

# The Circle of Life in Ruby Hosting, 2003-2015

Megan Squire

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Elon University & [FLOSSmole](#) / [FLOSSdata](#) / [FLOSSpapers](#)

MSR'16  
May 15, 2016

Once Upon a Time



Rails is a web-application framework for the MVC pattern that includes both a template engine, controller framework, and object-relational mapping package. Everything needed to develop web-apps that can run on CGI, FastCGI, and mod\_ruby.

- Development Status: [4 - Beta](#)
- Environment: [Web Environment](#)
- Intended Audience: [Developers](#)
- License: [Ruby License](#)
- Natural Language: [English](#)
- Operating System: [OS Independent](#)
- Programming Language: [Ruby](#)
- Topic: [WWW/HTTP](#), [Software Development](#)

Registered: 2004-07-22 15:07

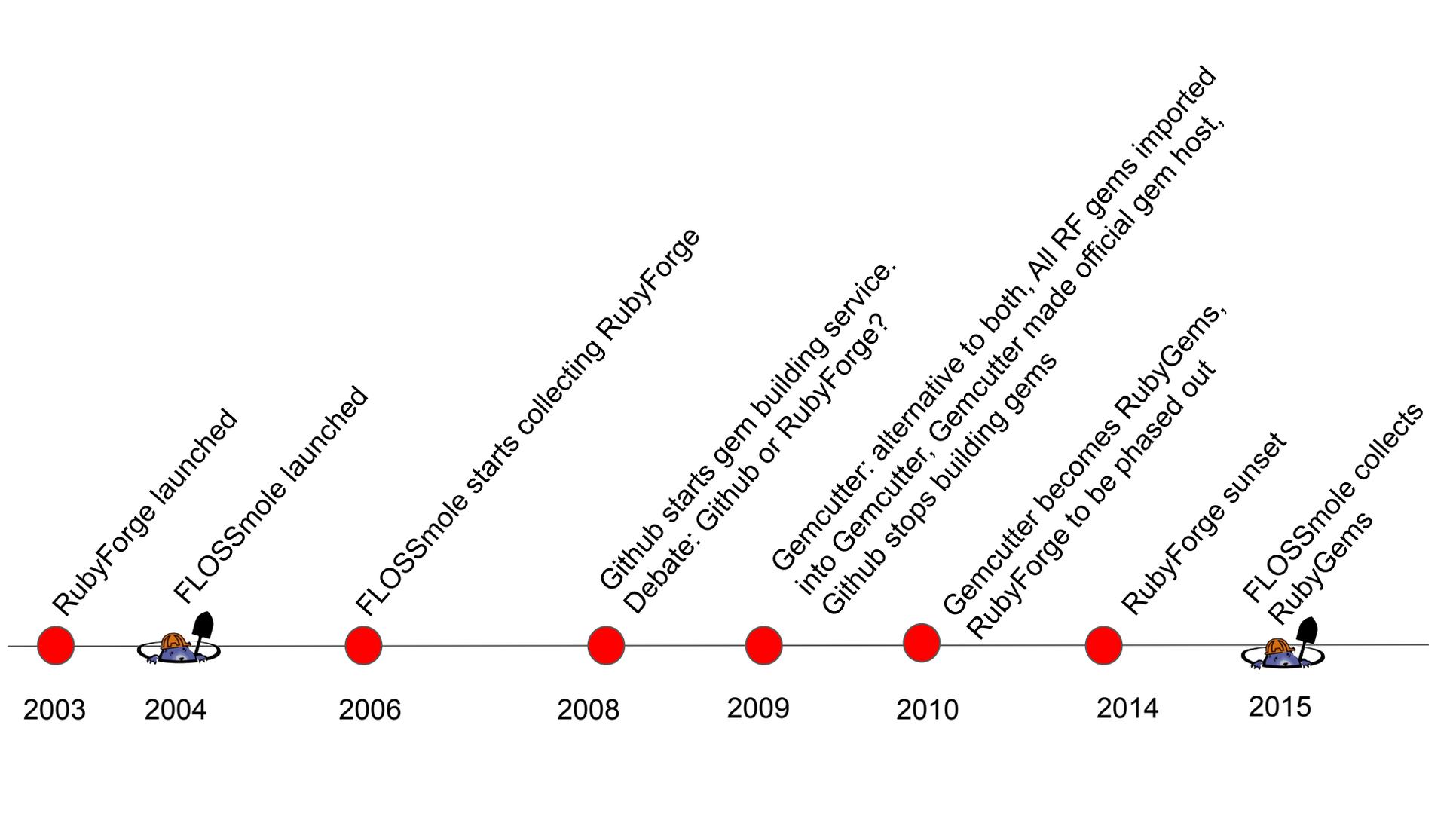
Activity Percentile: 95.93%

View project activity [statistics](#).

### Developer Info

Project Admins:  
[David Heinemeier Hansson](#)  
[Jeremy Kemper](#)

Developers:  
[2 \[View Members\]](#)



2003

2004

2006

2008

2009

2010

2014

2015

RubyForge launched

FLOSSmole launched

FLOSSmole starts collecting RubyForge

Github starts gem building service.  
Debate: Github or RubyForge?

Gemcutter: alternative to both, All RF gems imported into Gemcutter, Gemcutter made official gem host, Github stops building gems

Gemcutter becomes RubyGems, RubyForge to be phased out

RubyForge sunset

FLOSSmole collects RubyGems



# rails 4.2.5

Ruby on Rails is a full-stack web framework optimized for programmer happiness and sustainable productivity. It encourages beautiful code by favoring convention over configuration.

