

Ruby master - Misc #15431

Hashes and arrays should not require commas to separate values when using new lines

12/18/2018 04:14 AM - nsuchy (Nathaniel Suchy)

Status:	Open	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Description		
Ruby should not require commas for hash and array values if using new lines. I think the syntax would look cleaner without.		
Example		
<pre>myHash = { :key => "value", :anotherKey => "another value" }</pre>		
Could be		
<pre>myHash = { :key => "value" :anotherKey => "another value" }</pre>		
And		
<pre>myArray = [1, 2, 3]</pre>		
Could be:		
<pre>myArray = [1 2 3]</pre>		
The syntax looks a bit cleaner, with the new lines is there a need to require a comma? I look forward to hearing the community's thoughts on this idea :)		
Related issues:		
Is duplicate of CommonRuby - Feature #10528: Allow line breaks instead of com...		Open

History

#1 - 12/18/2018 07:13 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- Is duplicate of Feature #10528: Allow line breaks instead of commas in arrays, hashes, argument lists, etc. added

#2 - 12/18/2018 07:14 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

It has been already proposed at [#10528](#).

#3 - 12/18/2018 11:05 AM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I like the idea from one point of view - **convenience**. A bit similar to changes such as require 'pp' being available by default; of course it is not the same as the proposal here, since the proposal here refers to a syntax change, whereas require 'pp' was purely due to convenience. But from the point of view of convenience, being able to omit "," would be nice - I actually do sometimes forget this and then have to go to the editor and add it, so from convenience, I like it.

Of course we can also use, at the least for Arrays, the shorthand notations, such as %w() and so forth; then we don't need the ','. For Hashes I believe we have no shorthand notation, excluding the : variant introduced some time ago; e. g. your example above could be:

```
myHash = {  
  key: "value",  
  anotherKey: "another value"  
}
```

And it would be a bit shorter. Of course we still have to use the ',' there.

However had I am not entirely sure if it can be so easily added. Would this not introduce a backwards-incompatible change? So I guess even if it were to be approved by matz (and we don't know this as of yet), it may have to come way past ruby 3.0.

I don't have a problem if this is not added either, though - while it would be convenient, I don't necessarily need it that much. We may also have to think about code that is mixed, such as:

```
hash = {  
  abc: 'abc', def: 'def'  
  ghi: 'ghi',  
  jkl: 'jkl'  
}
```

And perhaps other cases. (The ruby core team often needs definitions/specifications for corner cases too, since the implementation has to include these cases too.)

Since this is coming up every now and then, I would suggest to mention it at some developer meeting - at the least to hear matz' opinion about it. Because if matz does not like the proposal then there is little point discussing it. :)

But as said, I am mostly neutral about this; only slightly positive purely from a convenience point of view.

PS: The linked proposal is ~4 years old without much other comments; perhaps after this may be discussed one day, we could close down the older issues and refer to only one of the issues, but I digress.