

Installing Ruby on Rails on a Mac

Disclaimer: I'm not a frequent Macintosh user. In fact, I hardly ever use a Mac. But some of my best friends are Mac users and I never get into arguments with them when they remind me (daily) about the superiority of Mac technology.

So this brief writeup may be very un-Mac-like. Please send email to me at Barry at BurdBrain dot com if you have any suggestions or corrections.

Installing Ruby on Rails

The Mac community has an almost all-in-one install bundle named *Locomotive*.

1. Visit <http://locomotive.raaum.org/>.

2. Download the latest standard Rails bundle.

You get a file named *something_or_other.dmg*. The file lands on your computer's desktop.

3. Double click the file's desktop icon.

This double-clicking action begins the installation of Locomotive. With Locomotive you get several parts of the Ruby on Rails entourage, including the Ruby interpreter, the RubyGems installation system, the Rake program building system, Rails, and a version of MySQL created especially for Ruby programs.

You can run all the examples in *Ruby on Rails For Dummies* with Locomotive alone. But to do things the way I describe them in the book, you need a few more items...

4. Visit <http://www.mysql.org>.

5. Download and install MySQL Administrator.

MySQL Administrator gives you easy graphical access to your computer's MySQL server. You can create databases, examine table structures, and do all the other things that make your database life easier.

6. Visit <http://www.radrails.org>.

7. Download and install RadRails.

RadRails is my favorite IDE for creating and testing Ruby on Rails programs.

8. Visit the [*Ruby on Rails For Dummies Web site.*](#)
9. Download the book's code (which comes in the form of a RadRails workspace).
10. Follow the instructions in the section entitled "Configuring RadRails" in Chapter 2.