## VERSIONS:

**4.2.5** - November 12, 2015 (1.41 MB)  
**4.2.5.rc2** - November 5, 2015 (1.41 MB)  
**4.2.5.rc1** - October 30, 2015 (1.41 MB)  
**4.2.4** - August 24, 2015 (1.41 MB)  
**4.2.4.rc1** - August 14, 2015 (1.41 MB)

[Show all versions \(266 total\) →](#)

## RUNTIME DEPENDENCIES:

**actionmailer** = 4.2.5  
**actionpack** = 4.2.5  
**actionview** = 4.2.5  
**activejob** = 4.2.5  
**activemodel** = 4.2.5  
**activerecord** = 4.2.5  
**activesupport** = 4.2.5  
**bundler** < 2.0, >= 1.3.0  
**railties** = 4.2.5  
**sprockets-rails** >= 0

## AUTHORS:

David Heinemeier Hansson

## OWNERS:



TOTAL DOWNLOADS

**57,315,527**

FOR THIS VERSION

**134,700**

[Show all versions \(266 total\) →](#)

GEMFILE:

```
gem 'rails', '~> 4.2.5'
```

INSTALL:

```
gem install rails
```

LICENSE:

**MIT**

REQUIRED RUBY VERSION:

**>= 1.9.3**

LINKS:

[Homepage](#)

[Source Code](#)

[Documentation](#)

[Wiki](#)

# Data collection procedure

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# Data collection procedure

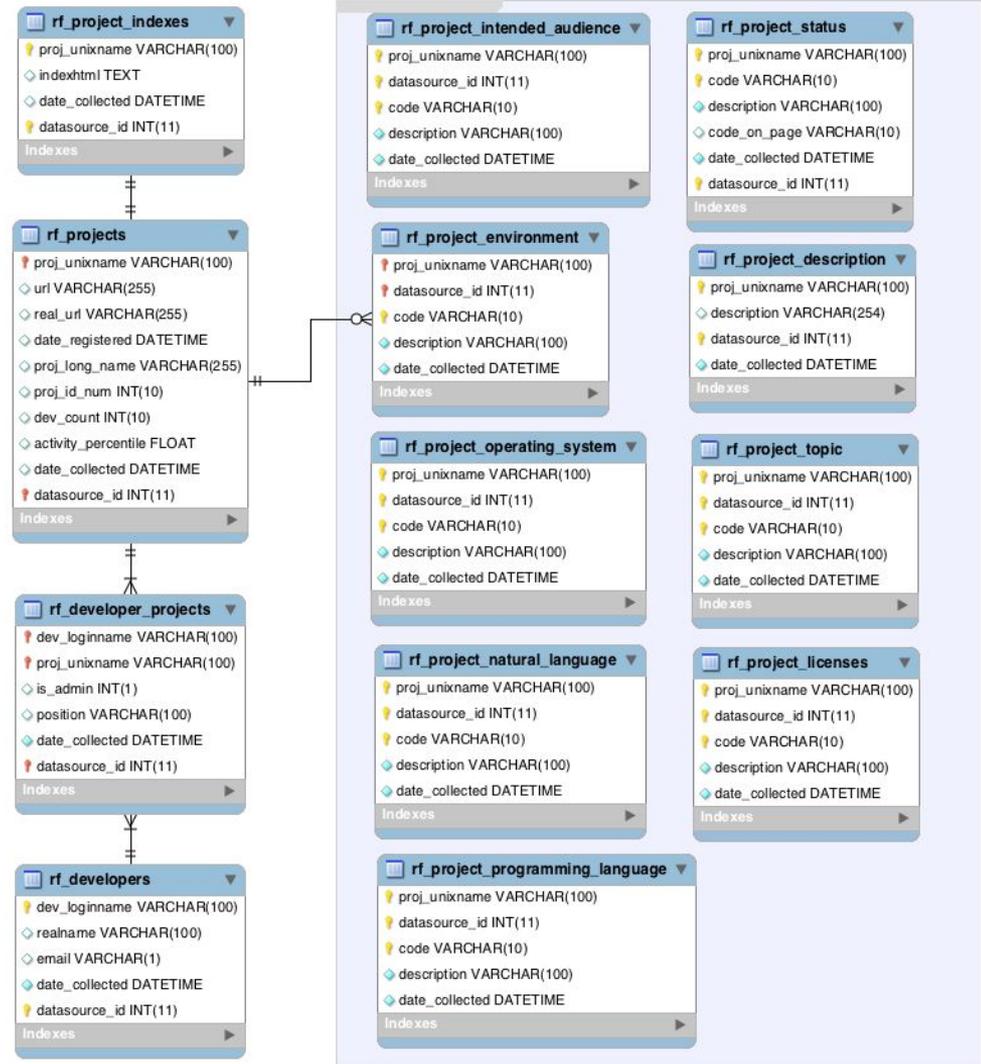
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3. Parse HTML/XML for facts, and store those in the database;

