

Migrate #equal? to #identical?

Feature #5922

From Ruby docs: *"the equal? method should never be overridden by subclasses: it is used to determine object identity (that is, a.equal?(b) iff a is the same object as b)."*

It would be better semantically to name such method #identical?, since that is what it does: *compare identity*.

Proposal is particularly of interest to assertion frameworks because, for example, #assert_equal is a comparison of #==, not #equal?. It presents naming conundrum and so ends up with assertion names that don't correspond well to the names of underlying comparisons. That's practical reason. But formal reason is that #identical? is better because it is more precise term.

This transition would be much like the one from #id to #object_id. But first step is simply to alias #identical? to #equal?. Which is what this proposal suggests for 2.0.0.