

Ruby trunk - Bug #15733

Inconsistent `__FILE__` and `Kernel#__dir__`

03/28/2019 02:12 AM - tagomoris (Satoshi TAGOMORI)

Status: Open	
Priority: Normal	
Assignee:	
Target version:	
ruby -v:	Backport: 2.4: UNKNOWN, 2.5: UNKNOWN, 2.6: UNKNOWN
Description	
<p>This might be duplicated with #7975, #8098 and #3346, but I believe it's worth to revisit.</p> <p>Now, Ruby has <code>__FILE__</code> keyword and <code>Kernel#__dir__</code> method. One is of upper-case chars, and the other is of lower-case chars. I make mistakes always when I want to get the directory name of the current file, to write <code>__DIR__</code> (of course, it doesn't exist). That is because of inconsistency between <code>__FILE__</code> and <code>__dir__</code>.</p> <p>I understood the reason why <code>__dir__</code> is of lower-case chars (to show it's defined as a method, not keyword), but this inconsistency brings huge confusion to me.</p> <p>So, in my opinion, Ruby should have one of these options below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• keyword <code>__DIR__</code>• method alias <code>Kernel#__DIR__</code> (as a compromise, but are there any difference between keyword <code>__DIR__</code> and <code>Kernel#__DIR__</code>?)• method <code>Kernel#__file__</code> (we don't take care of method overheads when we access file systems)	

History

#1 - 03/28/2019 07:35 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I have no personal preference here either way but I can also understand Satoshi's explanation / confusion.

This may be good to suggest for an upcoming developer meeting. **DIR** might have an advantage of being faster than a method and is probably closest to Satoshi's described case. `Kernel#file` might be second best; `Kernel#DIR` would be a bit strange, though. People might then wonder why an upcased method name would be added and why there are not more upcased methods in ruby ... or why there are then both upcased and lowercased methods in ruby that include `__` as part of their name :) so I think the other two suggestions would be better than the **DIR** suggestion (if any of them could be approved that is).