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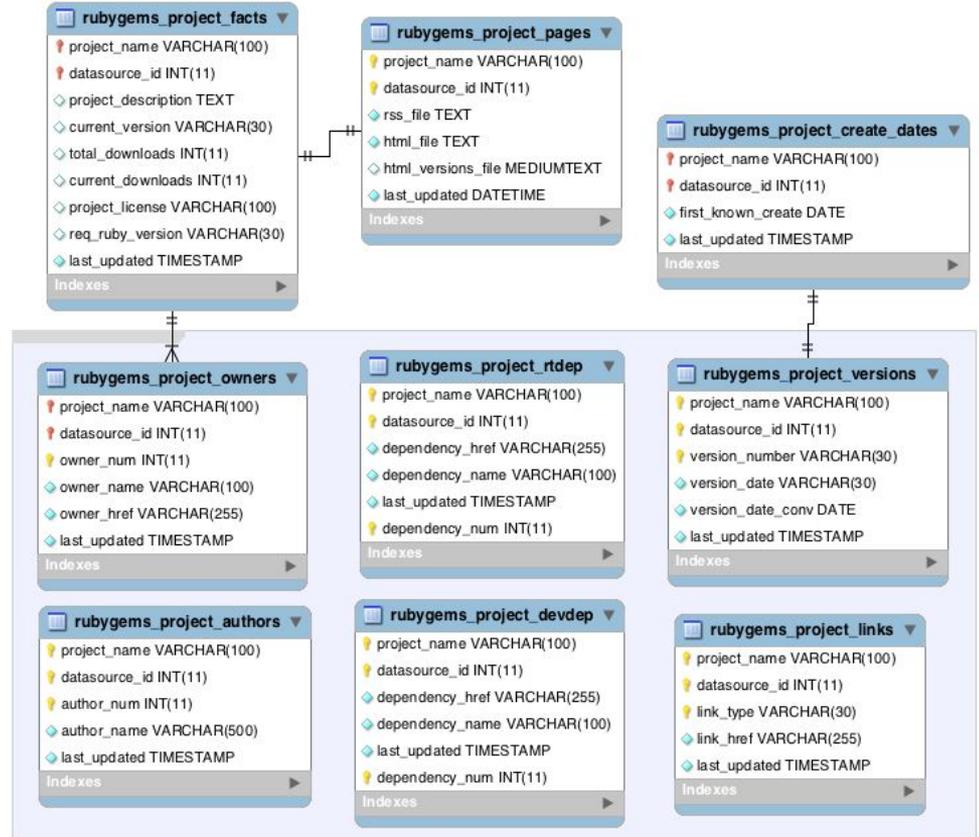
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2. For each project on that list, collect the project's home page and store the HTML (RubyForge) or XML (RubyGems) for that complete page in a MySQL database;
3. Parse HTML/XML for facts, and store those in the database;
4. Repeat steps 2 & 3 periodically until site goes defunct (for 10 years in the case of RubyForge; RubyGems still ongoing).

# RubyForge data model

Sign up for a database account at  
[flossmole.org](http://flossmole.org)  
or  
go grab the flat files at  
<http://flossdata.syr.edu/data/rf/>



