

Ruby master - Bug #15241

net/pop fix to use mutable strings was too eager

10/22/2018 12:40 PM - eventualbuddha (Brian Donovan)

Status:	Rejected	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Target version:		
ruby -v:	2.5.2	Backport: 2.3: UNKNOWN, 2.4: UNKNOWN, 2.5: UNKNOWN
Description See [[https://github.com/ruby/ruby/commit/3993fbb5f6bfd9ae0bce040988d7e2dd632247cdc#commitcomment-30987842 this thread on Github]]. I believe the changes made in Backport #14416 for 2.5.2 (on both trunk and 2.5.x) over-eagerly applied mutability to literal strings. In particular, the strings returned by inspect have no real need to be mutable as far as I can tell.		

History

#1 - 10/22/2018 12:41 PM - eventualbuddha (Brian Donovan)

- ruby -v changed from 2.5w to 2.5.2

#2 - 10/22/2018 06:32 PM - normalperson (Eric Wong)

```
me@brian-donovan.com wrote:
> https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/15241
> See
> [[https://github.com/ruby/ruby/commit/3993fbb5f6bfd9ae0bce040988d7e2dd632247cdc#commitcomment-30987842|this
> thread on Github]]. I believe the changes made in Backport
> #14416 for 2.5.2 (on both trunk and 2.5.x) over-eagerly
> applied mutability to literal strings. In particular, the
> strings returned by `inspect` have no real need to be mutable
> as far as I can tell.
```

```
We cannot make assumptions about how people use strings returned
from .inspect. Such code exists and we should not break it:
```

```
warn(foo.inspect << " #{__FILE__}:#{__LINE__}")
```

```
Disclaimer: I do not speak for the rest of ruby-core.
```

```
This worked in 2.2 and earlier, and we should be maintaining
compatibility with such code. If we have .inspect method
returning frozen strings, I consider it a bug.
```

```
I hate that we allocate extra objects and lose performance;
but losing compatibility and breaking existing code is worse.
```

#3 - 10/30/2018 10:17 AM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)

I think it's very bad style to modify the return value of #inspect, and some objects do already return frozen strings for #inspect. So I think it would be a fair enough to change as it seems to have very low risk, i.e., it would only break code which is questionable in the first place (and should use + or interpolation instead).

OTOH, it's likely irrelevant for performance, and could likely be optimized if needed anyway. So I think there is not much to gain either way, but conceptually it's wrong for user code to assume the result #inspect is always mutable.

#4 - 08/28/2019 01:05 AM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

- Status changed from Open to Rejected

I don't think that this should be considered a bug. Going from immutable to mutable should not break things, while going from mutable to immutable can. It is true that the using String#+ can decrease performance slightly, but that should not be considered a bug.