

# Extreme Java Productivity with Spring Roo and Spring 3.0

Rod Johnson

### Agenda



- Motivation
- Improving JVM developer productivity
- Getting started with Roo
- Roo design principles
- Roo application architecture Hands on
- Roo Roadmap
- Answers to frequently asked questions

### Motivation: We Have Work to Do



- Enterprise Java has a perception problem
- Everyone likes to kick sand in our face
- And we make it easy for them
  - Enterprise Java productivity is a soft target



### Would-be Competitors





Gutmans hopes that Zend can convert individuals [to PHP] who think Java has become bloated and organizations struggling to find affordable Java Enterprise Edition (Java EE) programmers

Andi Gutmans, Zend CEO



Why Anything and Everything Related to Java [Web] Programming and Open-Source Frameworks Sucks Major Ass in Comparison to Anything and Everything Related to Ruby and Rails.

Obie Fernandez, Rails guy

## We Must be Honest: Some of the Criticism is Deserved: *It's too Hard to Get Started on the JVM*



- Modern enterprise Java is way better than 5 years ago
- But...it's still too hard to...
  - Start a new Java project
  - Obtain and integrate all the necessary software
- Too much of our time is spent doing things that add too little value
  - We have great building blocks, but we need to improve the experience

### Time to Step Up and Fight Back



- Don't know about you, but I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take it any more
- We know the JVM is right for enterprise problems
- Time to show Rails/Django/PHP etc. that the JVM can compete on productivity



### Two Key Problems



# No one owns the whole problem

- Non JVM technologies have demonstrated a greater focus on developer productivity, with good results
- Java "Productivity" solutions typically dead ends like MDA or bloatware from old world vendors

### It's too hard to get started with projects on the JVM

- It's too easy to concentrate on hard problems
- We forget how much productivity is wasted from trivial problems

### Key Problem: Vendor/project fragmentation



- Technical problem Different sources for:
  - Tooling
  - Build solution
  - RAD solution
  - Frameworks and libraries
  - Servers
- No joined up thinking
- No one owns the whole productivity experience

### The Result Looks like This





- 1970s American Motors Gremlin
- What happens when something is put together out of separate pieces

### Industry-Wide Trend Towards Joined-up Solutions



- It's great to have choice, but it's often better to use an opinionated approach to streamline things
- Trend towards joined up:
  - Stacks (vertical integration
  - Experience(Rails)
- SpringSource is focused on tackling the whole problem
- Coherent vision for all stages of the lifecycle
  - Build/Run/Manage
- Cloud deployment option integrated with developer tooling, frameworks natural next step

# Two SpringSource Solutions For JVM Developer Productivity, Targeted at Different Audiences



#### Grails

- Uses the power of the #1 dynamic language on the JVM
- Large and rapidly growing community

#### Roo

 Use intelligent code generation to provide improved productivity in Java



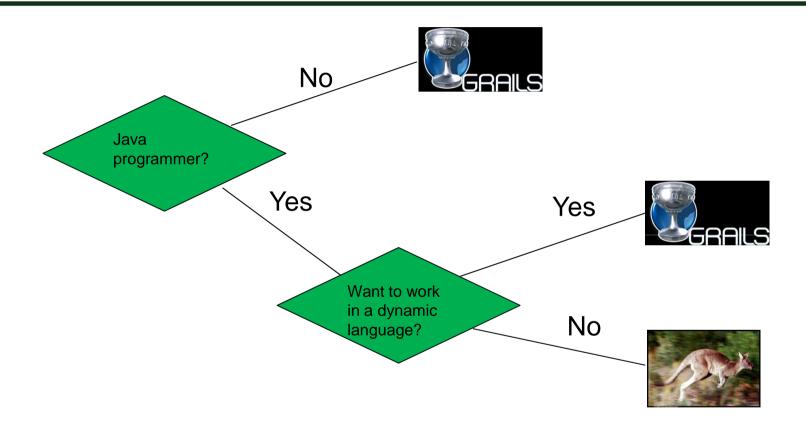
### Commonality



- Dramatically improved productivity
- Convention over configuration
  - Learns lessons from other platforms such as Ruby on Rails
- Elimination of busywork
  - Enable developers to write only code that add value
- Both Grails and Roo build on the solid Spring underpinnings
  - You don't need to throw away your server/management solution
  - Easy to work with existing code and skill set

### Grails and ROO: Choosing between the Two Best Productivity options on the JVM South





Whatever you want to do, the days of creating projects by hand are over - Bye Bye Boilerplate