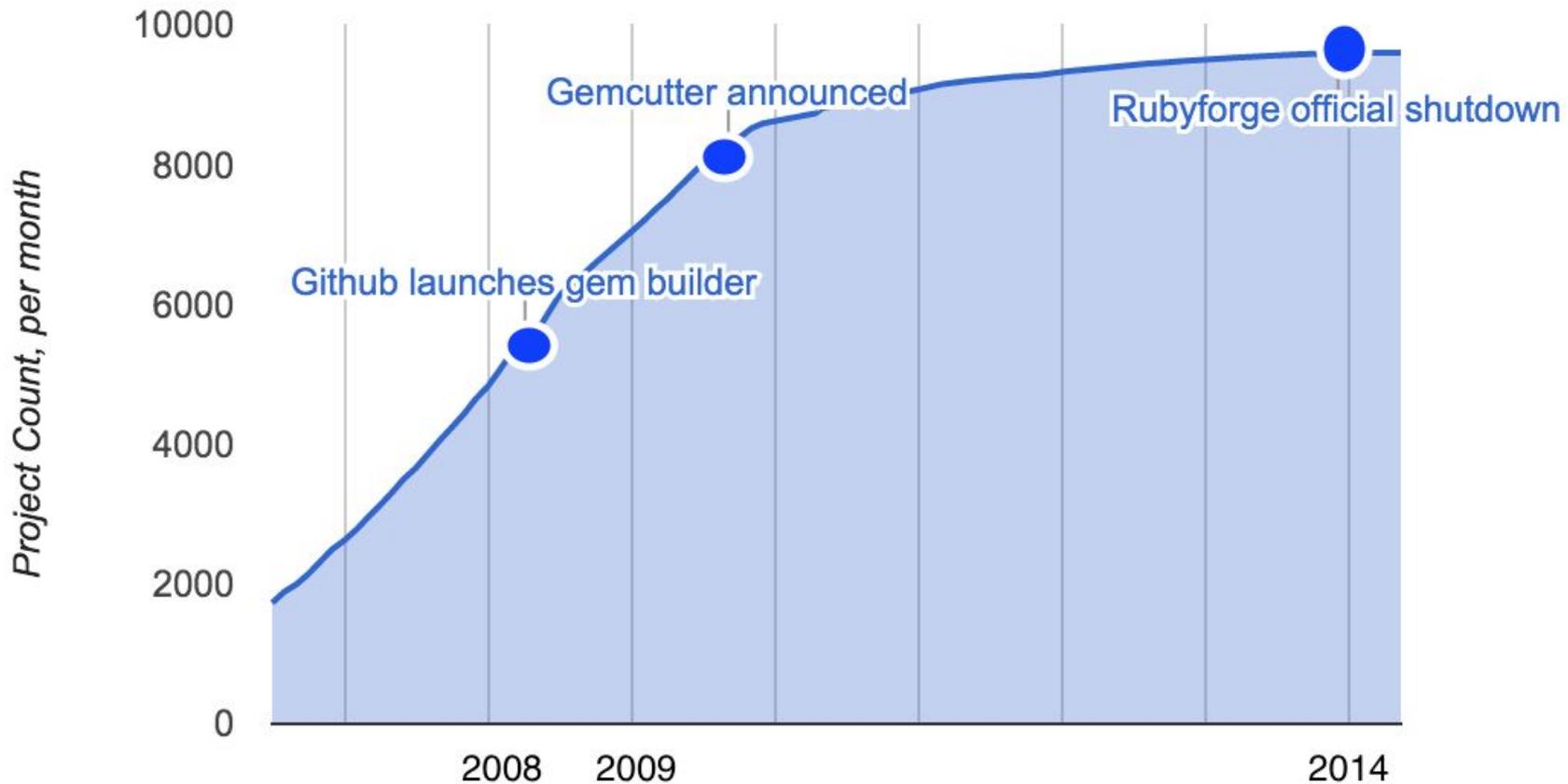
# RubyGems data model



Sign up for a database account at  
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or  
go grab the flat files at  
<http://flossdata.syr.edu/data/rq>

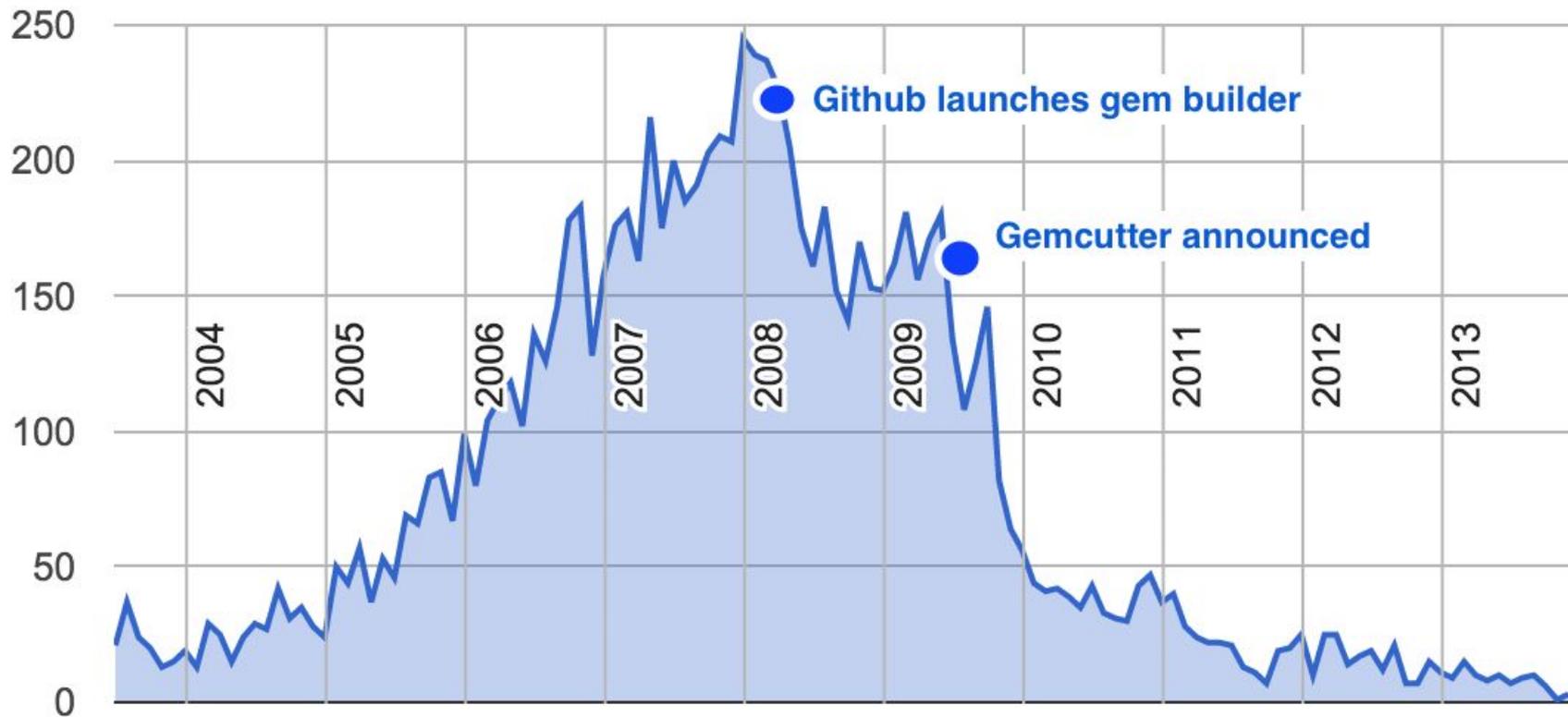
Here's some stuff we can do with this data.

Projects hosted on RubyForge over time (Fig.1)

