

Ruby - Feature #14669

Regexp does not expose the amount of capture groups.

04/07/2018 10:52 PM - xfb (Patrick Elsen)

Status:	Open
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Target version:	
Description	
For a project we needed to know how many capture groups a Regex exposes (before actually matching it). The Onigmo regex library used by Ruby has this information, accessible with <code>onig_number_of_captures(const regex_t *)</code> , but the Ruby Regexp class doesn't expose this information.	

History

#1 - 04/08/2018 04:26 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

Should be added; may have just been forgotten if Onigmo already supports that.

#2 - 04/08/2018 07:26 AM - duerst (Martin Dürst)

Can you give a few examples of how this may be used, and explain what's the purpose of getting the number of capture groups before actual matching?

Also, can you show an example what you think the actual interface (e.g. method name) would look like?

On top of that, I think not all Ruby implementations use Onigmo. Some other implementations may not have this feature.

#3 - 04/08/2018 11:11 AM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)

This information is available for named captures via `Regexp#names` and `Regexp#named_captures`, but it doesn't seem available for unnamed capture groups:

```
[15] pry(main)> /(?
```