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Ruby on Rails Platform Setup by [Opensourcearticles](#)

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For every tool there's more than one way to go. IDE is not recommended generally. IDEs are large and mostly inflexible. During development of a Rails application IDEs are generally not considered necessary or recommended.

A Command Line

The first thing is a command line environment to issue Ruby commands, run the rails command line utility, etc. Though many people are intimidated by the command line, it is not hard. Any command line environment will do, but it's really not recommended to use the default Windows command line. The Windows command line prompt is, quite simply, crippled and archaic. It lacks an easy copy and paste, the line editing is a bit broken, there's no real tab completion. There are bash environments such as the one included with the tool msysgit that are much easier to work with.

Version Control

Building a web application is not is built them incrementally, especially with Rails according to the requirements. As it has to be incrementally built higher and higher, ruby on rails developer will need something to keep track of changes. Version control keeps track of a project at every stage, and perhaps more importantly allows the ruby on rails programmer to perform experiments because if does not turn well it could be revert back to the previous state. More than one developer can work on different aspects of the application and version control helps to keep everyone on the same page. There's really only one version control system in the Rails community: Git. Since its inception, it's quickly taken over the version control world. It can run it on a development machine without any servers, and interact with servers such a Github for collaboration. Early in Rails history people used Subversion more often, and there are other alternatives such as Mercurial, but Git is the "standard" in the Rails community.

An Editor

The minimum requirements for a Rails editor will be syntax highlighting, auto indentation and the ability to quickly switch between files in a directory tree. There are more editors than can be mentioned. A popular choice is the TextMate editor for OS X. One will see this text editor more than any other on Rails developer's machines and in screencasts. However, it's expensive and there's no shortage of alternatives. The two that can be used easily are Emacs and Vim as both of them are free and are available on all platforms. A better alternative to TextMate is the Sublime text editor. One can use it for free though it occasionally prods the user with dialog boxes asking you to buy the editor, similar to TextMate in some respects and is cross platform.

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