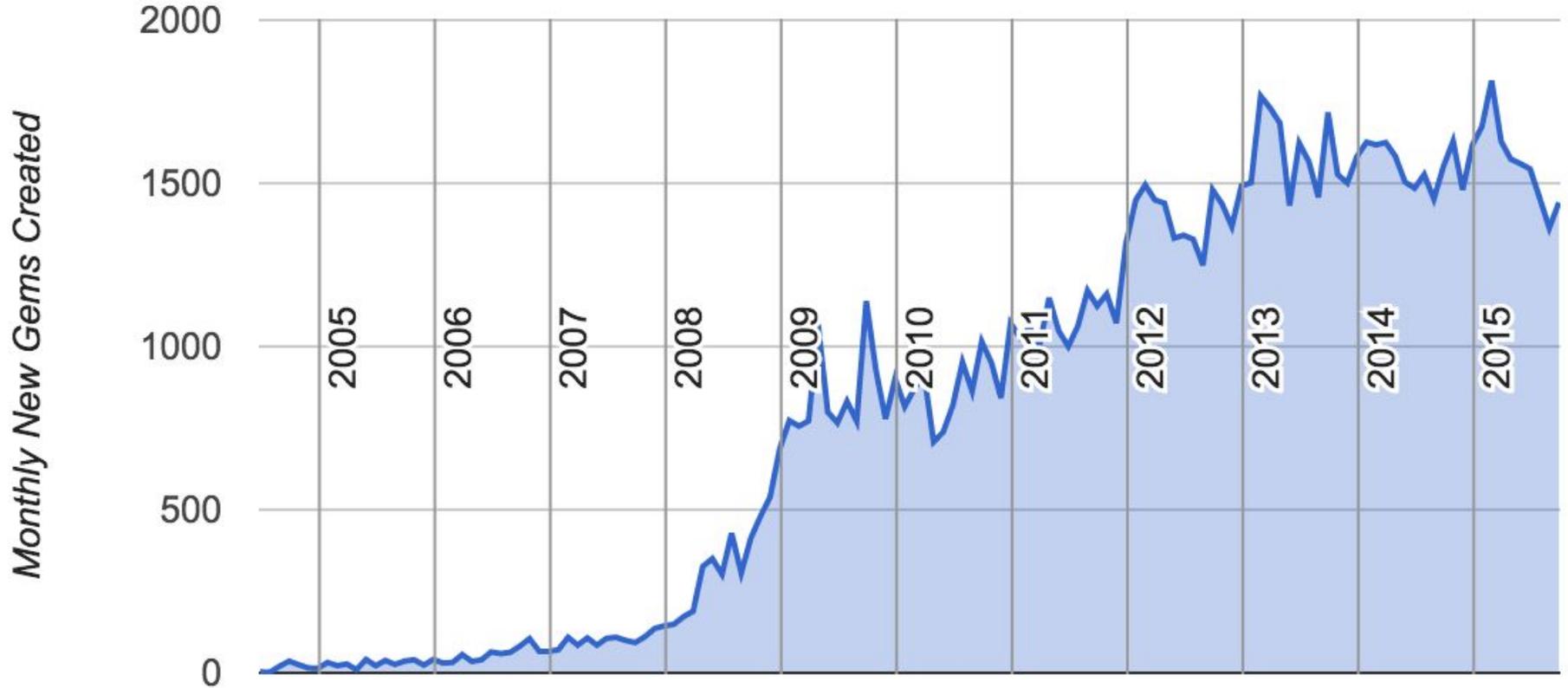


RubyForge project registrations per month (Fig. 2)

