

## Ruby trunk - Feature #15668

### stdlib: Date - Time should return the difference in days

03/15/2019 01:41 AM - foonlyboy (Eike Dierks)

<b>Status:</b> Open	
<b>Priority:</b> Normal	
<b>Assignee:</b>	
<b>Target version:</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>Hi at the ruby/stdlib,</p> <p>Computing with times and dates is very complicated. There are so many pitfalls lurking there.</p> <p>I stumbled about a seemingly simple computation, involving Date and Time</p> <pre>try: Date.today - Time.now =&gt; TypeError: expected numeric</pre> <p>while my naively expected result can done by: Date.today - Time.now.to_date =&gt; (0/1)</p> <p>There must be a whole lot of good reasons why Date - Time is not allowed.</p> <p>I'd like to suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• improve the error message</li><li>• improve the documentation of #-</li></ul> <p>For the error message: TypeError: expected numeric should be improved to: Date - Time is not allowed</p> <p>The documentation of Date should state why this is so problematic.</p> <p>You might even want to add a principal documentation, about the handling of Date and Time in ruby</p> <hr/> <p>you can't tune a fish</p>	

### History

#### #1 - 03/15/2019 07:09 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

The error message could indeed be improved.

As for the functionality, I think matz may have to decide whether this may fit to duck typing or not. In my opinion the distinction between a "date" and a "time" is a bit arbitrary when we think of time as something keeping track of seconds (and date ultimately the same, just with some more date-specific handling of code; oddly enough I personally almost always end up with Time, rather than Date ... but we also have DateTime which is even stranger).