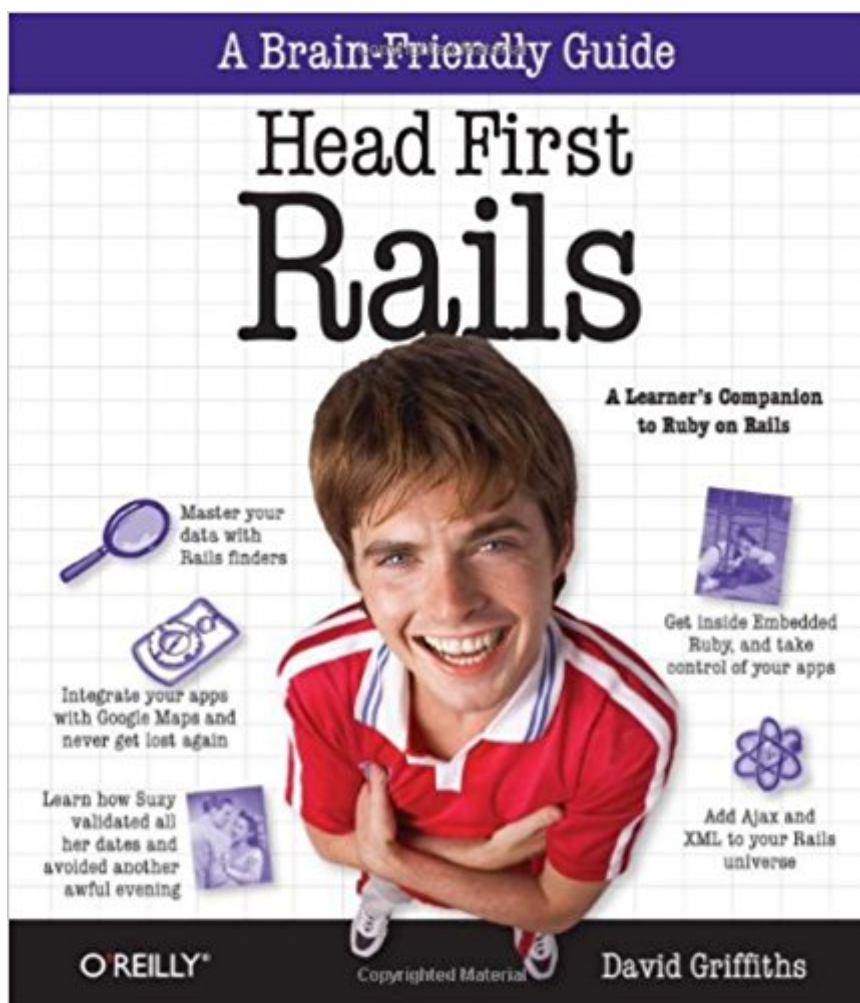


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Head First Rails: A Learner's Companion To Ruby On Rails



Synopsis

Ready to transport your web applications into the Web 2.0 era? Head First Rails takes your programming -- and productivity -- to the max. You'll learn everything from the fundamentals of Rails scaffolding to building customized interactive web apps using Rails' rich set of tools and the MVC framework. By the time you're finished, you'll have learned more than just another web framework. You'll master database interactions, integration with Ajax and XML, rich content, and even dynamic graphing of your data -- all in a fraction of the time it takes to build the same apps with Java, PHP, ASP.NET, or Perl. You'll even get comfortable and familiar with Ruby, the language that underpins Rails. But you'll do it in the context of web programming, and not through boring exercises such as "Hello, World!" Your time is way too valuable to waste struggling with new concepts. Using the latest research in cognitive science and learning theory to craft a multi-sensory learning experience, Head First Rails uses a visually rich format designed to take advantage of the way your brain really works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David Griffiths began programming at age 12, after being inspired by a documentary on the work of Seymour Papert. At age 15 he wrote an implementation of Papert's computer language LOGO. After studying Pure Mathematics at University, he began writing code for computers and magazine articles for humans and he is currently an agile coach with Exoftware in the UK, helping people to create simpler, more valuable software. He spends his free time traveling and time with his lovely

wife, Dawn.