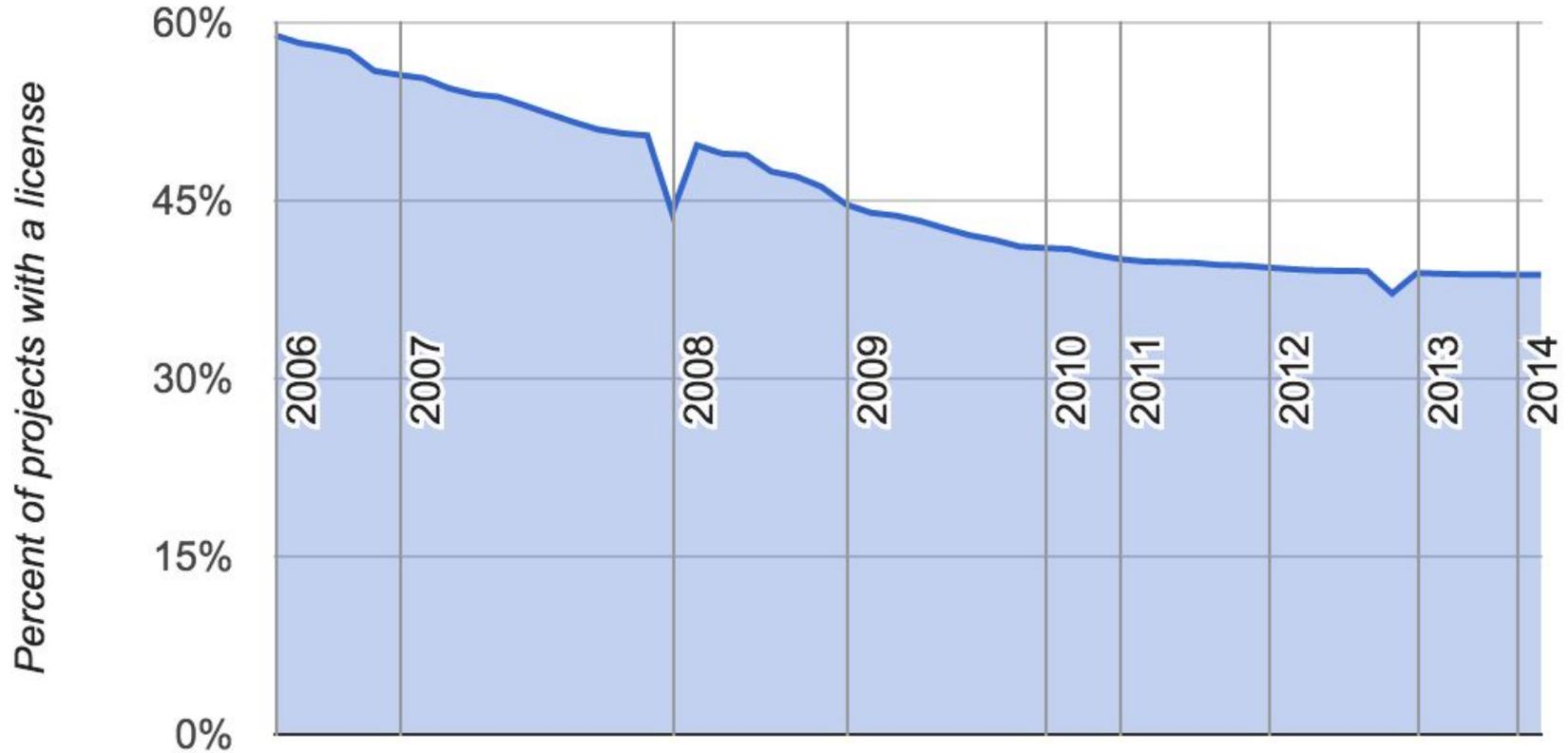
Monthly New Project Registrations



RubyGems new project registrations per month (Fig. 3)

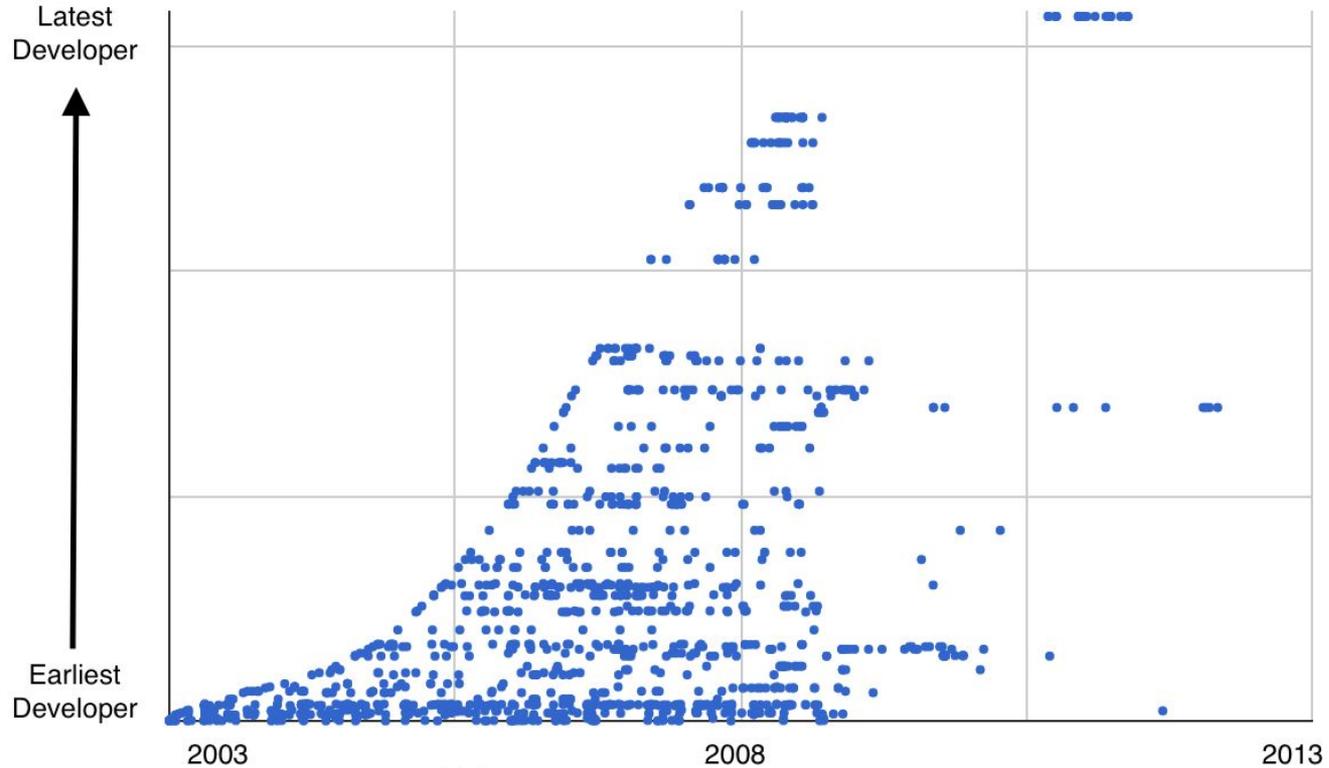


Percent of RubyForge projects specifying a license, over time (Fig. 4)



