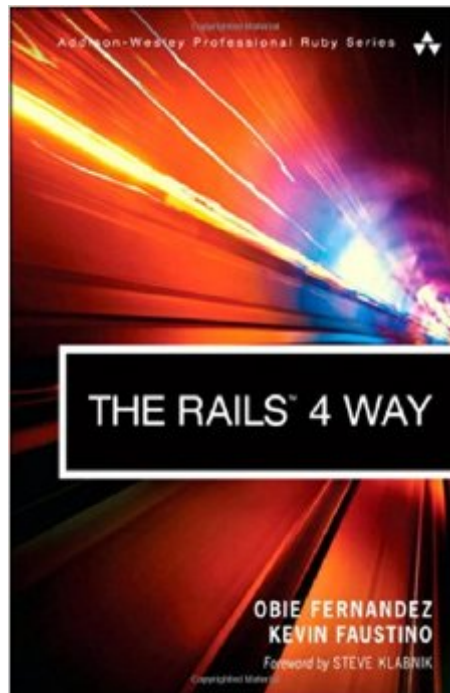# The Rails 4 Way (3rd Edition) (Addison-Wesley Professional Ruby)

# Synopsis

The â œBibleâ • for Rails Development: Now Fully Updated for Rails 4.1 Â  "When I read The Rails Way for the first time, I felt like I truly understood Rails for the first time.â • â ”From the Foreword by Steve Klabnik  Â  Ruby on Rails 4 is leaner, tighter, and even more valuable to professional web developers. More than ever, it helps you focus on what matters most: delivering business value via clean and maintainable code.  Â    The Railsâ„¢ 4 Way   is the only comprehensive, authoritative guide to delivering production-quality code with Rails 4. Kevin Faustino joins pioneering Rails developer Obie Fernandez to illuminate the entire Rails 4 API, including its most powerful and modern idioms, design approaches, and libraries. They present extensive new and updated content on security, performance, caching, Haml, RSpec, Ajax, the Asset Pipeline, and more.  Â  Through detailed code examples, youâ ™ll dive deep into the Rails 4 code base, discover why Rails is designed as it is, and learn how to make it do exactly what you want. Proven in dozens of production systems, this bookâ ™s techniques will maximize your productivity and help you build more successful solutions. Youâ ™ll want to keep this guide by your computerâ ”youâ ™ll refer to it constantly.  Â  This guide will help you   Build powerful, scalable REST-compliant APIs  Program complex program flows using Action Controller  Represent models, relationships, CRUD operations, searches, validation, callbacks, and more  Smoothly evolve application database schema via Migrations  Apply advanced Active Record techniques: single-table inheritance, polymorphic models, and more  Create visual elements with Action View and partials  Optimize performance and scalability with view caching  Master the highly productive Haml HTML templating engine  Make the most of Railsâ ™ approach to session management  Secure your systems with Rails 4â ™s improved authentication and authorization  Resist SQL Injection, XSS, XSRF, and other attacks  Extend Rails with popular gems and plugins, and learn to write your own  Integrate email services with Action Mailer  Use Ajax via Rails 4 support for unobtrusive JavaScript  Improve responsiveness with background processing  Leverage Asset Pipeline to simplify development, improve perceived performance, and reduce server burdens  Accelerate implementation and promote maintainability with RSpec

# Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm always suspicious when I see many positive reviews of a product posted immediately after the product is listed at . I assume the reviews are written by the creators and maybe their friends and family. But in the case of The Rails 4 Way, the initial positive reviews are likely written by people like me and the reviewer named kamera who have been happily reading DRM-free digital copies of The Rails 4 Way that we bought months ago.As I wrote in my negative review of another Rails book listed at , The Rails 4 Way has great coverage of all the new features in Rails 4 (unlike certain Rails books). Also, The Rails 4 Way has been updated to include coverage of Rails 4.1 features, including Spring, secrets.yml, etc. I'm surprised that the Book Description section here at  doesn't mention Rails 4.1.I buy just about every Rails book that's published and I toss them all in a directory that's indexed for full-text searching. In the past, when I wanted more info about a Rails feature than what is provided by the official Rails documentation and Rails Guides, I searched my library of books. But lately, when I want more info, I just open The Rails 4 Way. It usually has what I'm looking for. As the introduction of The Rails 4 Way states, "This book is not a tutorial or basic introduction to Ruby or Rails. It is meant as a day-to-day reference for the full-time Rails developer." This is how I use The Rails 4 Way, and it's the best Rails reference book I own.My only complaint is that my DRM-free PDF edition of The Rails 4 Way doesn't include an index. I see that the print edition does include a index, but the preview of the Kindle edition doesn't show an index. If you plan to buy the Kindle edition and you want an index, I'd recommend contacting the publisher to ensure that an index is included in the Kindle edition.

I returned this book to . The first time I've ever done that with a book.I want to write a short and accurate review that explains why i gave the rating I did, so I will not be going into the good parts of

the book. This will make the review seem unbalanced and heavy handed. Having disclosed that up front should dispel it as a criticism of this review.Issues from most severe to least:1] Index is terrible (ex: "params hash", "Strong Parameters" entries are incomplete/missing). These 2 specific entries had no excuse to be so thin on coverage as Rails has exactly 2 use cases that form the bulk of deployed applications: complex cruds and web api (rest/json/soap/xml). Both of which require an understanding of the params hash and the *new to Rails v4* strong parameters. An index is very much like the hash data structure, allowing someone to turn a keyword into a reference to the object they are looking for. This made its deficiencies painfully ironic and inexcusable. The next edition's index should be twice the size.2] Content seems scraped from Rails API docs, that's only acceptable if there's significant additional analysis information not in the API docs (not the case here)3] The book should be twice as long (at least), as such you will frequently see the phrase "covering this topic is beyond the scope of this book". Really? If it's about RAILS in a book called "The Rails Way" it shouldn't be beyond the scope of the book. I blame this particular issue on the methodology of the book (see #4).4] If they had taken the cliche "we will build an app throughout the book" approach, #1, #2 and #3 would likely have been remedied thru necessity. The book does not follow this narrative and thus feels like it has no arc (contrast this with the Manning Pub Book "Rails 4 In Action", which is not perfect either but much better nonetheless.)As for me, I was able to find the info I needed on the Rails doc sites + browsing a few blog entries and StackOverflow questions. This makes the inadequacy of the book especially appalling since the Rails community is so rich with resources to build a fully realized rails "bible".

This book is amazing.I jumped into this book pretty green as far as web development is concerned. I have a lot of experience on the front-end but had only dabbled on the back-end. I did have basic Ruby and Rails experience but nothing major. I really wanted to learn my way around Rails but also understand how and why things worked the way they did. This book really helped to answer those questions.The first few chapters were a bit difficult to get through primarily because it was very basic information (configuration, Rails routing, REST, etc.). After that, it got really exciting (for me) as it dove into the specifics of the framework.I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to learn more about Rails and I think it's suitable for almost any experience level. There are certain topics that were too complex for me to understand in the context of the book, so I used a flashcard as my bookmark and wrote down any concepts that were difficult. Googling it and rereading that section of the book really helped get the point across.If I had to pick one negative about the book, it would be that it is opinionated as far as configuration. This can be assumed, though, because it is

documenting the Rails Way. For instance, Haml and Rspec are used extensively over ERb and TestUnit. I had no experience with these prior to the book, but was excited to learn about them because they do seem to be the go-to libraries for big Rails shops (Hashrocket, Thoughtbot, etc.)Overall, 5/5. I've read it once and picked up a lot of knowledge. I plan to use it extensively and re-read sections as needed when an issue arises. If you're a complete beginner, I'd start off with the Hartl tutorial and then go through this book.

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