Ruby master - Feature #11731

Make ruby gem install to user-install by default

11/22/2015 08:30 PM - kallisti5 (Alexander von Gluck)

Status:	Third Party's Issue
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Target version:	

Description

Installing gem's system-wide doesn't make sense 99% of the time...

- Linux -- Need root access via sudo
- Windows -- Need administrator
- Max OS X -- Need root access via sudo
- Haiku -- /boot/system read-only

gem currently installs gems system-wide by default

Since the most common use-case is to install gems for your own user, why doesn't gem --user-directory by default?

Tools like rvm already set this manually.

Making --user-directory default means package maintainers only need to --no-user-directory while everyone else just gem install's

History

#1 - 11/22/2015 08:56 PM - kallisti5 (Alexander von Gluck)

There would be a few minor logic issues around gem looking for --install-dir + --user-directory and erroring out... that check would need to be changed to --no-user-directory + --install-dir

This definitely would need some discussion as it has a moderate scope (which tools using gem expect system-wide installation?)

To keep compatibility in logic, gem might need to detect the root/administrator user and install system-wide by default to ensure when someone sudo gem install XXX the gem isn't *just* installed for the root user.

#2 - 11/22/2015 09:40 PM - mwpastore (Mike Pastore)

Aren't most people using rvm or rbenv/bundler to address this need?

#3 - 11/22/2015 10:56 PM - kallisti5 (Alexander von Gluck)

yeah, the large number of workarounds show this is a pretty default workflow for people. Thus raises the question on why it isn't the default behavior.

#4 - 11/22/2015 11:18 PM - phluid61 (Matthew Kerwin)

On 23 November 2015 at 08:56, kallisti5@unixzen.com wrote:

> Issue #11731 has been updated by Alexander von Gluck.
>
> yeah, the large number of workarounds show this is a pretty default workflow for people. Thus raises the question on why it isn't the default behavior.
>
> Opinion, not fact: is it not the case that most folk who develop independently usually do so where they either a) use rbenv or b) own the machine and can sudo safely? And by contrast, the people who can't do that are usually in corporate environments where site-wide installation makes most sense?

Note that rbenv isn't just a workaround for this, it also allows independent installation of entire Ruby environments, including core/stdlib, parser, etc. So I don't know that we can say that there's necessarily a large number of workarounds just for local gems.

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Matthew Kerwin
http://matthew.kerwin.net.au/

#5 - 11/22/2015 11:44 PM - kallisti5 (Alexander von Gluck)

- Subject changed from Make ruby gem install to user-directory by default to Make ruby gem install to user-install by default

#6 - 11/22/2015 11:52 PM - kallisti5 (Alexander von Gluck)

Shouldn't site-wide installations use packaged gem files as they install to /usr?
Installing non-packaged files to /usr violates the LSB.

A few linux distros seem to also set --user-install as default:
https://projects.archlinux.org/svntogit/packages.git/tree/trunk/gemrc?h=packages/ruby

#7 - 11/23/2015 01:01 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

- Status changed from Open to Third Party's Issue

Rubygems upstream is https://github.com/rubygems/rubygems.

Maybe to fallback to user-install when no permission to the default place.

BTW, is ruby installed under /boot filesystem, on Haiku?

#8 - 11/23/2015 04:44 PM - kallisti5 (Alexander von Gluck)

https://github.com/rubygems/rubygems/issues/1394 opened to track. Sorry for putting it in the wrong place.

Haiku is a little special. /boot represents the os "boot" drive (and not where only the kernel lives)
https://www.haiku-os.org/docs/userguide/en/filesystem-layout.html

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Matthew Kerwin
http://matthew.kerwin.net.au/