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# RSpec Essentials

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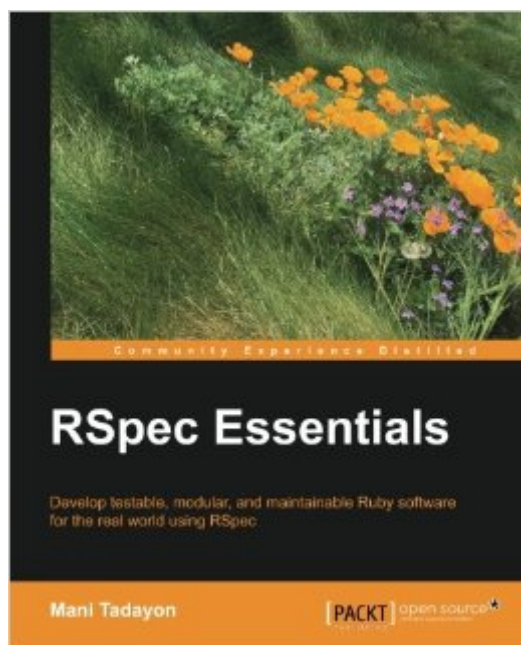Develop testable, modular, and maintainable Ruby software for the real world using RSpec

Mani Tadayon

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# Synopsis

Key FeaturesExplore the concept of testability and how to implement tests that deliver the most valueMaximize the quality of your Ruby code through a wide variety of testsMaster the real-world tradeoffs of testing through detailed examples supported by in-depth discussionBook DescriptionThis book will teach you how to use RSpec to write high-value tests for real-world code. We start with the key concepts of the unit and testability, followed by hands-on exploration of key features. From the beginning, we learn how to integrate tests into the overall development process to help create high-quality code, avoiding the dangers of testing for its own sake.We build up sample applications and their corresponding tests step by step, from simple beginnings to more sophisticated versions that include databases and external web services. We devote three chapters to web applications with rich JavaScript user interfaces, building one from the ground up using behavior-driven development (BDD) and test-driven development (TDD).The code examples are detailed enough to be realistic while simple enough to be easily understood. Testing concepts, development methodologies, and engineering tradeoffs are discussed in detail as they arise. This approach is designed to foster the reader's ability to make well-informed decisions on their own.What you will learnIdentify a unit of software for the purposes of testingManage test states with hooks, fixtures, and mocksHandle external web services in tests using various techniquesConfigure RSpec flexibly and cleanly using support code and environment variablesInteract with rich web apps in tests using CapybaraBuild the right feature with behavior-driven developmentCustomize matchers and failure messagesVerify correct development and production environmentsAbout the AuthorMani Tadayon first learned to program as a shy 7th grader on an Apple IIe using BASIC. He went on to learn Pascal, C++, Java, JavaScript, Visual Basic, and PHP before becoming a Ruby developer in 2008. With 15 years of experience in the software industry, he has developed expertise in web development, infrastructure, and testing. Mani's interests and education are broad, with degrees in foreign languages, computer science, and geography. He lives just far enough from Silicon Valley with his family and their many, many Shiba Inus.Table of ContentsExploring Testability from Unit Tests to Behavior-Driven DevelopmentSpecifying Behavior with Examples and MatchersTaking Control of State with Doubles and HooksSetting Up and Cleaning UpSimulating External ServicesDriving a Web Browser with CapybaraBuilding an App from the Outside In with Behavior-Driven DevelopmentTackling the Challenges of End-to-end TestingConfigurabilityOdds and Ends

# Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'm very torn on this book. I think the author has a good writing style and means of presentation. I
like how the examples in the book are built up and how the explanations around those examples
provide an incremental increase in context. The conversational tone of the book is also very
welcome, as I believe it lends itself well to this kind of subject.However, all that being said, this book
is plagued by what plagues many other Packt books: poor quality of the examples. Going through
Chapter 2 alone, for example, you will find many mistakes not just in the text, but in the code as
well.For the text problems, the issue seems to be that code was changed after the text was written
but the text was not changed to reflect that. Ironic in a book that is ultimately about testing: you
always make sure to test the final product.For the code, the issue is that some of it simply doesn't
work as it is provided. Further, if you look at the code download that Packt makes available for the
site, you will often find that the code there differs from what is in the book. And sometimes both of
those differ from what the text itself describes.There is apparently one of the "technical editors" who
wrote a review for this book. I'm not sure I would necessarily admit to that, given some of these
issues. (Technical editors are responsible for technical accuracy.) As one of the more obvious lacks
of accuracy -- and you literally cannot miss it, there is an AddressValidator class created at one
point. The book itself has you call an invalid_parts() method as part of the RSpec tests for that
class. Yet the AddressValidator class shown in the book has no invalid_parts() method. Nor -- at the
time of writing this review -- did the code download from the Packt site.

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