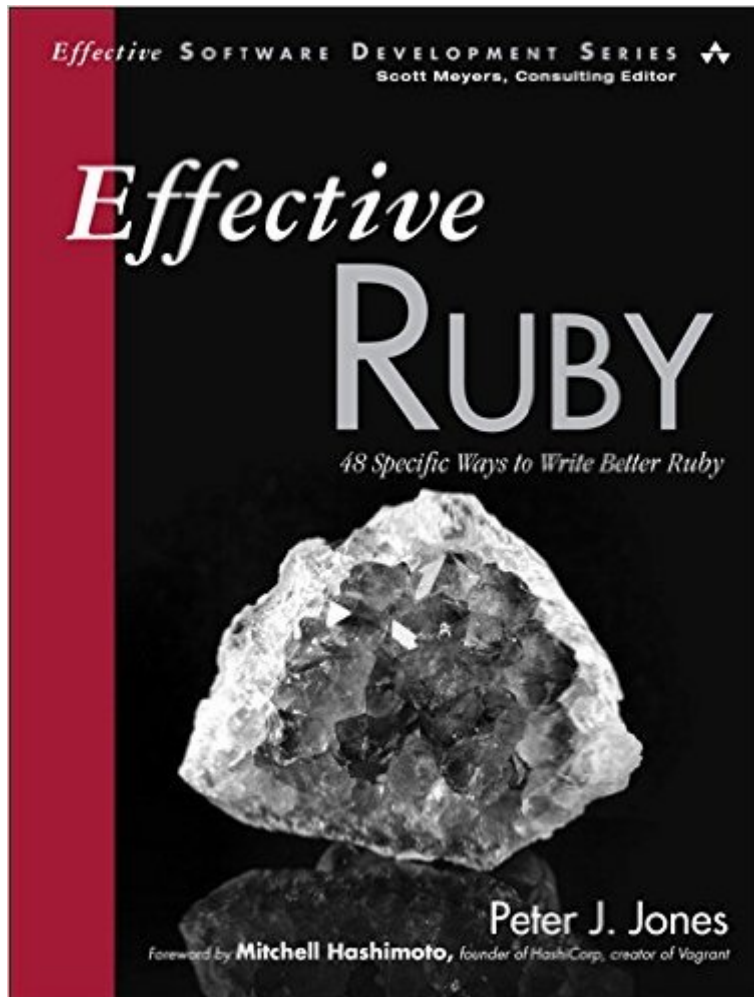# Effective Ruby: 48 Specific Ways To Write Better Ruby (Effective Software Development Series)

Synopsis

If youâ ™re an experienced Ruby programmer, Effective Ruby will help you harness Rubyâ ™s full power to write more robust, efficient, maintainable, and well-performing code. Drawing on nearly a decade of Ruby experience, Peter J. Jones brings together 48 Ruby best practices, expert tips, and shortcutsâ ”all supported by realistic code examples. Â Jones offers practical advice for each major area of Ruby development, from modules to memory to metaprogramming. Throughout, he uncovers little-known idioms, quirks, pitfalls, and intricacies that powerfully impact code behavior and performance. Each item contains specific, actionable, clearly organized guidelines; careful advice; detailed technical arguments; and illuminating code examples. When multiple options exist, Jones shows you how to choose the one that will work best in your situation. Â   Effective Ruby will help you systematically improve your codeâ ”not by blindly following rules, but by thoroughly understanding Ruby programming techniques. Â Key features of this concise guide include   How to avoid pitfalls associated with Rubyâ ™s sometimes surprising idiosyncrasies   What you should know about inheritance hierarchies to successfully use Rails (and other large frameworks)   How to use misunderstood methods to do amazingly useful things with collections   Better ways to use exceptions to improve code reliability   Powerful metaprogramming approaches (and techniques to avoid)   Practical, efficient testing solutions, including MiniTest Unit and Spec Testing   How to reliably manage RubyGem dependencies   How to make the most of Rubyâ ™s memory management and profiling tools   How to improve code efficiency by understanding the Ruby interpreterâ ™s internals

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Practical tips to help you become a better programmer. Even better if you're using Ruby. :)IMO there is a real void when it comes to books on Ruby programming. ok, I understand the language. But how do I actually write good object-oriented programs using Ruby? This book answers some of those questions. Well worth the cost and the effort to read it. It will stay on my shelf at home as a welcome reference rather than my shelves at work where just anyone could walk off with it. They will just have to buy their own copy.

