

# **Surviving as a Windows Based Rails Developer**

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# Why isn't Windows popular?

- Windows is...
- ... not cool...
- ... not POSIX...
- ... not suitable for the server.
- ... not popular for Ruby development, and as a result, has less support

# Easy way to get started

- One Click Ruby Installer:
  - <http://rubyinstaller.rubyforge.org/>
  - Includes RubyGems
- Gem install – always pick Win32, not Ruby.

# What intrinsic pitfalls are there?

- Automatic binary conversion
  - CR => CRLF and vice versa
- No Kernel#fork; this won't work
  - Kernel.fork do
    - some\_work\_is\_done\_here
  - end
- No GNU out of the box
- No compiler out of the box

# Running a Windows Rails dev box

- Editors:
  - Visual Studio
  - NetBeans
  - gvim (or cream). (recommended)
  - Emacs
  - "E Text Editor" - Textmate clone.

# POSIXing Your Windows Box

- Cygwin
- Unxutils (preferred):
  - <http://sourceforge.net/projects/unxutils/>
- gnuwin32:
  - <http://gnuwin32.sourceforge.net/>
- Mingw

# Misc Tools

- Safari for Windows
- Firefox
- LDE(x) – LiteStep windows desktop replacement with virtual desktops
- PuTTY – open source SSH and terminal emulator
- Filezilla – open source FTP client
- SmartFTP – commercial FTP client

# Why switch?

- Ubuntu's Compiz desktop is 3d accelerated and *\*very\** fast.
- Linux machines are more stable.
- Linux is easy to use.
- POSIX compatible environments make using other tools easier.
- You can automate your workflow with shell scripting and the full power of Unix.

# On the Bright Side

- FXRuby works out of the box on Windows
  - Porting can be **very** rapid
- OLE can be nice with Ruby's building libraries:
  - `require 'win32ole'`
  - `word_app = WIN32OLE.new('Word.application')`
  - `word_app.visible = true`
  - `word_document = word_app.documents.add`
  - `current_selection = word_app.selection`
  - `current_selection.TypeText "Hello, World!"`
  - `word_document.SaveAs 'hello_world.doc'`
- You always develop for what's on your desk.