



Hashes

Objectives

Discussion

- What is a hash?
- Why use a hash?
- How to create a hash
- Access items in a hash (vs an array)

Demo

Quick Review

:symbol vs “string”

- Symbols are references
- Symbols are immutable
- Symbols are faster

What is a hash?

A Hash is a dictionary-like collection of unique keys and their values.



To the whiteboard!

#1: Ruby is written for the developer.

Why hashes?

```
grocery_list = ["milk", "bread", "eggs", "beer"]
```

```
gerry = ["short", "brown", "M", 1986-08-12]
```

```
gerry = { hair_length: "short", hair_color: "brown",  
          gender: "M", born_on: 1986-08-12 }
```

How to Access

#2: The order doesn't matter.

```
gerry = ["short", "brown", "M", 1986-08-12, "weird"]
```

```
gerry = { hair_length: "short", hair_color: "brown",  
          gender: "M", born_on: 1986-08-12, looks: "weird" }
```

```
gerrys_looks = gerry[5]                vs.
```

```
gerrys_looks = gerry[:looks]
```

What is a hash?

A Hash is a dictionary-like collection of unique keys and their values. Also called associative arrays, they are similar to Arrays, but where an Array uses integers as its index, a Hash allows you to use any object type.

Keys & Values

#2: The order doesn't matter.

```
gerry = { hair_length: "short", hair_color: "brown",  
          gender: "M", born_on: 1986-08-12, looks: "weird" }
```

```
gerry.keys
```

```
# => [:hair_length, :hair_color, :gender, :born_on, :looks]
```

```
gerry.values
```

```
# => ["short", "brown", "M", 1986-08-12, "weird"]
```

Demo time!