

Ruby master - Feature #12455

Add a way for class String to determine whether it has only numbers / digits or not

06/02/2016 04:37 PM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

Status:	Open
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Target version:	
Description	
Hello.	
Not sure if that has been suggested before. If it was and not deemed fit, please feel free to close this issue request here.	
For class String, would it be possible to find out if a given String contains only numbers, without having to do a regex check?	
<pre>x = '123'</pre>	
A regex will do of course:	
<pre>if x =~ /\d+\$/</pre>	
I was wondering if we could have a method that does something similar, that is also easier to read.	
Something like:	
<pre>x = '123'</pre> <pre>x.only_numbers?</pre>	
or	
<pre>x.only_digits?</pre>	
Something like that.	
I do not know whether the word "only" is good or not. Perhaps ".all_numbers?" or ".all_digits?" would be better. But the name is secondary probably, more important would be whether such a method would make sense for class String.	
I am more interested in a method that will help avoid the use of a regex here.	
The method should return true if the string has only numbers, and false otherwise.	
Anyway, thanks for reading!	

History

#1 - 07/18/2016 05:38 AM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

I am interpreting that this proposal is actually interested in integers with signatures (+/-) as well, not just digits.

If we have variants of methods like Kernel#Integer, Kernel#Float or usage with options so that they do not raise an error but return nil in case the string is not appropriate, then that should suffice. For example, if we allow these methods to take an optional second argument, that would suffice.

Method signature:

```
Integer(string, raise_error = true)
```

Usage:

```
Integer("123", false) # => 123  
Integer("foo", false) # => nil
```

```
Integer("123") # => 123
Integer("foo") # => ArgumentError
Integer("123", true) # => 123
Integer("foo", true) # => ArgumentError
```

Robert's use case would be:

```
if Integer(x, false)
```

#2 - 07/20/2016 02:31 AM - shyouhei (Shyouhei Urabe)

We looked at this issue at yesterday's developer meeting.

- For the proposed functionality: why do you want to detect numbers? Because it would make more sense to convert it to integer, not just detection.
- For Integer() extension: there is no constructor method that takes arguments like this.

#3 - 07/20/2016 03:13 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

I feel that to_i extension might be better than Integer.

```
"foo".to_i #=> 0
"foo".to_i(fallback: nil) #=> nil
```