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J00204848

CIS 106 (01)

Ruby is a programming language developed by Japanese programmer Yukihiro “Matz” Matsumoto in 1993-1994. As stated in a 2001 interview, “[Matz] wanted a scripting language that was more powerful than Perl, and more object-oriented than Python.” (1)

On its homepage, Ruby brags that it “has an elegant syntax that is natural to read and easy to write.” (2) Below are two samples of code lifted from the Ruby homepage that will produce the famous line “Hello World.” The code on the left reflects the elegance of script that Matz aimed to create while the code on the right provides a demonstration of Ruby’s object-oriented methods:

# The famous Hello World

# Program is trivial in

# Ruby. Superfluous:

#

# \* A "main" method

# \* Newline

# \* Semicolons

#

# Here is the Code:

puts "Hello World!" (2)

# The Greeter class

class Greeter

def initialize(name)

@name = name.capitalize

end

def salute

puts "Hello #{@name}!"

end

end

# Create a new object

g = Greeter.new("world")

# Output "Hello World!"

g.salute (2)

Currently ranked 11 out of 20 in popularity on the TIOBE Programming Community Index, Ruby is a thriving language with over 47,000 Reddit users subscribing to its “rubyist” and “Ruby-on-Rails” message boards. (3)(4) Ruby has seen frequent updates since its inception and appears to have a tradition of releasing major builds on Christmas day. The most recent of which, Ruby 2.5, was released on 25 DEC 2017. (5)

In order to showcase Ruby’s unique characteristics, its creator will participate in judging the 2018 Fukuoka Ruby Award Competition held by the Japanese, Fukuoka Prefectural government. (6)

The most common Ruby application is Rails, a web-application development tool (itself written in Ruby). Some popular examples of Ruby-on-Rails applications include: Kickstarter, Urban Dictionary, Groupon and Airbnb. (7)

Works Cited

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2. <https://www.ruby-lang.org/en/>
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5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ruby_(programming_language)#Table_of_versions>
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