

JDD
2006

Java Developers Day
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ABSTRACT:
"The World is Dynamic"
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As the art and science of software development progresses, everything seems to be moving towards lighter-weight, faster changing tools, in particular agile development methods and agile, dynamic languages. Since the creation of the "agile manifesto," the field of agile methods has exploded and many companies are discovering the potential for vastly greater productivity. Similarly, agile languages such as Python and Ruby have been grabbing the spotlight because they are clearer and easier to write with and have greater expressiveness as object-oriented languages than many of the alternatives. And of course there's the sea-change represented by Ruby on Rails and similar systems, a reaction to the heavyweight web frameworks that require large effort to do everyday jobs.

Will Java be left behind as the programming world becomes more dynamic? Java has long had a very dynamic feature: reflection, although in the earlier versions of the JDK this has been slow (it is faster now), and some people have avoided the feature because the type checking is moved to runtime. Dynamic languages have also coexisted on the JVM: Jython and Beanshell have been around for a long time, JRuby is on the horizon, and of course there's the constantly-developing Groovy language. In addition, Java 7 will add some hooks and a new bytecode to support dynamic languages.

This means that not all Java projects will require the effort of writing everything in Java. In many cases, you can have the best of both worlds by leveraging the pre-existing solutions encapsulated in the large number of built-in and open-source Java library components, while benefitting from the speed and flexibility of dynamic languages.

