

Coraline Ada Ehmke

Coraline Ada Ehmke is a software developer and open source advocate based in Chicago, Illinois. She began her career as a web developer in 1994 and has worked in a variety of industries, including engineering, consulting, education, advertising, healthcare, and software development infrastructure. She is known for her work in Ruby, and in 2016 earned the Ruby Hero award at RailsConf, a conference for Ruby on Rails developers. She is also known for her social justice work and activism, the creation of Contributor Covenant, and is credited with promoting and popularizing the use of codes of conduct for open source projects and communities.

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Career

Ehmke began writing software in 1994, using the Perl programming language. She has since written software in ASP.NET and Java, before discovering Ruby in 2007.^[1] She is the author of 25 Ruby gems^[2] and has contributed to major projects including Rspec and Ruby on Rails. She is a frequent speaker at conferences around the world, and has spoken at RailsConf,^[3] Madison+ Ruby,^[4] That Conference,^[5] Big Ruby,^[6] Great Wide Open,^[7] Nickel City Ruby,^[8] Keep Ruby Weird,^[9] Mountain West Ruby,^[10] Rocky Mountain Ruby,^[11] Write/Speak/Code,^[12] Bath Ruby,^[13] and RubyConf Australia.^[14] In 2017 she gave the keynote addresses at RubyFuza in Cape Town, South Africa^[15] and RubyConf Brazil.^[16]

In 2013 at the Madison+ Ruby conference, Ehmke was among a group of people who announced the creation of a community for LGBT technologists called LGBTech. During this announcement, she also came out publicly as transgender.^[17]

In 2014, Ehmke created OS4W.org, a website to help all women contribute to open source by connecting them with mentors and pair programming partners, and identifying open source projects that welcome diverse contributors.^[1]^[18] Also in 2014, she created the Contributor Covenant, a code of conduct used in over 40,000 open source projects including all such projects from Google, Microsoft, and Apple.^[19]^[20]^[21] In 2016, she received a Ruby Hero award in recognition of her work on the Contributor Covenant.^[22]^[23] After allegations of sexual harassment were made against the founder and CEO of Github and his wife in March 2014, Ehmke joined Betsy Haibel to create a service called the Culture Offset. Culture Offset allowed people who wished to boycott Github but were unable to do so because it was necessary for their work to "offset" their use by directing donations to organizations working to help underrepresented people in the technology industry. This project was featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Wired* Magazine.^[24]^[25]

Ehmke was a panelist on the *Ruby Rogues* podcast from 2014 to 2016,^[26] and is a founding panelist on the *Greater Than Code* podcast.^[27] She serves on the boards of directors for Ruby Together and RailsBridge.^[28]^[29]

In 2016, she joined GitHub as a senior developer on a team that develops community management and anti-harassment features for the software platform.^[30] She was fired approximately a year later, and on July 5, 2017 published an article criticizing Github's culture and the circumstances surrounding her severance.^[31]^[32]^[33] Her story was featured in a 2017 report on hush clauses and non-disparagement agreements published by CNN.^[34]

Ehmke has been the repeated target of negative reporting by far-right organizations and bloggers including Breitbart News and Vox Day, and often describes herself as a "Notorious Social Justice Warrior" after being given the moniker in a Breitbart article about her joining Github.^[35]^[36]^[37]

Personal life

Ehmke is transgender, and began her transition in March 2014.^[36]^[38] She has been public about her transition in hopes of helping others, and has given several interviews about her experiences transitioning and working as a trans woman in technology.^[36]^[39]^[40] She has also given a talk about her experiences titled "He Doesn't Work Here Anymore" at the Keep Ruby Weird, Alterconf, and Madison+ Ruby conferences.^[41]^[38]

Ehmke records music and has released two albums under the name A Little Fire Scarecrow.^[36]^[39]^[42]

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External links

- Official website (http://where.coraline.codes)

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