

# Ruby 101

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# Outline

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- ▶ Introduce to the basic ruby syntax.
- ▶ Mention 3 principles that make can make your code better.
- ▶ Hopefully get you all excited about ruby.

# What is ruby?

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# In ruby you can...

- ▶ Create variables:

```
pickaxe_book = "Programming Ruby"  
cs_bible = "Art of Computer Programming"  
js_book = "Javascript: The Good Parts"
```

- ▶ Create arrays:

```
available_books = [ pickaxe_book, cs_bible ]
```

- ▶ Create hashes:

```
library = {  
  :available => available_books,  
  :checked_out => [ js_book ]  
}
```

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# In ruby you can...

► Create methods:

```
def available?(library, book_name)
  library[:available].include?(book_name)
end
```

► Invoke methods (and print to screen):

```
str = "Available: #{available? library, book_name}"
puts str
```



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# In ruby you can...

► Do if/else:

```
if available?(library, "Art of War")  
  puts "Sun Tzu's Art of War is available."  
else  
  puts "Art of War is not available."  
  puts "Try later..."  
end
```

► Inline conditionals:

```
puts "yay" unless boo?
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```

# In ruby you can...

► Do while loops:

```
file = File.open("checked_out_backup.txt")
while (book = file.gets)
  library[:checked_out] << book
end
```

► Do for loops:

```
str = ""
for i in 0..(library[:checked_out].size) do
  str += "#{library[:checked_out][i]} "
end
puts "Checked out books: #{str}"
```

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# Using blocks

But ruby allows simpler iteration via blocks:

```
str = ""  
books.each do |book|  
  str += "#{book} "  
end  
puts "Checked out books: #{str}"
```

- ▶ Define what to do with an element of the array in a block.
- ▶ Apply that block to each element of the array.

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- ▶ Apply that block to each element of the array.



# Using accumulating blocks

Might as well use accumulator style:

```
str = arr.inject("") do |acc, item|  
  "#{acc} #{item}"  
end  
puts "Checked out books: #{str}"
```

- ▶ `inject`'s block takes accumulator and book parameters.
- ▶ Return of the block is passed in the next acc
- ▶ Last acc is returned by the `inject` which is assigned to `str`.

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- ▶ Last `acc` is returned by the `inject` which is assigned to `str`.

# Declaring a Method With Block

## Sample implementation of inject

```
def available_inject(library, init, &block)
  raise "Block missing" unless block_given?
  arr = library[:checked_out]
  acc = init
  arr.each { |item| acc = yield(acc, item) }
  acc
end
```

# Declaring a Method With Block

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end
```

- ▶ Block is passed using &
- ▶ `block_given?` returns whether method was provided a block.

# Declaring a Method With Block

## Sample implementation of inject

```
def available_inject(library, init, &block)
  raise "Block missing" unless block_given?
  arr = library[:checked_out]
  acc = init
  arr.each { |item| acc = yield(acc, item) }
  acc
end
```

- `yield` yields control to the provided block with specified parameters.

# In ruby you can...

- Create classes:

```
class Foo
  @@description = "The most important class"
  def foo
    @foo ||= busily_lookup_foo
    @foo
  end
end
```



# In ruby you can...

► Extend classes:

```
class Bar < Foo
  attr_accessor :bar
  def initialize options = {}
    self.bar = options.delete(:bar)
  end
end
```

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# Library manager

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*Make a library managing application.*

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After researching the topic, we deduce that the application should:

- ▶ Track books and games for check in and check out.
- ▶ Provide cataloging of available items.

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After researching the topic, we deduce that the application should:

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## app/models/book.rb

```
class Book
  attr_accessor :name, :author, :isbn
  def description
    "#{name} by #{author}"
  end

  def initialize options = {}
    self.name = options.delete(:name) or
      raise("Need name.")
    self.author = options.delete(:author) or
      raise("Need author.")
    self.isbn = options.delete(:isbn)
  end
end
```

## test/unit/book\_test.rb

```
class BookTest < Test::Unit::TestCase
  def test_description
    assert_equal "foo by bar",
      Book.new(:name => "foo", :author => "bar")
  end
  def test_required_options
    assert_raise(RuntimeError, "should need name) do
      Book.new :author => "foo"
    end
    assert_raise(RuntimeError, "should need author) do
      Book.new :name => "bar"
    end
  end
end
```



## app/models/game.rb

```
class Game
  attr_accessor :name, :author, :platform
  def description
    "#{name} by #{author}"
  end

  def initialize options = {}
    self.name = options.delete(:name) or
      raise("Need name.")
    self.author = options.delete(:author) or
      raise("Need author.")
    self.platform = options.delete(:platform)
  end
end
```

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    self.platform = options.delete(:platform)
  end
end
```

## app/models/game.rb 2.0

