Ruby master - 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:

```ruby
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:

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

needs to become

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

if a default_proc is used.

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

```ruby
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:

```ruby
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

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

08/27/2022
Nobuyoshi Nakada wrote:

What about

```ruby
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:

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

and

```ruby
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.

#6 - 12/23/2021 11:40 PM - hsbt (Hiroshi SHIBATA)

- Project changed from 14 to Ruby master