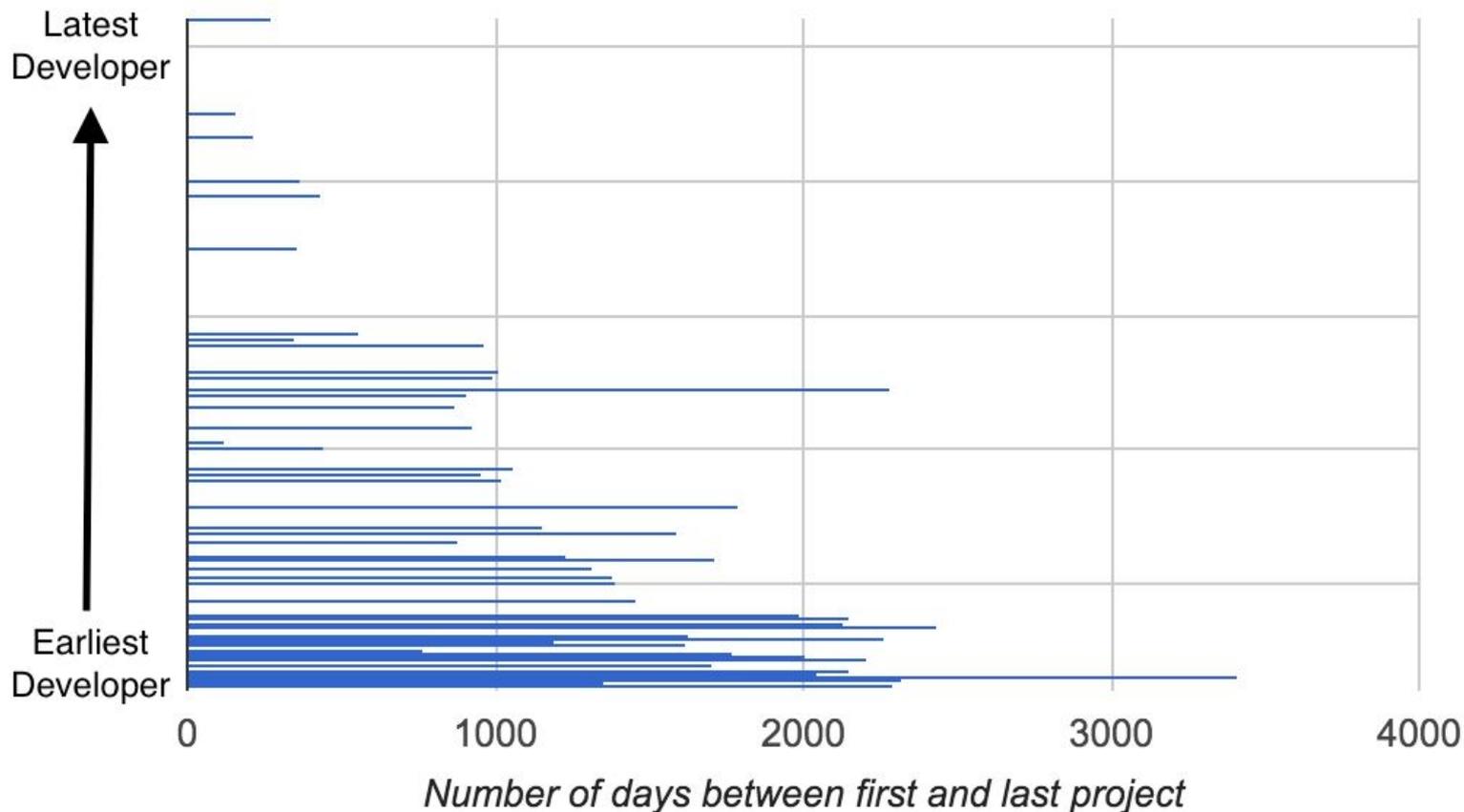
## RubyForge Developer Create Dates (Fig. 5)

*(Do earlier developers stick around long after the site is dying, still creating new projects?)*

