How To Install Ruby On Rails On Ubuntu Hardy 8.04

By Roger Keays, 20 September 2012

Okay, **Ubuntu Hardy** is pretty old now but my Hardy server is still humming along just fine and I don't see a good reason to break it just to run a few **Ruby On Rails** apps. The ruby, ruby1.9 and rubygems packages on Hardy simply don't work anymore and the rails package is too old to run my app.

So here is how I got the latest rails running on this 4 year old server. I hope it saves you some pain.

1. Install JRuby 1.6.8. The Ubuntu ruby1.9 package just hangs silently when trying to install rubygems, but JRuby does the job.

```
# cd /opt
# wget http://jruby.org.s3.amazonaws.com/downloads/1.6.8/jruby-bin-1.6.8.ta
# tar -zxf jruby-bin-1.6.8.tar.gz
# export PATH=$PATH:/opt/jruby-1.6.8/bin
```

2. **Install Rubygems 1.8.24**

```
# wget http://production.cf.rubygems.org/rubygems/rubygems-1.8.24.zip
# unzip rubygems-1.8.24.zip
# cd /opt/rubygems-1.8.24
# jruby setup.rb
```

3. **Patch rubygems**. Out of the box, jgems produces the following error:

```
# jgem --help
 /opt/jruby-1.6.8/bin/jgem: line 13: syntax error near unexpected token `Ger
 /opt/jruby-1.6.8/bin/jgem: line 13: `if RUBY_VERSION =~ /^1\.9\.1/ && defir
```

You can fix it by changing the first line of**/opt/jruby-1.6.8/bin/jgem** to

```
#!/usr/bin/env /opt/jruby-1.6.8/bin/jruby
```

4.Install rails and some extras.

```
# jgem install rails
# jgem install jruby-openssl
```

5. Test it out!

```
# rails new /tmp/app
# cd /tmp/app
# rails server
```

Make sure your firewall has port 3000 open, and visit **http://localhost:3000** .

Hope that works for you.

About Roger Keays

Roger Keays is an artist, an engineer, and a student of life. He has no fixed addressand has leftfootprints on 40-something different countries around the world. Roger is addicted to surfing. His other interests are music, psychology, languages, the proper use of semicolons, and finding good food.