

Ruby trunk - Feature #14043

Introduce Process.last_status as an alias for \$?

10/23/2017 01:56 AM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)

Status:	Closed
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)
Target version:	2.6
Description	
I found that we don't have any methods for an alias to \$?, like MatchData.last_match for \$~.	
I propose to introduce Process.last_status method for that purpose.	

Associated revisions

Revision 8624cec9 - 12/12/2017 09:00 AM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)

process.c: add Process.last_status

- process.c (proc_s_last_status): add Process.last_status [ruby-core:83514] [Feature #14043]
- test/ruby/test_process.rb (test_last_status): add a test case for Process.last_status.

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@61143 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

Revision 61143 - 12/12/2017 09:00 AM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)

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History

#1 - 10/23/2017 11:02 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

Would be nice I think. Does not matter so much the name, IMO; the name Process.last_status is fine but I think any other would do fine too.

My (personal) biggest problem with the short names, such as \$? is that they are, for me, very hard to remember. So I am all up for ways to make it easier to use them so +1 from me.

It looks as if matz already may have added your proposal to queue for addition. :)

#2 - 10/23/2017 04:08 PM - normalperson (Eric Wong)

shevegen@gmail.com wrote:

My (personal) biggest problem with the short names, such as \$? is that they are, for me, very hard to remember. So I am all up for ways to make it easier to use them so +1 from me.

It's actually easier for me coming from Bourne shell and Perl to use short names.

We already have English.rb for the \$CHILD_STATUS alias, and I'd rather not force redundant bloat onto all users.

#3 - 10/24/2017 01:50 AM - duerst (Martin Dürst)

normalperson (Eric Wong) wrote:

It's actually easier for me coming from Bourne shell and Perl to use short names.

For some people, yes. But my guess is that these days, most people coming to Ruby have no Perl and little if any shell experience.

We already have English.rb for the \$CHILD_STATUS alias, and I'd rather not force redundant bloat onto all users.

It's true that \$? may be easier to write for some people, but last_status should be easy for everybody to read, even for people who see it for the first time.

The general direction in Ruby is to get rid, or at least provide replacements, for cryptic notations. I don't have a reference ready, but I seem to remember that getting rid of some Perl leftovers was one of the things being discussed for Ruby 3.0. Of course input on that direction is welcome.

#4 - 10/24/2017 05:19 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

I'd prefer something that executes a command and returns Process::Status, than separate methods.

#5 - 11/13/2017 02:14 PM - ana06 (Ana Maria Martinez Gomez)

I completely agree with @mrkn. How is it possible that a programming language which is described as focussed on simplicity with an elegant syntax that is natural to read and easy to write have this unreadable Perl operators? I am sorry, but there are not readable, neither elegant. And I am pretty sure event Perl developers/people used to the syntax has to check the documentation sometimes to know what that means.

Let's remove them and use the alias in English.rb instead!

#6 - 11/18/2017 10:00 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I don't want to write too much, but I would suggest more patience from you, Ana. In particular towards any path forward to the x-mas release, I assume that bug fixes may have a higher priority than feature changes/additions. Also note that it is even less likely that anything can be too easily "removed" in the ruby 2.x branch due to backwards compatibility.

To the \$ variables, while I also said that I have a difficulty memorizing them, it is not true that they have no use case. For example, they are short, which is not a bad thing per se necessarily in ALL situations. To give another example ...

For example:

```
var =~ / (ab.+ ) de.+ /  
$1.to_s.dup
```

is easy to use for me compared to the variant with MatchData[1]. I always start like typing =~ and sometimes I write the regex to use in a constant, and then refer to it such as:

```
var =~ REGEX_FOR_DISCOVERING_REMOTE_PROGRAMS
```

Like via open-uri and then finding some matches to remote URLs from a webpage.

The proposal here and the suggestion is to use a method called `Process.last_status` which I think is a perfectly fine proposal. Nowhere does the issue request speak about removing \$ variables so I am confused about comments such as "Let's remove them".

The scope here is simply to add a method as alternative means to access \$?, which I think is a perfectly fine proposal in itself.

The rest is up to the ruby core team and matz.

#7 - 11/29/2017 03:06 AM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)

- *Target version changed from 2.5 to 2.6*

#8 - 12/12/2017 08:17 AM - matz (Yukihiko Matsumoto)

LGTM.

Matz.

#9 - 12/12/2017 09:00 AM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)

- *Status changed from Open to Closed*

Applied in changeset [trunk|r61143](#).

process.c: add `Process.last_status`

- process.c (proc_s_last_status): add `Process.last_status` [ruby-core:83514] [Feature [#14043](#)]
- test/ruby/test_process.rb (test_last_status): add a test case for `Process.last_status`.