

Ruby trunk - Feature #15741

Ordinal parameters

04/01/2019 12:01 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

Status:	Rejected	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:	joke	
Target version:	Next Major	
Description		
Numbered parameters have been introduced into trunk, and are still being hotly debated in #15723 .		
One of the problems of the feature is, too short, too symbolic, and then too cryptic. It resembles Perl.		
I counterpropose "ordinal parameters":		
<pre>\$./miniruby -e '[[1, 1, 1], [2, 2, 2], [3, 3, 3]].each { p 0th * 1st * 2rd }'</pre>		
Ordinal parameters are much better than numbered parameters in two points:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is English. No symbol is used. It looks nicer, doesn't it?• Some people are complaining that @1 is one-based. Instead, my proposal is zero-based: it starts with 0th.		
In other words, it no longer resembles the notorious \$1 at all.		
You may wonder if it is too friendly for English speakers. Don't worry, it is carefully designed:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is tolerant of small errors. In fact, "2rd" (not "2nd") is allowed. This is because I often typo.• Even "1th", "2th", and "3th" are allowed. Non-English-native programmers don't have to learn the difference among "st", "nd", "rd", and "th".		
A patch is attached.		
Related issues:		
Related to Ruby trunk - Feature #12240: circle number arguments		Rejected

History

#1 - 04/01/2019 03:37 AM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

I do not think that 1-based is a problem at all. As some have already noticed in a different thread, regex captures are 1-based, and no one has complained about it. I think it is more natural to have it 1-based.

#2 - 04/01/2019 05:32 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

- Related to Feature #12240: circle number arguments added

#3 - 04/01/2019 07:59 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

Check the date sawa. :)

The thing is, though ... if we ignore the date (and I guess nobu is having fun since it may seem less obvious if mame creates the issue ;)) ... actually I did want to propose adding .second .third and so forth, since we have .first and .last already. Not to block-parameters, but in general available for where we already use .first and last. But I was not completely sure about whether it is that needed/necessary, and possibly it was already suggested before.

The reason why I did want to suggest it was mostly for code like this:

```
some_array = [] # it gets filled up with data
```

```
person_name = some_array.first
person_height = some_array[1]
person_age = some_array.last
```

Now for the moment let's ignore that a Hash would be better for this, it is just meant for illustration purpose. My argument would be that [1] looks strange when I already use .first and .last, so I wanted to use .second instead.

However had ... my use case is not that good nonetheless. It's just mostly a visual thing ... when I use [0], [1], [2] then this looks fine; and when I use .first and .last this looks fine too. It only looked strange when I would mix both.

Another problem was that, for example, how often would people use something like .fifth? Or .sixth? Probably not that often. So I sort of abandoned that ideal for a proposal.

I did, however had, also want to suggest another one on this first april, aka to suggest a compiled variant of ruby. And while 95% of this would have been meant as a joke, 5% would have been serious.

I would not have to be ruby exactly, but just a compiled language, a bit like the ruby-crystal situation (but matz would design it; but no worries, even in my joke suggestion, I would not suggest that matz would IMPLEMENT it - it was only meant for the design stage). And probably a full alternative to C too. One reason here was that many casual or less formal users do not know C yet the really cool things all seem to happen in/through C.

#4 - 04/01/2019 08:32 AM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

shevegen (Robert A. Heiler) wrote:

Check the date sawa. :)

I see. Honestly, I have never felt this kind of stuff to be funny.

#5 - 04/17/2019 08:42 AM - ioquatix (Samuel Williams)

You make localisation a problem of the language syntax. For example, in the original code: 2rd is actually not correct, it should be 2nd. Other localisations are even more complicated, e.g. Russian.

#6 - 04/18/2019 01:39 PM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)

- Assignee set to joke

#7 - 04/19/2019 01:11 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- Status changed from Open to Rejected

I forgot to close this ticket. Thanks.

Files

ordinal-parameters.patch	1.62 KB	03/31/2019	mame (Yusuke Endoh)
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