Ruby master - Bug #13556

MinGW readline Alt / Meta keys

05/11/2017 04:19 PM - MSP-Greg (Greg L)

Status:	Closed		
Priority:	Normal		
Assignee:			
Target version:			
ruby -v:	ruby 2.5.0dev (2017-05-11 trunk 58657) [x64-mingw32]	**Backport:**	2.2: UNKNOWN, 2.3: UNKNOWN, 2.4: UNKNOWN

Description

MinGW builds from Ruby Installer have been using the rb-readline gem instead building the readline extension with the MinGW readline package.

Building the extension with the package (7.0.003 updated 2017-02-03) passes most tests in test-all. But...

When using the MinGW package, many of the Meta/Alt keystrokes do not work (b, d, f, t,) in irb (they add the letter at the cursor), but they work with the gem. The case keystrokes, (c, l, u) do not work in either. Also, arrow key left/right navigation seems smoother with the gem.

Not being a c type, I'm not sure if this is a fix in readline.c or a problem with the MinGW package (third-party).

Lastly, I don't use irb that much, so there may be other issues. If anyone has info/links to other testing I could do, please let me know.

History

#1 - 05/15/2017 02:24 PM - MSP-Greg (Greg L)

After discovering that Meta/Alt key combinations can also be done via an [ESC] then [key] press, I've verified that all Meta/Alt combinations work with the readline package when done via [ESC]. So, it may be that readline.c is not recognizing the windows Alt key. Then again, it may be in the MinGW/MSYS2 package. As stated before, I'm not a c type...

#2 - 07/16/2017 11:43 PM - MSP-Greg (Greg L)

Re-addressing this with a current build, the same issue exists. As mentioned previously, this issue will only exhibit itself when used with a MinGW build that uses the MSYS2/MinGW readline package. readline has been problematic in the past on windows, but that was with versions 6 and earlier. This is probably the reason the readline-rb gem exists, and why it has been installed on windows builds.

I am not familiar with how readline works in a OSX/*nix env, so I don't even know if I'd use it if it worked perfectly under windows. Given that IRB is currently problematic, I test anything requiring more than a line or two with an rb file and make use of the history in the windows command window.

So, if anyone familiar with readline, that can also run a windows build, and is comfortable using my build at BinTray (which generates the last section of output in appveyor-ruby), feel free to check how IRB behaves.

Otherwise, this can be closed.

#3 - 10/18/2019 12:28 AM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

- Status changed from Open to Closed