

Taryn East

♣ <http://rubyglasses.blogspot.com/>

♣ <http://feeds.feedburner.com/RubyGlasses>

SUMMARY

I specialise in developing web applications using the Ruby-on-Rails web framework. I love working with the kinds of switched-on companies that would choose a fresh and interesting technology like Rails.

I like to work with agile teams building meaty applications (ie I'm not interested in building cookie-cutter brochure-ware). I also prefer a relaxed and friendly culture ("enterprisey" corporations need not apply!).

Specialties: Ruby-on-Rails (9 yrs commercial exp), Web applications (~15yrs commercial exp) with the full web stack from (X)HTML+CSS to AJAX, MVC and DB design

SKILLS

- Ruby on Rails
- Ruby
- Back-end
- HTML
- CSS
- Agile Methodologies
- Linux
- Test Driven Development
- Web Development
- Front-end
- jQuery
- JavaScript
- OOP
- Software Development
- Web Applications

EXPERIENCE

Terracoding Ltd

10 / 2013 - Present

Rails Developer

Terracoding build websites in Ruby-on-Rails and iOS apps. I've just joined as a Rails developer... I have yet to discover what amazing projects I'll be working on with them :)

Weed Pty Ltd

08 / 2007 - Present

CEO/Owner

Weeds grow all over your garden. They are hardy and take root in any soil available. They're strong enough to survive in harsh conditions, and thrive in the best times. They may not be the prettiest thing in the garden, but there is no better for getting the most out of life.

Weed Pty Ltd is my personal company for IT contracting. I pride myself in being flexible, strong on quality and effective at getting the job done.

For three years while in London I also had an office there in the form of Red Weed Ltd. but I'm now permanently back in Australia.

General Assembly

01 / 2014 - 03 / 2014

Teacher

I'm teaching the "Immersive web development" course for General Assembly. This is a 12-week full-time course covering the full stack of web development. Students learn ruby, HTML 5, CSS 3, SQL, Sinatra, Rails 4, JavaScript and several JavaScript frameworks (backbone etc). They complete three personal projects as well as many small homework projects. They also get an introduction to the Ruby/Rails and startup communities (especially via fishburners). I'm teaching the course - and teaching is, for me, a brand new skill. While they learn Rails, I get to learn how to structure and plan lessons, and how to deal with

multiple levels of understanding.

JobReady Solutions

05 / 2012 - 10 / 2013

Ruby on Rails Tech lead

Building, supporting and upgrading the lead product: Jobready RTO, which is a long-running successful Rails project with 80K LOC and over 160 separate instances of the app currently in production.

Upgrading RTO was certainly a challenge - a 7-year-old legacy Rails 2 app with 80K LOC and no test coverage. I single-handedly built 35% test coverage over this app in a few months of hard work, while continuing to help maintain it, refactor it into shape for a Rails 3 upgrade, and build new features, and make sure the app continued to meet changing government standards.

MatchFounders.com

09 / 2010 - 12 / 2012

Founder and Head Honcho

MatchFounders matches people looking to be (or work with) founders of startups, using the dating-services model - matching your values, passions and skill against others that share them, and also meet your needs.

You can join up as a founder and search for other founders that meet your needs.

I pitched this idea at Launch48 (one of four teams picked by majority rule). I led the team who worked hard and launched a viable product within only 48 hours. I am now working on the resulting startup.

Mobiblast

04 / 2010 - 02 / 2012

Ruby on Rails contractor

Mobiblast have a service that is similar to MailChimp, but for SMS and mobile services. Built entirely in Rails, the system allows customers to set up a recurring "blast" of information to send over SMS/MMS and/or WAP-push (based on the end-consumers handset capabilities). New end-consumers can subscribe to these services, or unsubscribe - with mobiblast taking care of the details - as well as payments.

Moneyspyder

04 / 2010 - 06 / 2011

Ruby on Rails contractor

Moneyspyder develop hosted e-commerce solutions for small businesses, with the platform built entirely in Ruby on Rails.

This includes the usual stock control, website full of products and shopping basket technology... but their great strength lies in a sophisticated approach to developing clients' business through the use of web analytics.

aTubeAway

10 / 2009 - 07 / 2010

Founder/Lead Developer

aTubeAway was my first attempt at a "real" startup with a pair of business partners found through launch48. I was the developer and worked on the project part-time, while my partners were in charge of marketing, business, and defining the user interface.

The app allowed people to find hotels by specifying a location, and the commute-time they'd put up with, then it gave a list of hotels within that commute-range (including walking time).

We got a product that was launchable, but in the end decided there was not a large enough market for what we offered and the startup folded. The problem was it was an interesting idea, but didn't really solve a problem that people would pay money to fix.

Puntrr

06 / 2010 - 06 / 2010

Lead Developer

A launch48 company.

Built the Main engine for the website in Ruby on Rails.

Global Personals

04 / 2009 - 02 / 2010

Senior Rails Developer

Global Personals are moving some of their products over from Cold Fusion to Rails. I was their first Rails developer and helped them build their first rails project. They wanted to encapsulate their Cold Fusion engine within an API, giving them space to migrate over their existing functionality piece by piece. New projects were built entirely in rails and also were built on top of the API.

it was a challenging project as there was almost no database underneath the Rails project - every object was stored in the Cold Fusion application and so had to be accessed by an advanced version of Active Resource using a gem that I extended called Hyperactive Resource. Much of the work done there was then drawn into the new Rails 3.0 project, which is how I came to be a Rails Core Contributor.

