- ~ 250% usage growth in a year!





The Elder Gods who live in the Basement

