

# Foreword

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A few years ago, I came across the Ruby programming language, and I fell in love. Somehow, it just seemed to work the way my brain works—I can express myself in Ruby more naturally and with less intervening fluff than in any other language I know. I liked it so much I persuaded Andy Hunt to coauthor a book about it.

That was back in 1999. Since then, a lot has happened in the Ruby world. The language went from release 1.6 to 1.8, and the standard library matured into something world class. It gained a standardized documentation system, a standard library distribution mechanism, and a fine build tool. I produced a second edition of *Programming Ruby* to celebrate.

And now, for the first time, I can seriously say that Ruby is ready for the enterprise. The language is stable, the libraries are great, and there is a growing pool of talented and enthusiastic Ruby developers, all rising to the challenge. We see companies such as Amazon and EarthLink using Ruby for both internal- and external-facing projects.

The problem is that—until now—there wasn't much documentation on using Ruby in the enterprise. Sure, you can always find the API documentation for a library, but that doesn't really explain the *how* and the *why*.

Now the situation has changed. With *Enterprise Integration with Ruby*, Maik has done something I would have thought impossible. Not only has he documented just how to use Ruby to create new enterprise solutions and to knit together existing applications, but he has also documented the backgrounds to all the technologies, along with how and when to use each.

I consider this book a worthy partner to *Programming Ruby*. With it, you'll exploit the power and flexibility of Ruby to create new solutions for your company in record time.

And, just as importantly, you'll have fun.

Dave Thomas

*The Pragmatic Programmers*