### Grails



- Important you also understand the benefits that Grails can bring
- Grails creator Graeme Rocher will take you through Grails in Depth this afternoon
- In this session I'm going to focus on Roo

### Spring Roo



- Takes a code generation approach using a static language (Java)
  - Generates additional artifacts at development time that enable productivity benefits
- Makes it easier to program the code that adds value in Java

### Roo design philosophy



- No runtime elements
  - Generates code at development time
- Enables you to write only the Java code that adds value
- DDD-style approach
  - Driven by entity model
  - Makes it easy to move logic into entities, removes redundant layer
- Creates entire project in seconds
- Sophisticated round tripping
  - Continues to add value throughout the development lifecycle

### But doesn't code generation suck?



- Yes If it assumes that writing code is evil
  - MDA approach
  - Doodleware
- No If it aims to prioritize writing the right code
- Roo starts with the assumption that you want to write code rather than play with models
- Note
  - Rails also generates code

### Benefits of Code Generation



- (Obvious) Eliminate need to write code that is implied already – DRY
  - JavaBean methods
  - Web layer code
- Consistency
- Adds leverage, reduces barriers to integrating other technologies
  - install security

#### Roo Architecture



- Roo is Spring at runtime
- Uses Spring features you may not have seen, but essentially Spring best practices
- Uses code generation and AspectJ to simplify the Java code that you need to write

### Getting Roo



- Roo is an open source Spring community project
- You can download it separately
- Or get it with STS
  - I'll be demonstrating it with STS (2.1.0SR01-e3.5)
- If you use Eclipse and Spring, you should use STS – It's free!
  - Now also adding high quality Groovy and Grails support

### A Building Block: Spring Shell 🌗 🦠



- Interactive shell helps you
  - Create projects
  - Add to projects
- Monitors the application, updating generated artifacts as you work
  - Maintains its own model
- Tab completion
- Can run standalone or inside STS

### Roo scripts



- Roo scripts amount to a higher level language
- Can type commands at the Roo prompt
- Or start with existing Roo scripts
  - Save the commands you've typed
- Benefits
  - Very concise; Lots of information per character typed
  - Facilitate communication of application patterns
  - Don't constrain writing regular Java code

### Getting started with Roo



Creating a new project

DEMO

### Roo architecture



Let's look at a Roo project in detail

• DEMO

### Why does Roo use AspectJ?



- The aim is to avoid busywork, make each line of Java count
  - Generates JavaBean methods, JPA entity annotations, toString methods etc.
- You Do NOT need to write code in AspectJ to use Roo
- Delivers other benefits
  - @Configurable
  - @Transactional
- Can easily add further aspects if you choose

### What If I Want to Get Off?



- You are not locked into Roo
- Can stop using it at any time and maintain code yourself
- Can even go as far as removing Roogenerated aspects with AJDT "push-in refactoring"
- Means it's very safe to start using Roo

### Extending Roo



- Roo add-ons work at development time
  - Different from Grails plugins which have a runtime element
- Add-ons automatically picked up in Roo shell
  - Add further completions
- Add-on SPI will stabilize as Roo goes GA

### Roadmap: Present Release



- Spring Roo 1.0.0.RC2
- Just released
- Very few known issues; refer readme.txt
- Not recommend for third-party add-ons yet
  - Further refinement to add-on internals are likely
- Minor changes to command syntax possible

### 1.0.0.GA Roadmap



- 1.0.0.GA will have further add-on work
- More documentation is a major priority
- Cloud Foundry integration will also ship
  - Roo applications already deploy to Cloud Foundry
  - We're already build commands to upload, deploy and undeploy your Roo apps directly from within Roo!
  - Visit cloudfoundry.com and obtain an account today
- Targeting final release in November

### 1.1.0 Roadmap



- More Spring project integration
  - Spring Integration
  - Spring Blaze DS
  - Spring Batch etc
- Generation IV web client technology support
  - Flex, GWT etc
- Further improvements to Web MVC model

### Project Resources



- www.springsource.org/roo for links
- Spring Forums is an excellent source of support
  - Dedicated Roo forum at forum.springsource.org
  - Roo team actively monitor forum and answer queries
- Public Subversion and Jira is available

#### Conclusion



### Roo delivers real productivity gains for Java

- Builds on Java's strengths
- Popular, proven technologies you already know
- No runtime
- No lock-in
- Easy to learn and easy to use



Active, supported, open source project