

Estevão *de Abreu* Machado

I modernise legacy Rails systems by orchestrating fleets of AI coding agents. Recently, that meant taking a large, long-lived monolith through several major Rails and Ruby upgrades in six weeks.

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6 weeks

to complete a major Rails and Ruby modernisation

Large-scale

legacy monolith upgraded across several major releases

Minutes → seconds

load time of a key customer dashboard

0 → 25%+

test coverage introduced on a codebase that had none

Selected work

EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY COMPANY · 2026

A long-lived monolith, modernised in six weeks

Problem

A large Rails platform had fallen several major framework and language versions behind, making ongoing development harder and riskier.

Approach

I led the work with one other engineer and a fleet of parallel AI coding agents. We split the migration into small, backwards-compatible changes, merged continuously, and used CI to validate each step.

Result

Completed the upgrade through several major Rails and Ruby releases in six weeks, then rolled the modernised stack out across production.

[Ruby on Rails](#) [Ruby](#) [AI coding agents](#) [CI](#) [Multi-agent orchestration](#)

EARLY-STAGE FINTECH · 2025–2026

A slow customer dashboard, reduced from minutes to seconds

Problem

A key customer dashboard took minutes to load and sometimes failed, on a codebase with little automated coverage.

Approach

I profiled the application, rewrote slow queries, moved heavy panels to asynchronous loading, right-sized the infrastructure, and introduced system tests.

Result

Brought load times down to a few seconds, established meaningful automated test coverage, and improved the reliability of core financial workflows.

[Ruby on Rails](#) [Performance](#) [Fintech](#) [State machines](#) [System tests](#)

Experience

2026 – now

Tech Lead at *Education technology company*

Remote from Brisbane

Led a major Rails and Ruby modernisation across a large, long-lived platform. Now bringing the surrounding applications up to date and introducing modern frontend and component patterns.

2025 – 2026

Founding Engineer at *Early-stage fintech*

Fintech startup · remote

Improved application performance and reliability, established automated test coverage, and helped develop core fintech workflows. Led a UI redesign through an AI-assisted delivery process.

2023 – 2025	Engineering Lead <i>at Education technology company</i> Remote from Brisbane Led a squad responsible for a large, long-running Rails platform. Helped drive the organisation's AI adoption through talks, workshops, and an agent-assisted upgrade workflow.
2017 – 2023	Senior Software Engineer <i>at Reinteractive</i> Rails consultancy · remote Kept 20+ enterprise client apps healthy under the Code Care program, raised their test coverage to 90%+, and consulted for clients including PwC and nib. Ran technical interviews as the team grew.
2015 – 2017	Senior Software Engineer <i>at DashBid</i> Ad tech, New York · remote Built customer dashboards and documented REST APIs, and fed the production database from Redshift and Treasure Data. Ran the team's scrums and retrospectives.
2012 – 2015	Software Engineer <i>at XL Solutions</i> Rio de Janeiro Built e-commerce for Brazil's largest phone carriers, a real-time auction platform, and marketplaces with millions of items on Elasticsearch. Ported legacy apps from Rails 2.3 to Rails 4.
2007 – 2012	Software Engineer <i>at Hands</i> Rio de Janeiro Released Brazil's first mobile portal the same day the first iPhone launched, and led the codebase's migration from C# to Ruby on Rails. On the side, founded Kissy, a dating app that launched before Tinder.

Education B.A. Computer Science & Project Management, Universidade Gama Filho, Rio de Janeiro, 2009

Tools I reach for

Every day

Ruby on Rails, Ruby, Hotwire & Stimulus, ViewComponent, PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, Sidekiq, RSpec

Observability

Datadog, Skylight, AppSignal, New Relic, Sentry, Rollbar

AI engineering

Claude Code, Codex, Multi-agent orchestration, Agent code review, RAG

Also shipped with

TypeScript, Vue, React, Rust, Elasticsearch, AWS

Open source

trackwatch

A terminal music visualiser with pixelated album art and synchronised lyrics.

Rust ★ 34

markdown-journal-rust

Semantic search and RAG over a markdown journal, built for Claude Code to query.

Rust ★ 25

linux-wiim

Control WiiM streamers from Linux, with Plex and Tidal.

Python