Grapeshots (a Launch48 company)

10 / 2009 - 10 / 2009

Lead Developer

I built a working Ruby on rails web app in 48 hours. Launch48 is a hackday-style conference where you build a full web business in 48 hours and launch at the end of the weekend.

GrapeShots was an app designed to take a photo of a wine-bottle label and SMS you information on where to buy it. I built it, alone, during the weekend proceedings.

Babel

12 / 2008 - 02 / 2009

Web Developer

Babel provides web services in PHP for local companies. I helped enhance their products while I waited for my UK visa to go through the labyrinthine approval-process.

Freelancer

12 / 2006 - 02 / 2009

Ruby on Rails Freelancer

I have taken part in a number of short-term and long-term contracts for a variety of clients. I have worked locally and internationally on many others, and continue to make myself available for other clients.

My principle technology is the Ruby-on-Rails framework, which I hold in high regard. It is most suited for clients that require a complex online application with a good deal of flexibility, and an extremely short time-to-market.

DoshMosh

10 / 2008 - 11 / 2008

Ruby on Rails Developer

I developed a payment gateway for DoshMosh allowing incoming payments, but also pushing out commission payments to customers.

Mobiblast

08 / 2008 - 10 / 2008

Ruby on Rails Freelancer

Mobiblast have a web application where subscribers can set up mobile phone shortcodes and generate blasts of content to send to anyone subscribed to them. Allowing setups such as "send ABC to 12345 to get a free ringtone every month". The application is entirely written in Ruby-on-Rails and I worked on extending the number of SMS gateways to extend to international coverage. This included a significant extension to the Open Source ruby-smpp gem (submitted as a patch).

SIRCA Ltd

05 / 2007 - 08 / 2008

Ruby-on-Rails Architect

I was contracted to SIRCA as a Ruby-on-Rails domain expert. In charge of architecting and implementing the front-end for an application intended for high-traffic international exposure. SIRCA are a small Australian Financial Research company that have exclusive access to 20 Terabytes of Reuters historical market data. They perform academic research on this data, as well as develop commercial applications that access and perform in-depth analyses.

GlobalX Information Services

03 / 2004 - 01 / 2007

C/Ruby programmer

GlobalX has a suite of SaaS (Software as a Service) web applications. I extended and maintained some of their legacy web-services (written in C), and developed new applications in Ruby-on-Rails - which we began using in beta-version shortly before the 1.0 release. The sites covered web technologies: (X)HTML, CSS, PHP, Javascript (inc AJAX), and a smattering of XML+SOAP.

I led the way on a number of initiatives, eg the company's testing infrastructure, including Continuous Integration testing, Ruby's Test::Unit suite, and FIT/FITnesse (spec-by-FIT-test). I developed HTML/CSS and coding style guides and extensive wiki architectural documentation of the applications in use across the websites.

Renaissance Fence

08 / 2005 - 08 / 2006

Co-owner

RenFence imports and sells fencing equipment to support the historical fencing community. This was a great opportunity to learn business skills while pursuing a hobby. The business had a website that I built and maintained, but otherwise had no IT component. Mainly I developed my soft skills as I was solely responsible for customer support, accounting, admin and purchasing. I was bought out of the business by my business partner.

Royal & Sun Alliance (Financial Services)

06 / 2002 - 02 / 2004

Website Administrator

Duties included telephone/email technical support for customers, website maintenance in Aprtix DPE including some development and a monthly Web stats report (data mining/trends analysis).

Presence Online

03 / 2000 - 03 / 2002

Web Developer

I mainly worked in the Web Service division, developing client websites using their proprietary CMS suite (Apatrix). My duties included the full lifecycle of website development from analysis, design, coding and deployment.

Clients ranged from small businesses to high-profile clients in the financial services and telecom industries, and the complexity of the delivered websites varied accordingly.

Implementations used W3C-compliant dHTML, HTML, and CSS, and Presence Online's product suite: Apatrix MPE and Apatrix Connect. I also helped develop the Apatrix suite, using Java and LotusScript, and contributed technical writing on the advanced aspects of the product, along with development of the Best Practices document, and technical support and training to others in the services division.

AD Software

07 / 1998 - 01 / 2000

Web Developer/Technical Writer

Annotation of C++/OODBMS code samples, wrote online user manual and overhauled website.

EDUCATION

University of New South Wales

2003 - 2004

BSc (1st class honours) , Computer Science

Medieval society, Women in IT

Curtin University of Technology

1993 - 1998

BSc , Computer Science

Guild Council, Curtin Imagination Association

Carine Senior High School

1989 - 1992

HONORS

First Class Honours in my BSc (Comp Sci)

INTERESTS

Reading, hand-crafts (medieval and modern), photography, fencing, martial-arts, writing, home-brew wine and gardening.

ASSOCIATIONS

LessWrong, Fitocracy, Australian Computer Society (MACS), Australian Businesswomen's Network, Rails Oceania, Mensa Australia, SLUG, LinuxChix, LRUG, Mensa UK

LANGUAGES

- **English** (Native or bilingual proficiency)