Ruby trunk - Feature #11154

Postfix `!?` can use as the valid function identifier.

05/15/2015 02:31 PM - make_now_just (Kitsune TSUYUSATO)

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**Description**

This patch make it possible to parse and execute such a code:

```ruby
def foo!?
  true
end
foo!?
```

**When is this patch useful?**

Let's say, there are two methods. One method named `ExampleDB#exists?(id)` which is to request SQL has I/O side effects, another method named `ExampleCollection#exists?(id)` which is to find id in memory has no I/O side effects. Calling costs of these methods are different, but we can't know it by code on calling `#exists`.

In general case, when we want to make the method having to modify object and return boolean value, this patch is useful. Of course such a method is not good, however we are unavoidable to write good efficient program, aren't we?

**What effects does this change have?**

For example, snippet `foo!?1:2` is interpreted to call method `foo!` and ternary operation now, but after applying this patch it raises syntax error. Although we can escape this problem by spacing between `foo!` and `?`.

I think that this problem is tiny, but it is incompatible change.

**Why is postfix `!?` only? I want to use `?!, !!?` or `?!?`?**

This is the religious problem. If you are Python user, you believe Zen of Python:

```
There should be one-- and preferably only one --obvious way to do it.
```

Or if you are Perl user, you believe TMTOWTDI:

```
There's more than one way to do it.
```

I am not Perl nor Python user. But, this issue's purpose is naming identifier more clearly, so I adopted only `!?`.

**History**

#1 - 05/18/2015 04:49 PM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

```
- Status changed from Open to Feedback
```

Hi,

First of all, this is a proposal for incompatible change, so we have to be very careful.

Besides that, I am afraid you have two misunderstandings. (a) in Ruby, "!" is not for methods with side effect, unlike Scheme. (b) predicates (methods with "?") should not have side effect, this is a rule of thumbs.

In summary, we have to reject the proposal, unless you have unseen use-cases.

Matz.