Practical Object-Oriented Design in Ruby: An Agile Primer (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby)

By Sandi Metz

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The Complete Guide to Writing More Maintainable, Manageable, Pleasing, and Powerful Ruby Applications

Ruby's widely admired ease of use has a downside: Too many Ruby and Rails applications have been created without concern for their long-term maintenance or evolution. The Web is awash in Ruby code that is now virtually impossible to change or extend. This text helps you solve that problem by using powerful real-world object-oriented design techniques, which it thoroughly explains using simple and practical Ruby examples.

Sandi Metz has distilled a lifetime of conversations and presentations about object-oriented design into a set of Ruby-focused practices for crafting manageable, extensible, and pleasing code. She shows you how to build new applications that can survive success and repair existing applications that have become impossible to change. Each technique is illustrated with extended examples, all downloadable from the companion Web site, poodr.info.

The first title to focus squarely on object-oriented Ruby application design, *Practical Object-Oriented Design in Ruby* will guide you to superior outcomes, whatever your previous Ruby experience. Novice Ruby programmers will find specific rules to live by; intermediate Ruby programmers will find valuable principles they can flexibly interpret and apply; and advanced Ruby programmers will find a common language they can use to lead development and guide their colleagues.

This guide will help you

- Understand how object-oriented programming can help you craft Ruby code that is easier to maintain and upgrade
- Decide what belongs in a single Ruby class
- Avoid entangling objects that should be kept separate

- Define flexible interfaces among objects
- Reduce programming overhead costs with duck typing
- Successfully apply inheritance
- Build objects via composition
- Design cost-effective tests
- Solve common problems associated with poorly designed Ruby code

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Editorial Review

Review

 "This is great stuff! Your descriptions are so vibrant and vivid that I'm rediscovering the truth buried in OO principles that are otherwise so internalized that I forget to explore them. Your thoughts on design and knowing the future are especially eloquent."
—Ian McFarland, President, New Context, Inc.

"As a self-taught programmer, this was an extremely helpful dive into some OOP concepts that I could definitely stand to become better acquainted with! And, I'm not alone: there's a sign posted at work that reads, 'WWSMD? – What Would Sandi Metz Do?'"
—Jonathan Mukai, Pivotal in NYC

"Meticulously pragmatic and exquisitely articulate, *Practical Object Oriented Design in Ruby* makes otherwise elusive knowledge available to an audience which desperately needs it. The prescriptions are appropriate both as rules for novices and as guidelines for experienced professionals."
—Katrina Owen, developer, Bengler

"I do believe this will be the most important Ruby book of 2012. Not only is the book 100% on-point, Sandi has an easy writing style with lots of great analogies that drive every point home."
—Avdi Grimm, Author of *Exceptional Ruby and Objects on Rails*

"While Ruby is an object-oriented language, little time is spent in the documentation on what OO truly means or how it should direct the way we build programs. Here Metz brings it to the fore, covering most of the key principles of OO development and design in an engaging, easy-to-understand manner. This is a must for any respectable Ruby bookshelf."
–Peter Cooper, editor, Ruby Weekly

"So good, I couldn't put it down! This is a must-read for anyone wanting to do object-oriented programming in any language, not to mention it has completely changed the way I approach testing."
–Charles Max Wood, video and audio show host, TeachMeToCode.com

"Distilling scary OO design practices with clear-cut examples and explanations makes this a book or novices and experts alike. It is well worth the study by anyone interested in OO design being done right and 'light.' I thoroughly enjoyed this book."
–Manuel Pais, editor, InfoQ.com

"If you call yourself a Ruby programmer, you should read this book. It's jam-packed with great nuggets of practical advice and coding techniques that you can start applying immediately in your projects."
–Ylan Segal, San Diego Ruby User Group

"This is the best OO book I've ever read. It's short, sweet, but potent. It slowly moves from simple techniques to more advanced, each example improving on the last. The ideas it presents are useful not just in Ruby but in static languages like C# too. Highly recommended!"

–Kevin Berridge, software engineering manager, Pointe Blank Solutions, and organizer, Burning River Developers Meetup

"The book is just perfect! The elegance of Ruby shines but it also works as an A to Z of object-oriented programming in general."
–Emil Rondahl, C# & .NET consultant

"This is an exceptional Ruby book, in which Metz offers a practical look at writing maintainable, clean, idiomatic code in Ruby. Absolutely fantastic, recommended for my Ruby hacker friends."
–Zachary "Zee" Spencer, freelancer & coach

"This is the best programming book I've read in ages. Sandi talks about basic principles, but these are things we're probably still doing wrong and she shows us why and how. The book has the perfect mix of code, diagrams, and words. I can't recommend it enough and if you're serious about being a better programmer, you'll read it and agree.
–Derick Hitchcock, senior developer, SciMed Solutions

"I predict this will become a classic. I have an uncomfortable familiarity with programming literature, and this book is on a completely different level. I am astonished when I find a book that offers new insights and ideas, and even more surprised when it can do so, not just once, but throughout the pages. This book is excellently written, well-organized, with lucid explanations of technical programming concepts."
–Han S. Kang, software engineer and member of the LA Rubyists

"You should read this book if you write software for a living. The future developers who inherit your code will thank you."
–Jose Fernandez, senior software engineer at New Relic

"Metz's take on the subject is rooted strongly in theory, but the explanation always stays grounded in real world concerns, which helped me to internalize it. The book is clear and concise, yet achieves a tone that is more friendly than terse."
–Alex Strasheim, network administrator, Ensemble Travel Group

"This is an amazing book about just how to do object-oriented thinking when you're programming in Ruby. Although there are some chapters that are more Ruby-specific, this book could be a great resource for developers in any language. All in all, I can't recommend this book enough."
–James Hwang, thriceprime.com

"Whether you're just getting started in your software development career, or you've been coding for years (like I have), it's likely that you'll learn a lot from Ms. Metz's book. She does a fantastic job of explaining the whys of well-designed software along with the hows."
–Gabe Hollombe, software craftsman, avantbard.com

"In short, this is in my top five programming books I've ever read. I believe that in twenty years this will be considered one of the definitive works on object-oriented programming. I plan to re-read it at least once a year to keep my skills from falling into atrophy. If you're a relatively new, intermediate, or even somewhat advanced OO developer in any language, purchasing this book is the best way I know to level up your OO design skills."
–Brandon Hays, freelance software developer

About the Author

Sandi Metz has thirty years of experience working on projects that survived to grow and change. She now writes code every day as a software architect at Duke University, where her team solves real problems for customers who have large object-oriented applications that have been evolving for more than fifteen years. She has spoken at Ruby Nation and speaks regularly at the Gotham Ruby Users Conference.

Users Review

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Dan Williams:

This Practical Object-Oriented Design in Ruby: An Agile Primer (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) are usually reliable for you who want to be a successful person, why. The key reason why of this Practical Object-Oriented Design in Ruby: An Agile Primer (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) can be one of several great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple reading through food but feed anyone with information that perhaps will shock your previous knowledge. This book is definitely handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions at e-book and printed ones. Beside that this Practical Object-Oriented Design in Ruby: An Agile Primer (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby) giving you an enormous of experience for instance rich vocabulary, giving you trial run of critical thinking that we understand it useful in your day activity. So , let's have it and enjoy reading.

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