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How To Install Ruby on Rails on Ubuntu 14.04 using RVM

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Introduction

Ruby on Rails is one of the most popular application stacks for developers wishing to create sites and web apps. The Ruby programming language, coupled with the Rails development framework, makes app development simple.

Since Ruby on Rails doesn't come in a neatly packaged format, getting the framework installed used to be one of the more difficult parts of getting started. Luckily, tools like **rvm**, the Ruby Version Manager, have made installation simple.

In this guide, we'll show how to install **rvm** on an Ubuntu 14.04 VPS, and use it to

install a stable version of Ruby and Rails. Although you can go through these procedures as the root user, we'll assume you're operating using an unprivileged user as shown in steps 1-4 in this guide.

The Quick Way

The quickest way of installing Ruby on Rails with `rvm` is to run the following command as a regular user:

```
\curl -sSL https://get.rvm.io | bash -s stable --rails
```

You will be prompted for your regular user's password as part of the installation procedure.

Let's go over exactly what's happening here.

The `\curl` portion uses the `curl` web grabbing utility to grab a script file from the `rvm` website. The backslash that leads the command ensures that we are using the regular `curl` command and not any altered, aliased version.

The `-s` flag indicates that the utility should operate in silent mode, the `-S` flag

overrides some of this to allow `curl` to output errors if it fails. The `-L` flag tells the utility to follow redirects.

The script is then piped directly to `bash` for processing. The `-s` flag indicates that the input is coming from standard in. We then specify that we want the latest stable version of `rvm`, and that we also want to install the latest stable Rails version, which will pull in the associated Ruby.

Following a long installation procedure, all you need to do is source the `rvm` scripts by typing:

```
source ~/.rvm/scripts/rvm
```

You should now have a full Ruby on Rails environment configured.

Installing Specific Ruby and Rails Versions

If you need to install specific versions of Ruby for your application, you can do so with `rvm` like this:

```
rvm install ruby_version
```

After the installation, we can list the available Ruby versions we have installed by typing:

```
rvm list
```

We can switch between the Ruby versions by typing:

```
rvm use ruby_version
```

We can use various Rails versions with each Ruby by creating `gemsets` and then installing Rails within those using the normal `gem` commands:

```
rvm gemset create gemset_name    # create a gemset  
rvm ruby_version@gemset_name    # specify Ruby version and our new gemset  
gem install rails -v rails_version  # install specific Rails version
```

The gemsets allow us to have self-contained environments for gems and allow us to have multiple environments for each version of Ruby that we install.

Learning More

We have covered the basics of how to install `rvm` and Ruby on Rails here, but there is a lot more to learn about `rvm`. Check out our article on [how to use rvm to manage your Ruby environments to learn more about working with rvm.](#)

By Justin Ellingwood

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2 Comments



dennyac *May 24, 2014*

I guess it would be a good idea to include the command to source the rvm scripts in .bashrc

```
echo "source ~/.rvm/scripts/rvm" >> ~/.bashrc
```



pablotomasborda *June 21, 2014*

Worked great adding that to the bashrc as dennyac said, you should add it to article. thanks

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