

## Ruby trunk - Bug #15371

### IRB with ARGV

12/03/2018 03:36 AM - svnpenn (Steven Penny)

<b>Status:</b> Open	
<b>Priority:</b> Normal	
<b>Assignee:</b>	
<b>Target version:</b>	
<b>ruby -v:</b>	<b>Backport:</b> 2.4: UNKNOWN, 2.5: UNKNOWN
<b>Description</b>	
<p>PHP allows you to pass ARGV in interactive mode:</p> <pre>\$ php -a -- alpha beta gamma php &gt; print \$argv[3] . PHP_EOL; gamma</pre>	
<p>and Python offers 4 ways:</p> <pre>\$ python3 - alpha beta gamma &gt;&gt;&gt; import sys &gt;&gt;&gt; print(sys.argv[3]) gamma  \$ python3 -- - alpha beta gamma &gt;&gt;&gt; import sys &gt;&gt;&gt; print(sys.argv[3]) gamma  \$ python3 -i - alpha beta gamma &gt;&gt;&gt; import sys &gt;&gt;&gt; print(sys.argv[3]) gamma  \$ python3 -i -- - alpha beta gamma &gt;&gt;&gt; import sys &gt;&gt;&gt; print(sys.argv[3]) gamma</pre>	
<p>However IRB seems to have no way to accomplish this:</p> <pre>\$ irb - alpha beta gamma /usr/share/ruby/2.3.0/irb/init.rb:213:in `parse_opts': Unrecognized switch: - (IRB::UnrecognizedSwitch)  \$ irb -- alpha beta gamma /usr/share/ruby/2.3.0/irb/magic-file.rb:8:in `initialize': No such file or directory @ rb_sysopen - alpha (Errno::ENOENT)  \$ irb -- - alpha beta gamma /usr/share/ruby/2.3.0/irb/magic-file.rb:8:in `initialize': No such file or directory @ rb_sysopen - - (Errno::ENOENT)  \$ irb - -- alpha beta gamma /usr/share/ruby/2.3.0/irb/init.rb:213:in `parse_opts': Unrecognized switch: - (IRB::UnrecognizedSwitch)</pre>	

### History

#### #1 - 12/03/2018 05:20 PM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I can not say whether the above is a bug or not; however had a grep shows that there are two toplevel methods for IRB to make use of ARGV, both in init.rb:

```
init.rb: def IRB.setup(ap_path, argv: ::ARGV)
init.rb: def IRB.parse_opts(argv: ::ARGV)
```

By the way, I find it slightly amusing that python's "there is only one way" became "there are four ways". ;-)

## #2 - 12/03/2018 07:25 PM - svnpenn (Steven Penny)

shevegen (Robert A. Heiler) wrote:

By the way, I find it slightly amusing that python's "there is only one way" became "there are four ways". ;-)

Its actually only 2 ways if you want a true REPL:

```
$ python3 -i - alpha beta gamma
>>> import sys
>>> sys.argv[3]
'gamma'
```

```
$ python3 -i -- - alpha beta gamma
>>> import sys
>>> sys.argv[3]
'gamma'
```

Further, looks like PRY has the same issue as RUBY:

<http://github.com/pry/pry/issues/1901>

Workaround is to use RIPL:

```
$ ripl - alpha beta gamma
>> ARGV[3]
=> "gamma"
```

```
$ ripl -- alpha beta gamma
>> ARGV[3]
=> "gamma"
```

<http://github.com/cldwalker/ripl>

## #3 - 03/22/2019 02:19 PM - onlynone (Steven Willis)

svnpenn (Steven Penny) wrote:

shevegen (Robert A. Heiler) wrote:

By the way, I find it slightly amusing that python's "there is only one way" became "there are four ways". ;-)

Its actually only 2 ways if you want a true REPL:

It's actually only 1 way. The -- is just a command line option/argument parsing convention to mark an explicit break between options and arguments. It's useful when one of your arguments might look like an option. Like if you're trying to remove a file called -i, you can write rm -- -i and the -i will be treated as a filename argument and not the -i option to ask for confirmation before deletion. It's not a python thing.