There are only a handful of Ruby books that focus on rounding out the general knowledge of intermediate Rubyists, and this is the latest entry to that group. Effective Ruby is split up into 48 "items" which cover things like inheritance, using structs instead of hashes, garbage collection, exceptions, Minitest, and more.Even Ruby experts will enjoy this book as it's written in a direct, no-nonsense style and the items act as quick, handy reminders of things you knew but somehow forgot anyway.The only criticism the book could face is that the 48 items are a little arbitrary. They're bundled into groups, but I feel you could easily have several other books that followed the same format and covered different items. Maybe there'll be Effective Ruby 2, 3, and beyond around the corner? :-)

Peter J. Jones, the creator of Vagrant, brings us "Effective Ruby : 48 Specific Ways To Write Better Ruby". A book geared towards ruby programmers that are already familiar with the structure and syntax, but are looking to get more out of the language. The books covers a wide range of topics, with surprising amount of depth. The chapters are divided into small 'items' that can be consumed individually and stand (mostly) on their own. Each offers practical tidbits that can be applied to your own code immediately. I read the book cover-to-cover, but I it would also be suited to jumping around from item to item.I found the chapter on Classes, Objects and Modules to be very useful in understanding how Ruby treats inheritance and method dispatching and the implications of which the reader should be aware of. Also of note, the chapter on meta-programming sheds some light on very useful techniques to avoid shooting yourself in the foot, a pretty common occurrence when meta-programming in Ruby.I have been programming Ruby for years and I enjoyed reading the book a great deal. I learned some new tricks and re-acquainted myself with some forgotten ones as

well.

One of the great strengths of Ruby is that it is easy to pick up and be productive right out of the gate. But Ruby is such a rich, full-featured language that there are probably a lot of things you aren't aware of that can make you a better developer.I think this book is a good read for beginner and intermediate Ruby developers to learn more of the language features and write better, more maintainable code. The author has geared the book towards people who have some experience with Ruby and points out some of the common pitfalls that developers new to Ruby might face.The book has 48 items to help you improve your code and covers everything from Ruby basics to an overview of the garbage collector. As someone who has been using Ruby for a few years, I learned a few new things about collections, Ruby's inheritance hierarchy, exceptions, and performance tips.I thought the section on testing was a little thin, but there are entire books dedicated to testing and it is a tough topic to address in a single chapter. I think the author's intention is just to make the reader aware of the testing tools and methodologies available.All in all, I thought this was a good read. I'll keep it handy and look forward to applying and experimenting with some of the ideas.

I've read a lot of books about Ruby, and I was a little bit concerned - whether I really need another one. As I like the idea of "Effective" series, I decided to give it a try. Bingo!Concise, insightful, and fun to read - I really like it!

When you buy a book to expand your knowledge of something, you hope that the author has used the pages to communicate worthwhile lessons - and a good book is liking having a teacher by your side. For my personal preference, an even better style is when the author acts much as a mountain guide - not only showing you the right way - but also calling out the dangers and risks of less efficient paths...or paths that will lead you astray.In "Effective Ruby, 48 Specific Ways to Write Better Ruby", Peter J. Jones demonstrates his knowledge of Ruby - in a hands-on and practical manner - achieving the much deserved accolade as both teacher and guide.The clarity of writing is reminiscent of Kernighan and Ritchie, Scott Meyers, and Joshua BlochRuby is a worthwhile language to have in your toolbox - and this book is a welcome addition to my technical library.

I haven't read the other Effective series books, but if they're of the same quality of this one, I should go out and read them all! This is a great book for intermediate level Ruby developers who want to know and understand some of the great and powerful tools that the language provides. Whether it's

as simple as working with collections and explaining the inheritance chain or something more complex as Metaprogramming and how Ruby does garbage collection, this book provides it all.Some of the cool highlights that were very informative for me were:- provided an example of how to use protected methods for a actual real life example- great use case for class variable vs class instance variable and the pitfalls of class variables- great overview and best practices around exceptionsIf you want to go into deeper discussion and thought on Metaprogramming there is a great book for that, Metaprogramming Ruby. As well as the Ruby internals (i.e. garbage collection), Ruby under the microscope. But for a great overall of the cool tricks of Ruby, this is a great book!

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