

El Dorado

A full-stack community web application in Ruby/Rails
(plus some notes on git)

<http://almosteffortless.com/eldorado>

What is El Dorado?

- The best of “traditional” community web tools in a single, easy-to-use package

The Name

- El Dorado (Spanish: "the golden one") is a legend that began with the story of a South American tribal chief who covered himself with gold dust and would dive into a lake of pure mountain water.
- El Dorado is also sometimes used as a metaphor to represent an ultimate prize or "Holy Grail" that one might spend their life seeking. It is used sometimes as a figure of speech to represent something much sought after that may not even exist, or at least may not ever be found. In this context, El Dorado bears similarity to other myths such as the Fountain of Youth, Shangri-la, and to some extent the term "white whale" which refers to Captain Ahab's obsession in the book Moby-Dick.
- Glengarry Glen Ross (1992): We're adding a little something to this month's sales contest. As you all know, first prize is a Cadillac Eldorado. Anybody want to see second prize? [Holds up prize] Second prize is a set of steak knives. Third prize is you're fired.

The Origin

- I wanted a way to keep in touch with my friends while living abroad, so...
- I installed a bunch of open-source PHP apps
 - WordPress (blogging)
 - PunBB (forum)
 - Coppermine (photos)
 - PmWiki (wiki)
 - Custom scripts for file uploading, etc...

The Problem

- Mashing a bunch of PHP apps together is not fun
 - No unified login system
 - Difficult to keep apps looking like a unified site
 - Upgrading, hacking... more upgrading/hacking
- Drupal, PHP-Nuke, etc are too confusing
- I wanted to learn Ruby/Rails

The Solution

Move to Australia and/or New Zealand for 6 months
and learn Ruby on Rails



The Result

- El Dorado
 - One easy-to-use, integrated app
 - Ruby on Rails means more power, less code
 - PunBB: 8660 LOC
 - El Dorado: 1158 LOC (~7,500 less)
 - Rails increasing in popularity, ease of installation (mod_rails, etc)

Current Features

- Forum
- Event Calendar
- File Sharing
- Random Headers
- Avatars
- CSS Themes
- Timezone Support
- Privacy (optional)

Upcoming Features

- Chat
- Blog
- Themes
- Photos
- Wiki
- Polls
- Link Sharing
- Mobile Messaging

Super-Easy Installation

- `sudo gem install rails tzinfo`
- `git clone git://github.com/trevorturk/el-dorado.git`
 - (or) <http://github.com/trevorturk/el-dorado/>
- Copy `config/database.example.yml` to `config/database.yml`
- `script/server`

El Dorado

- Check it out
- Let me know what you think
- Set up an installation for your friends
- Contribute?

Why Git?

- Branches and Tags are not just “copies”
- Branching is fast and easy (and merging, too)
- The stash is really cool
- Work offline just like you would online
- Distributed development makes more sense
 - Have the full repo at your fingertips
 - Commit changes without impacting others
 - No “commit access” necessary

Git v. SVN

- Faster
 - git clone: 43 seconds
 - svn co: 9 minutes and 31 seconds
- Smaller
 - git: 7.5mb
 - svn: 156.7mb

Still not convinced?

- Ruby on Rails moved to git...
- <http://github.com> is awesome
- Google for “linus git” and watch his talk

end