Rubygems

Lucas Nussbaum

Rubygems

The standard to install Ruby libraries

Features :

- no intermediate packagers (e.g Linux distro)
  => no delay
  => always the latest version (even git snapshots)
- cross-platform, works the same on Windows, Mac OS X, Linux

Other languages have similar tools :

- Perl -> CPAN
- Python -> eggs

Fabulous tool for developers !

Rubygems : what about users ?

users = end users, sysadmins, etc.

Would like : **standard, common way to install software**

- ease of use
- integrates well with infrastructure (deployment, local mirrors, etc)
- easy security updates

On Linux : provided by their **distribution's package manager**

Other languages ?

They provide distribution methods for both use cases :

- Perl :
  `perl Makefile.pl && make && make install`
- Python : distutils

Ruby : imposes the use of rubygems to everyone
both developers and users !

"But you don't need to use gems !" WRONG !

See yourself :
Try to install rails applications without rubygems

In many libraries, needed changes :

```
@@ -5,7 +5,7 @@

-require "rubygems"
+# require "rubygems"
 require "highline/import"
```

Other problems (mostly consequences)

Those are technical problems, not social problems

- Rubygems ignores non-rubygems libraries
  when trying to satisfy dependencies
  (Necessary : doesn't know the version of the lib)
- Rubygems encourages strict dependencies
  on a specific version
  (API versioning != library versioning)
  - you end up with many versions installed
- Rubygems doesn't encourage stable APIs
  - users encouraged/forced to install the latest version
- Standardization on some external websites
  - Rubyforge, Github

Conclusion

- Solution : vendorization ?
  "let's just put everything in `vendor/` !"
  WRONG
- Rubygems and Git are very good developer tools
  - But they are not good generic tools for distribution of ruby libraries
- The library problem has been solved everywhere years ago.
  - Just need to create ruby equivalents to those solutions
  - some tools already exist : `setup.rb`