Preface

Rhodes is an open source, Ruby-based, lightweight, MVC (model view controller) framework, optimized for mobile devices, which have memory limitations. The Rhodes framework offers several advantages over other mobile frameworks. Some of the unique features of the Rhodes frameworks are as follows.

- The only smartphone framework to offer support for the Model View Controller pattern.
- The only smartphone framework to offer support for the Object-Relational manager.
- The only smartphone framework to offer offline, disconnected access to data with the RhoSynch server.
- The only smartphone framework to support all mobile devices including Android^{TM} platform smartphone, BlackBerry$^®$ smartphone, iPhone$^®$, Symbian Platform, and Windows Mobile$^®$ operating system.
- Provides Ruby implementations for all smartphone device operating systems.
- Provides a web-based Integrated Development Environment for developing mobile applications for all smartphone platforms with the RhoHub development service.

Google's Android^{TM} platform and RIM's BlackBerry$^®$ smartphone are the top two most commonly used smartphone platforms. Android^{TM} platform has more than 40% of the smartphone market share. In Chap. 1 we discuss the Android^{TM} platform. In Chap. 2 we discuss the Rhodes framework with the BlackBerry$^®$ smartphone. We develop the same Rhodes applications for Android^{TM} platform and BlackBerry$^®$ smartphone; one application for a catalog and another for an RSS feed.