Ruby master - Feature #13290
A method to use a hash like in a case construction

03/08/2017 06:57 AM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

Description
We often want to translate a hash into a case construction and back. For example, suppose we have a case construction like this:

```ruby
case
  when /foo/ then "FOO"
  when /bar/ then "BAR"
  else "DEFAULT"
end
```

Given that the keys are ordered within a hash since Ruby 1.9, the information used in the case construction above can be expressed as a hash `h`:

```ruby
h = {/
  /foo/ => "FOO",
  /bar/ => "BAR"
  ...}

h.default = "DEFAULT"
```

At the moment, there is no straightforward way to translate the hash `h` into the case construction as above. I would like to have a method on Hash that takes a key and works like a case construction (i.e., applies the `===` method) as below:

```ruby
h.fetch_as_in_case_construction("barbar")  # => "BAR"
```

The name `fetch_as_in_case_construction` is indeed a bit terrible. Perhaps someone can suggest a better name.

History

#1 - 03/08/2017 08:27 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I love case/when menus, so I am all for suggestions that make case/when more useful, so I also support this (even if this one is indirect, on class Hash, to have them behave like a case/when menu).

I also would like to see case/when become first-class citizens (objects) one day that can also be merged together (e.g. unity two different case/when menus together, both working on the same variable...a bit similar as to how hashes can be merged together too. A bit like UnboundMethod where we could, in theory, detach a method and attach it to another object or use another environment ... but I digress again, sorry.)

The name "fetch_as_in_case_construction" is indeed a bit terrible, I am glad that I am not the only one who suggests terrible names. :D

But I think the more important part is whether matz/ruby core team think that the underlying functionality would be ok to be had.

Finding good names is hard but possible! I also have no really better suggestion. My suggestions may even be worse ... such as :)

Obvious ones would be ".to_case" or, if the other way around, on a first-class citizen case object, .to_hash. Or some method called "convert" or "transform" or "treat_as_case" or ... I dunno.

But +1 anyway.

#2 - 03/08/2017 09:03 AM - duerst (Martin Dürst)
Tsuyoshi Sawada wrote:

The name fetch_as_in_case_construction is terrible. Perhaps someone can suggest a better name.

What about simplifying this to fetch_as_case? Or maybe even just case? Just thinking out loud.

Yusuke Endoh wrote:

h.find { |a,| a === "barbar" }.last #=> "BAR"

This is good enough to me.

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I expected something that would be as easy as and comparable to h[key].

Yukihiro Matsumoto wrote:

I don't see how much useful this proposal is. Please show us concrete use-case.

Matz.