

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. Well, 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 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

Long answer: See that hoe spec above for the original "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"
```