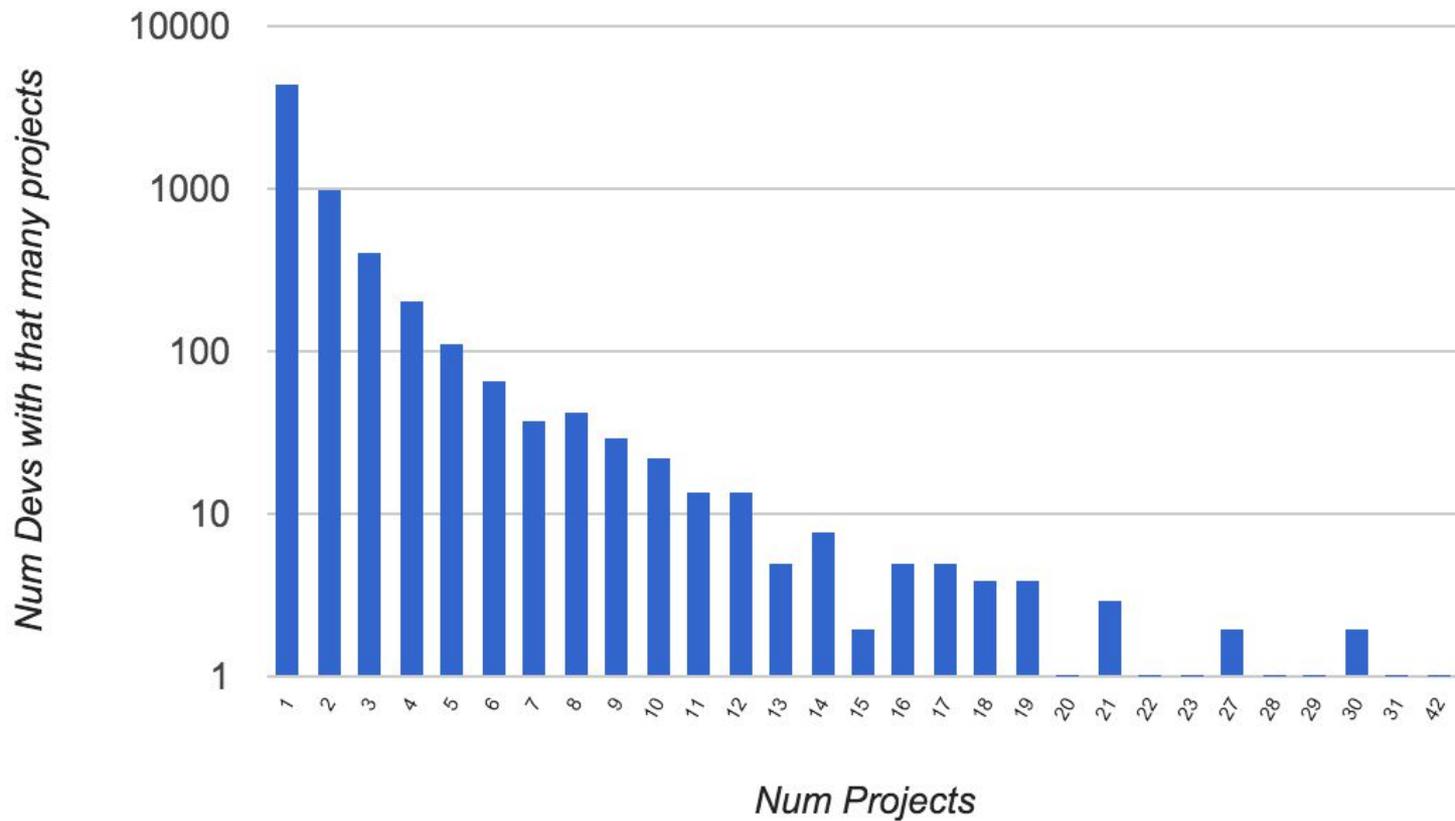


Days between first and last RF project, per developer (Fig. 6)

*(Do earlier developers stick around long after the site is dying, still creating new projects?)*

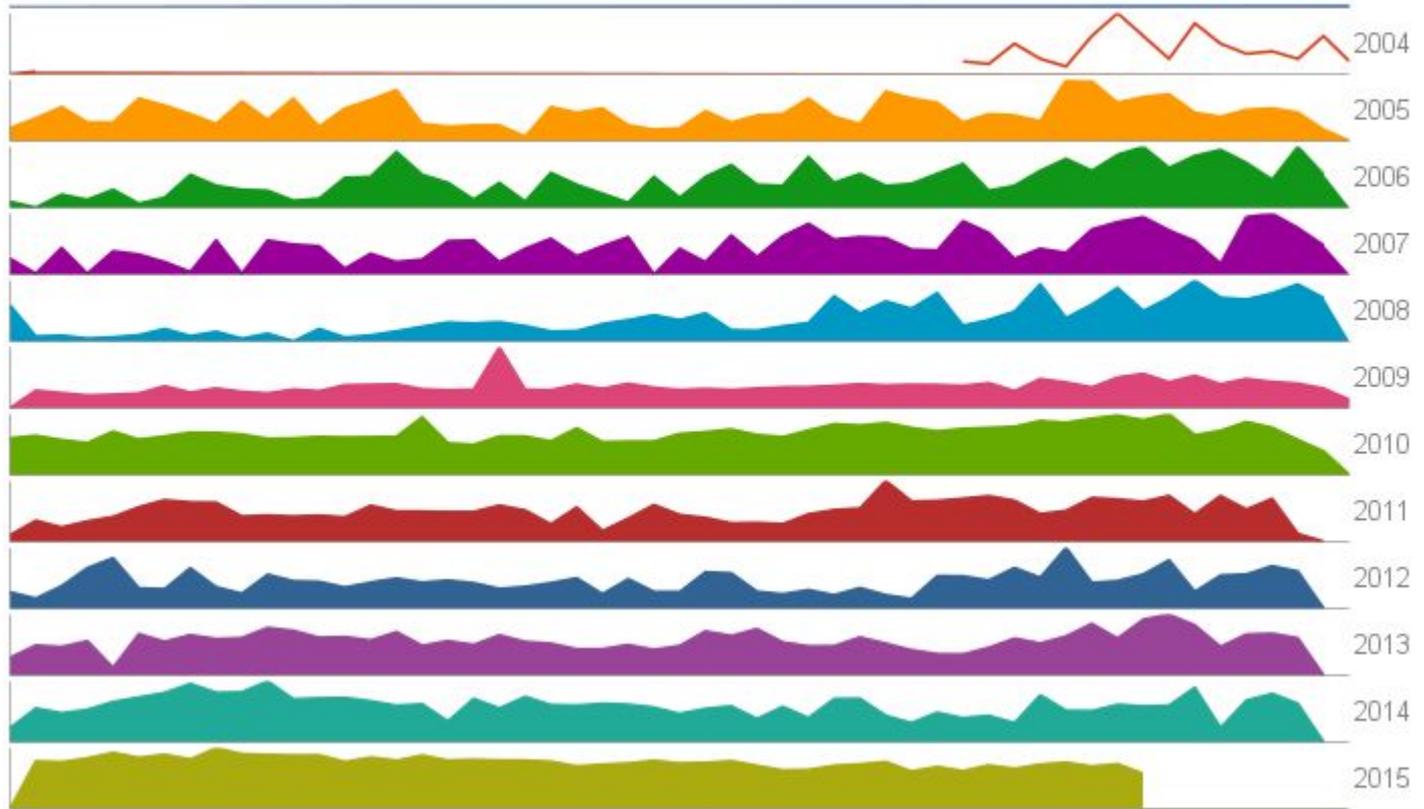


## RF: Count of Developers by Number of Projects (2013)



*Figure not in paper.*

RG: Gem releases week-by-week (2004-2015)



*Figure not in paper.*

# Work In Progress

- Entity Matching: Connect RubyForge projects & RubyGems projects to create long-term project histories.
  - Early results: I was able to find between 1,082 and 5,552 matching projects between the two sites (depending on how I tune the matcher)

# Get the data:



## [FLOSSmole.org](http://flossmole.org)

- MySQL access [[how to](#)]
- The RubyForge data: <http://flossdata.syr.edu/data/rf/>
- The RubyGems data: <http://flossdata.syr.edu/data/rg/>

## [FLOSSpapers.org](http://flosspapers.org)



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