```
class Game < Book
  attr_accessor :platform
  def initialize options = {}
    super(options)
    self.platform = options.delete(:platform)
  end
end
```

- ▶ Now Game inherits all methods from Book class.
- ▶ Has an additional platform attribute.
- ▶ But... inherits isbn, which games do not really have.

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# How do we fix it?

What we really want is:

- ▶ Encapsulate the ‘Catalogable’ functionality that:
  - ▶ does book-keeping of having a name
  - ▶ does book-keeping of having an author.
  - ▶ builds description out of the name and author.
- ▶ Include that functionality in the `Book` and `Game` classes.

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Solution:

Modules

# Planning the module

## Definition (Module)

A Module is a collection of methods and constants.

Game plan:

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## app/models/catalogable.rb

```
module Catalogable
  attr_accessor :name, :author
  def description
    "#{name} by #{author}"
  end
end
```

## Using a module

```
class Book
  include Catalogable
  attr_accessor :isbn
end
class Game
  include Catalogable
  attr_accessor :platform
end
```

- ▶ Book and Game are now independent and shared functionality is abstracted neatly in the Catalogable module.

## Ruby: The cool bits

- ▶ Some ruby principles
- ▶ Extending ruby
- ▶ DRYing things up with dynamic method generation.

# Principle #1 (DRY)

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- ▶ Code duplication reduces clarity.
- ▶ Code duplication is much harder to keep in sync.



## Principle #2 (YAGNI)

“You Ain’t Gonna Need It” principle:

Always implement things when you actually need them,  
never when you just foresee that you need them.

But what about DRY?

- DRY things up when you actually repeat yourself,  
not when you think you may repeat yourself.

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never when you just foresee that you need them.

### Why?

- ▶ Time is better spent on something you actually need
- ▶ What you predict will happen usually is not what really happens.
- ▶ By the time you will need it, you will know the problem better.

### But what about DRY?

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### Duck typing principle:

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it is a duck.

### In practice that means

- ▶ What's important is what an object does, not what it is.
- ▶ In duck-typed languages, interfaces are implicitly specified by defined methods.



## Duck typing in use

```
class Library
  attr_accessor :items
  def catalog
    items.map { |b| b.description }.join ", "
  end
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Only things this Library implementation cares about:

- ▶ `items` responds to `map`.
- ▶ Each element of `items` responds to `description`.
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# Extending ruby

## Question:

What if I want a method that ruby doesn't have?

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## Question:

What if I want a method that ruby doesn't have?

## Answer:

Extend ruby to have it!

# Adding Fixnum#inject

Suppose we want to be able to do:

```
sorted_profiles = 50.inject([]) do |acc|  
  acc + [Profile.random!]  
end.sort_by { |p| p.name }
```

But...

- ▶ But ruby doesn't have Fixnum#inject



# Adding Fixnum#inject

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sorted_profiles = 50.inject([]) do |acc|  
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end.sort_by { |p| p.name }
```

But...

- ▶ But ruby doesn't have Fixnum#inject

# lib/extensions/fixnum.rb

No problem:

```
class Fixnum
  def inject(init = nil, &block)
    raise "Block missing" unless block_given?
    acc = init
    for i in 0..(self-1) do
      init = yield(init, i)
    end
  end
end
```

# Case study

```
module JavascriptHelper
  def author_js author
    "var author = constructAuthor(#{author.name})"
  end
  def book_js book
    "var book = constructBook(#{book.name})"
  end
  def author_js_tag author
    script_tag author_js(author)
  end
  def book_js_tag book
    script_tag book_js(book)
  end
end
```

## app/helpers/javascript\_helper.rb

```
# ...  
def author_js_tag author  
  script_tag author_js(author)  
end  
def book_js_tag book  
  script_tag book_js(book)  
end
```

- ▶ Both methods have a very similar structure.
- ▶ Both methods do the same things with their arguments.

## app/helpers/javascript\_helper.rb

```
# ...  
def author_js_tag author  
  script_tag author_js(author)  
end  
def book_js_tag book  
  script_tag book_js(book)  
end
```

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## app/helpers/javascript\_helper.rb

```
# ...  
def author_js_tag author  
  script_tag author_js(author)  
end  
def book_js_tag book  
  script_tag book_js(book)  
end
```

- ▶ Both methods have a very similar structure.
- ▶ Both methods do the same things with their arguments.

## app/helpers/javascript\_helper.rb

After refactoring:

```
[ :book_js, :author_js ].each do |js_method|  
  define_method "#{js_method}_tag" do |item|  
    script_tag send(js_method, item)  
  end  
end
```

- What about making all methods that end in `_js` to have a `_tag` counterpart?

## app/helpers/javascript\_helper.rb

After refactoring:

```
[ :book_js, :author_js ].each do |js_method|  
  define_method "#{js_method}_tag" do |item|  
    script_tag send(js_method, item)  
  end  
end
```

- What about making all methods that end in `_js` to have a `_tag` counterpart?



## app/helpers/javascript\_helper.rb

After second refactoring:

```
instance_methods.select do |m|
  m =~ /^_js$/
end.each do |js_method|
  define_method "#{js_method}_tag" do |*args|
    script_tag send(js_method, *args)
  end
end
```

# More cool ruby things

Other things one can do with ruby:

- ▶ Faking things when testing things.
- ▶ Generate classes and modules dynamically.
- ▶ Use hooks in ruby to provide aspect-oriented behavior.