

## What is Hoe?

Hoe is a library that provides extensions to rake to automate every step of the development process from genesis to release. It provides project creation, configuration, and a multitude of tasks including project maintenance, testing, analysis, and release. We found rake to be an incredible vehicle for functionality in the abstract, but decidedly lacking in concrete functionality. We filled in all the blanks we could through a "hoe-spec":

```
require "hoe"
Hoe.spec "project_name" do
  developer "Ryan Davis", "ryand-ruby@zenspider.com"
  # ...
end
```

This hoe-spec specifies everything about your task that is different from the defaults and from that, creates a multitude of tasks and a gemspec used for packaging and release. When you update hoe, you update all your projects that use hoe. That's it. Nothing more is needed. Everything is DRY (Don't Repeat Yourself).

## A Brief History of Hoe

Hoe was extracted from pain, not from fun. It was decidedly **not** written in a vacuum. Pain to me is repetition and mindless/needless work. At the time of this writing, a subset of `seattle.rb` has done 344 releases across 46 products and all but 86 of those releases were done with Hoe. An inordinate amount of



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Long answer: See that hoe spec above for the optional "blah" project? This is the corresponding gem spec in all its glory (as cleaned up as I can/am willing to get it):

```
# -*- encoding: utf-8 -*-
```

```
Gem::Specification.new do |s|
  s.name           = "blah"
  s.version        = "1.0.0"

  s.authors        = ["Ryan Davis"]
  s.description    = "..."
  s.email          = ["ryand-ruby@zenspu wr.com"]
  s.executables    = ["blah"]
  s.extra_rdoc_files = [...]
  s.files          = [...]
  s.homepage       = "..."
  s.rdoc_options   = ["--main", "README.txt"]
  s.rubyforge_project = "seattlerb"
```