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RSpec Essentials



Synopsis

Key Features Explore the concept of testability and how to implement tests that deliver the most value
Maximize the quality of your Ruby code through a wide variety of tests
Master the real-world tradeoffs of testing through detailed examples supported by in-depth discussion

Book Description This book will teach you how to use RSpec to write high-value tests for real-world code. We start with the key concepts of the unit and testability, followed by hands-on exploration of key features. From the beginning, we learn how to integrate tests into the overall development process to help create high-quality code, avoiding the dangers of testing for its own sake. We build up sample applications and their corresponding tests step by step, from simple beginnings to more sophisticated versions that include databases and external web services. We devote three chapters to web applications with rich JavaScript user interfaces, building one from the ground up using behavior-driven development (BDD) and test-driven development (TDD). The code examples are detailed enough to be realistic while simple enough to be easily understood. Testing concepts, development methodologies, and engineering tradeoffs are discussed in detail as they arise. This approach is designed to foster the reader's ability to make well-informed decisions on their own.

What you will learn

- Identify a unit of software for the purposes of testing
- Manage test states with hooks, fixtures, and mocks
- Handle external web services in tests using various techniques
- Configure RSpec flexibly and cleanly using support code and environment variables
- Interact with rich web apps in tests using Capybara
- Build the right feature with behavior-driven development
- Customize matchers and failure messages
- Verify correct development and production environments

About the Author Mani Tadayon first learned to program as a shy 7th grader on an Apple IIe using BASIC. He went on to learn Pascal, C++, Java, JavaScript, Visual Basic, and PHP before becoming a Ruby developer in 2008. With 15 years of experience in the software industry, he has developed expertise in web development, infrastructure, and testing. Mani's interests and education are broad, with degrees in foreign languages, computer science, and geography. He lives just far enough from Silicon Valley with his family and their many, many Shiba Inus.

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Book Information

Paperback: 222 pages

Publisher: Packt Publishing - ebooks Account (April 21, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1784395900

ISBN-13: 978-1784395902

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.3 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #798,960 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #129 in Â Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Languages & Tools > Ruby #1935 in Â Books > Computers & Technology > Programming > Web Programming #4772 in Â Books > Computers & Technology > Web Development & Design

Customer Reviews

I'm very torn on this book. I think the author has a good writing style and means of presentation. I like how the examples in the book are built up and how the explanations around those examples provide an incremental increase in context. The conversational tone of the book is also very welcome, as I believe it lends itself well to this kind of subject. However, all that being said, this book is plagued by what plagues many other Packt books: poor quality of the examples. Going through Chapter 2 alone, for example, you will find many mistakes not just in the text, but in the code as well. For the text problems, the issue seems to be that code was changed after the text was written but the text was not changed to reflect that. Ironical in a book that is ultimately about testing: you always make sure to test the final product. For the code, the issue is that some of it simply doesn't work as it is provided. Further, if you look at the code download that Packt makes available for the site, you will often find that the code there differs from what is in the book. And sometimes both of those differ from what the text itself describes. There is apparently one of the "technical editors" who wrote a review for this book. I'm not sure I would necessarily admit to that, given some of these issues. (Technical editors are responsible for technical accuracy.) As one of the more obvious lacks of accuracy -- and you literally cannot miss it, there is an AddressValidator class created at one point. The book itself has you call an invalid_parts() method as part of the RSpec tests for that class. Yet the AddressValidator class shown in the book has no invalid_parts() method. Nor -- at the time of writing this review -- did the code download from the Packt site.

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