I am deeply disappointed. I should have read the more recent reviews. This book is about an earlier version of Rails and Ruby. Even the most basic commands, such as how to start the web server, are totally different ("`>ruby script/server`" in the book, "`>rails server`" in the current version). If there is a way to find the versions of Ruby and Rails about which this book was written, I haven't found it, mainly because--as far as I can tell--there is no mention in the book about what version of Ruby and Rails it was written to support. I also haven't found a cross-reference on the web that tells me what a given command's analog is between the old and new versions. It took an hour of utilizing the most well-known search engine on the web to just figure out the current command for starting the web server--I don't have time to do that for every single command supported by Ruby OR Rails! Apparently the site the book directs you to for the software downloads only has (or directs you to--it isn't all in one location) the latest versions. It also wouldn't have hurt to put four or five pages of instructions outlining how to actually install Ruby and Rails onto a given platform, I'm baffled how they say their rationale for this is that "this is not a how-to book" (direct quote) when that is EXACTLY WHAT IT IS!!! "HOW TO" use Rails! Ruby and Rails (and Ruby Gems) all use different methods to install onto a given machine. I'm still a bit perplexed about Ruby Gems. I'm not sure exactly what they are--I have a couple of hunches, but the book certainly doesn't explain it. As soon as Rails 3.1 became available (October 2010), this book should have become unavailable. Either that or Head First Publishing should have maintained a site from which one could download everything covered in the book. I mean, it is all OPEN SOURCE! The website for the book makes no mention that the book (or the site) is about the earlier versions of the software. Buy this book if you want to dive "Head First" into Rails for Ruby...into an empty pool!!!

I should have read all the reviews before I ordered this! I needed to quickly familiarize myself with the basics of rails, and having liked other head first books, I opted to buy this one. Unfortunately, this was written for an old version of rails. I found myself just looking up information on how the new version worked every time I ran into outdated material, and turns out quite a bit of the material is outdated. Then it occurred to me, why am I even reading this book at all? I'm just looking up every other thing on the internet anyway. I may as well just chuck the book, it would be faster and easier not to try to follow along with the old material. Yeah, as a teaching tool the information in these pages is no longer relevant I'm afraid. Don't buy this or you are just going to end up with a large book with no purpose.

It seems like I'll echo much of what's been written - this book is in dire need of an update. Let me share just one example. one of the very first examples in the book instructs the user to launch the bundled rails web server by issuing the following command:> ruby script/server as of Rails v 3, it works this way:> rails s A majority of the book is outdated in a similar fashion. It's a shame because the book is so well written, and laden with wonderfully practical examples. I hope the author will update the book.

This book follows the standard (excellent) Head First format that we have come to know and love. Unfortunately, virtually no command from the book works correctly in practice due to several new versions of rails being released since this book. Most are rather simple modifications such as instead of "ruby script/server" as stated in the book, the actual command is now "rails server". Some of the html code is out of date as well. The book frequently uses tags where Rails has been updated to use <code> tags instead. This isn't too bad since you should have a strong understanding of html prior to attempting Rails, but it's enough to throw you off and cause a second glance. All in all, I would have a hard time giving this book a solid recommendation as is. If a second version is ever released, it will probably be the go to book to learn Rails.

I normally LOVE the Head-First books, but DO NOT BUY THIS ONE FOR RAILS. The code in the example text is grossly outdated. It's hard enough to learn a language when you're completely new -- let alone trying to debug and find the proper way to do things on the web at the same time. They really, really, need to either pull this from the market, or do an update, pronto. And, I deserve a free e-book update, but I won't get one :(Many other books they offer are phenomenal, but this one was a real waste of my time, effort, and money, just to discover the problem.

This is a decent book that actually whisks you through a number of concepts to get to real apps. The problem is...I just bought this book in July, 2011, and it's outdated. I wouldn't have as much of an issue if the publisher has kept the forum updated or the code, but I am spending half of my time trying to figure out the correct code for Rails 3. It's good in as much that I am rooting around different forums learning other aspects, but still a pain. The book doesn't give you detailed explanation of every piece of code which is a little tough, but I seem to be picking some of it up. But the publisher really should take advantage of their web site and provide an update.

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