

CommonRuby - Feature #13122

Special syntax for Hash#default_proc

01/11/2017 01:46 AM - woodruffw (William Woodruff)

Status:	Rejected
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Target version:	

Description

The current Hash#default_proc flow usually looks something like this:

```
my_hash = { key: "value" }
my_hash.default_proc = proc { |h, k| h[k] = "other value" }
```

This makes the common practice of freezing large constant hashes unwieldy. For example, this:

```
MY_HASH = {
  key: "value"
}.freeze
```

needs to become

```
MY_HASH = {
  key: "value"
}

MY_HASH.default_proc = proc { |h, k| h[k] = "other value" }

MY_HASH.freeze
```

if a default_proc is used.

I propose a new syntax for setting the default_proc within the hash-declaration itself:

```
my_hash = {
  key: "value"
  *: proc { |h, k| h[k] = "other value" }
}
```

*: as a hash-key is currently a syntax error, so I think there's space in the language for this. Of course, this should also support rocket-style:

```
my_hash = {
  "key" => "value"
  * => proc { |h, k| h[k] = "other value" }
}
```

(I'm completely open to alternative syntaxes, * just comes to mind because of wildcarding).

I'm happy to attempt work on this, if this feature is desired. I have experience with MRI's API, but not with writing new syntax (which I assume would go in parse.y), so I'd appreciate the help of someone who's familiar with the intricacies of parse.y.

Best,
William Woodruff

History

#1 - 01/11/2017 02:12 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

What about

```
MY_HASH = Hash.new {|h, k| "other value"}.update(
  key: "value",
```

```
).freeze
```

?

#2 - 01/11/2017 04:52 AM - woodruffw (William Woodruff)

Nobuyoshi Nakada wrote:

What about

```
MY_HASH = Hash.new {|h, k| "other value"}.update(  
  key: "value",  
).freeze
```

?

Ah, I forgot about that...

That definitely works, and solves the problem without a need for new syntax. Please close if you don't see the need for these changes.

Thanks!

#3 - 01/11/2017 05:06 AM - woodruffw (William Woodruff)

Realized I forgot commas in the examples:

```
my_hash = {  
  key: "value",  
  *: proc { |h, k| h[k] = "other value" },  
}
```

and

```
my_hash = {  
  "key" => "value",  
  * => proc { |h, k| h[k] = "other value" },  
}
```

#4 - 02/05/2017 11:01 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

Maybe both of elements and a block would be nice.

#5 - 03/13/2017 06:46 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Status changed from Open to Rejected

I don't think default_proc is not worth adding a new syntax.

Matz.