

Automate PHP Deploys

The PHP Supplement to Deploy Rails Bluebook



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Introduction

Welcome to the PHP companion guide to Deploy Rails Bluebook. This book is primarily intended as a supplement for Rails developers that need to setup a PHP server. PHP programmers can also learn how to automate their server, but they may want to spend a little time learning Ruby. Like it's main counterpart this guide specific to Ubuntu and the recipe has only been tested on Ubuntu 12.04, the Long Term Release. This book also will not rehash many of the system configuration and Chef topics hashed in the main book-I just assume you read it and just want a nice, quick PHP walkthrough.

Since this guide is written to help PHP programmers get into the Chef fold I cover a few things in this book that I don't cover in Deploy Rails Bluebook. This is not intended to be a guide for new Ruby programmers. There are plenty of other books that specialize in that task alone and specific for PHP programmers.

Still, for those who are completely new to Ruby, I recommend first reading the *Setup a Ruby/Chef Environment on Ubuntu* section to get started. Next, you will want to read a nice book on Ruby geared for PHP programmers or [Michael Hartl's excellent online Rails tutorial](#)¹. Then read Deploy Rails Bluebook to learn how to get started with deploying.

If you already know how to setup a basic server you can skip to the second part of Deploy Rails Bluebook. If you haven't, no worries. The first part goes over all the little details that you need to setup a VPS (or on Vagrant).

If you haven't already bought Deploy Rails Bluebook, you really should. It's a great book, chock full of tips and walkthroughs for common issues with Chef and deploying Rails. I wrote it because I couldn't find a good source of information on Chef Solo for a project for a graduate class. I found my notes so useful, I rewrote them into a book. Plus, this is a companion book; it's not as useful without the main book.

Get Deploy Rails Bluebook from:

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¹<http://ruby.railstutorial.org/>

Setup a Ruby/Chef Environment on Ubuntu

As I wrote before, this chapter is for PHP programmers who are not used to Ruby. Experienced Rubyists can skip it since we just setup a RVM environment and write a gemfile for bundler to download Chef.

If you didn't understand the above paragraph, don't worry, I will cover it.

First we need to install Ruby to install Chef. Most distributions used to ship an out of date version of Ruby. Ubuntu has gotten better at it, but will stick with a manager like RVM. RVM can download and setup Ruby on your system. Since the 2014 edition of Deploy Rails Bluebook stayed with the sturdy and widespread 1.9.3 version we will stay with it in this book.

On your host machine install a few necessary dependencies.

```
sudo apt-get install build-essential curl
```

Now install RVM for the user.

```
curl -L get.rvm.io | bash -s stable
```

RVM will ask you to run a script to load in the variables set in the environment.

```
source ~/.profile # Do not copy this text as the '~' character doesn't
copy well.
```



On Ubuntu with GNOME Terminal you need to configure an additional setting. If you don't set this you will need to use `rvm use X` every time you open a new shell to use a Ruby tool.

Goto Edit->Profile Preferences->Title and Command tab->Check 'Run command as a login shell'.

Now we ask RVM to check our system for the requirements to build Ruby.

```
rvm requirements
```

It should give you a command to install the software that it requests.

Now let's install Ruby 1.9.3.

```
rvm install 1.9.3
```

RVM allows multiple Ruby instances on one machine. Even more, it allows multiple Gemsets per each instance. Gemsets are simply bundles of libraries. You can switch between each bundle to use different versions of the same library, which is handy when something breaks.

For now set 1.9.3 as the default.

```
rvm use 1.9.3 --default
```

You may get this error.

RVM is not a function, selecting rubies with 'rvm use ...' will not work.

You need to change your terminal emulator preferences to allow login shell.

Sometimes it is required to use /bin/bash --login as the command.

Please visit <https://rvm.io/integration/gnome-terminal> for an example.

The simplest thing to try in this case is to relogin and try again.

```
/bin/bash --login  
rvm use 1.9.3 --default
```

If you get this message you're good.

```
Using '/home/user/.rvm/gems/ruby-1.9.3-pXXX'
```

Now tell RVM to handle gems.

```
rvm rubygems current
```

You now have a fully working local Ruby environment on your machine, but you still need to install Chef and go over the Chef DSL which is covered in Part 2 of Deploy Rails Bluebook.



DSL stands for Domain Specific Language, a type of syntactic sugar Ruby offers for metaprogramming.