

Ruby - Feature #19565

Ignore lower-case/upper-case Proposal

03/31/2023 05:55 PM - rubyFeedback (robert heiler)

Status: Rejected

Priority: Normal

Assignee:

Target version:

Description

So, first april is on the horizon and in-before-we-go (nobu tends to make quick first april proposals, so let's hurry up!)

It is here proposed to ignore case, that is, lower-case, and upper-case, at the least for method calls. This could be for variables too, but I don't care so much about variables.

Rationale for the proposal:

Given a method such as

```
primary_link
```

I typed and wrote:

```
primary_LINK
```

Of course ruby complains and insists it must be written "primary_link". (I use that method for ad-hoc HTML hyperreferences in a webpage.)

Wouldn't it be nice if we are able to ignore this, and simply assume that, at the least for method names, ruby would ignore the case, that is, whether it is downcased/lowercased or upper cased?

Granted, the proposal is about 85% meant as a jest and joke, but the 15% is that this MAY be useful in SOME situations. Kind of like we had in oldschool evil.rb; I distinctly remember we could even change object identities at runtime too (I don't know what happened to evil.rb, but I distinctly remember we had it during the ruby 1.8.x era or so).

I actually only propose this to be used on a per-file basis, to simplify it.

So, for instance, you have a .rb file, and in that .rb file you need to tell ruby that you want to ignore the case.

This could perhaps be via some configuration-call, such as:

```
RbConfig.ignore_case
```

Or something similar. Or more similar to IRB where we treat RbConfig as a Hash via [] e. g.

```
RbConfig[:ignore_case] = true
```

Or something similar like that. Right now there is no method defined on RbConfig, so this should not cause backwards incompatibility issues.

Of course one can reason that this is 100% a rubbish proposal. That's ok. Easier to suggest it when it is close to the first april. :)

PHP works like this if I recall correctly. Windows also ignores cases of e. g. binaries and directories if I recall correctly.

So while this proposal may be rubbish, and as stated more of a joke, I believe there may be a few potential use cases of this too. Kind of like the ruby user telling ruby "ruby, I know by default you look at the case of characters, but for this specific file or project, I want you to ignore the case".

(We could extend this to a whole namespace, e. g. per-module and per-class, but for this proposal I want to keep it simpler and just focus on a per-file basis, that is, on a per .rb basis. We could also add more magic comments such as it was with "# frozen_string_literal: true", but I think the ruby core team does not want to add more meta-meaning, so this probably would have zero chance to be implemented. So the focus on a per .rb file basis just seemed simpler to me for this proposal here.)

History

#1 - 04/01/2023 01:46 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- *Status changed from Open to Rejected*

Interesting idea. But we reject for several reasons:

- Ruby uses upper/lower case to classify the type of variables/constants
- We already have method/variable names only differ in cases

For those reasons, ignoring cases would introduce huge incompatibility that we cannot accept.

This kind of case insensitivity can only be introduced in the early stage of a language. It's too late for Ruby. In addition, case-insensitive languages make me feel nostalgic.

Matz.