

Ruby trunk - Misc #15109

Improve safe navigation operator's docs

09/12/2018 06:43 PM - zverok (Victor Shepelev)

Status:	Closed
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Description	
Reason: current docs look this way (in "Receiver" section, one paragraph before last):	
You may use <code>&.</code> to designate a receiver, then <code>my_method</code> is not invoked and the result is <code>nil</code> when the receiver is <code>nil</code> . In that case, the arguments of <code>my_method</code> are not evaluated.	
There are several problems:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "safe navigation operator" is never spelled explicitly (so nobody can google these docs);• it is rendered as "unimportant secondary" feature (just before note about legacy <code>::</code> call syntax).	
While mentoring newcomers, I noticed it is hard for them just to be aware of the feature. So, the proposed rendering is subsection of "Receiver" spelled this way:	
=== Safe navigation operator	
<code>&.</code> , called "safe navigation operator", allows to skip method call when receiver is <code>nil</code> . It returns <code>nil</code> and doesn't evaluate method's arguments if the call is skipped.	
<pre>REGEX = /(ruby) is (\w+)/i "Ruby is awesome!".match(REGEX).values_at(1, 2) # => ["Ruby", "awesome"] "Python is fascinating!".match(REGEX).values_at(1, 2) # NoMethodError: undefined method `values_at' for nil:NilClass "Python is fascinating!".match(REGEX)&.values_at(1, 2) # => nil</pre>	
This allows to easily chain methods which could return empty value. Note that <code>&.</code> skips only one next call, so for a longer chain it is necessary to add operator on each level:	
<pre>"Python is fascinating!".match(REGEX)&.values_at(1, 2).join(' - ') # NoMethodError: undefined method `join' for nil:NilClass "Python is fascinating!".match(REGEX)&.values_at(1, 2)&.join(' - ') # => nil</pre>	

Associated revisions

Revision [ecc627b2](#) - 10/20/2018 10:57 AM - [aycabta](#) ([aycabta](#) .)

Improve safe navigation operator's docs [Misc #15109]

- `doc/syntax/calling_methods.rdoc`: Add Safe navigation operator section.

git-svn-id: [svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@65228](https://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@65228) b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

Revision [65228](#) - 10/20/2018 10:57 AM - [aycabta](#) ([aycabta](#) .)

Improve safe navigation operator's docs [Misc #15109]

- `doc/syntax/calling_methods.rdoc`: Add Safe navigation operator section.

Revision [65228](#) - 10/20/2018 10:57 AM - [aycabta](#) ([aycabta](#) .)

Improve safe navigation operator's docs [Misc #15109]

- `doc/syntax/calling_methods.rdoc`: Add Safe navigation operator section.

History

#1 - 09/13/2018 03:53 PM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I think it is good to have more documentation. I would however had perhaps replace the word Python with Ruby (or Duck or something else), if possible.

#2 - 10/20/2018 10:57 AM - aycabta (aycabta .)

- Status changed from Open to Closed

Applied in changeset [trunk|r65228](#).

Improve safe navigation operator's docs [Misc [#15109](#)]

- doc/syntax/calling_methods.rdoc: Add Safe navigation operator section.

Files

safe_navigation.patch	1.73 KB	09/12/2018	zverok (Victor Shepelev)
-----------------------	---------	------------	--------------------------