

## Ruby trunk - Feature #1880

### Hash#flatten Doesn't Operate Recursively for Hash Values

08/05/2009 12:43 AM - runpaint (Run Paint Run Run)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                           |
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| <b>Status:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Rejected                  |
| <b>Priority:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Normal                    |
| <b>Assignee:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto) |
| <b>Target version:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 2.0.0                     |
| <b>Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                           |
| <pre>=begin Hash#flatten claims to flatten recursively if given an argument specifying the depth. This works as expected for Array values, but has no bearing on Hash values.    h = {orange: :orange, coconut: {inside: :white, outside: :brown}, grapes: {colour: [:red, :green]}}   h.flatten =&gt; [:orange, :orange, :coconut, {:inside=&gt;:white, :outside=&gt;:brown}, :grapes, {:colour=&gt;[:red, :green]}]   h.flatten(20) =&gt; [:orange, :orange, :coconut, {:inside=&gt;:white, :outside=&gt;:brown}, :grapes, {:colour=&gt;[:red, :green]}]  This seems peculiar. If the user has specified a depth he's explicitly stating the level of recursion to flatten; not how he wants Array values to be treated. IOW, I expected #flatten(depth) to call #flatten on Hash values as appropriate. This can be generalised to: call #flatten on values until the depth has been reached. =end</pre> |                           |

#### History

##### #1 - 09/25/2009 04:53 AM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)

- Assignee set to matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)
- Priority changed from 3 to Normal
- Target version set to 1.9.2

```
=begin
Moving this from 'bug' to 'feature request' as behavior corresponds to doc. Currently it converts to an array and (if given an argument) calls flatten on it. Array#flatten leaves hashes alone.
```

The question remaining: should there be a way to recursively flatten hashes, via Hash#flatten or otherwise?  
=end

##### #2 - 03/22/2010 01:11 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

```
=begin
Hi,

  Hash#flatten claims to flatten recursively if given an argument specifying the depth. This works as expected for Array values, but has no bearing on Hash values.
```

I wonder why recursive Hash#flatten is needed :-)  
I can't imagine any use case.

```
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Yusuke Endoh mame@tsg.ne.jp
=end
```

**#3 - 04/02/2010 08:25 AM - znz (Kazuhiro NISHIYAMA)**

- *Target version changed from 1.9.2 to 2.0.0*

=begin

=end

**#4 - 09/14/2010 04:23 PM - shyouhei (Shyouhei Urabe)**

- *Status changed from Open to Assigned*

=begin

=end

**#5 - 02/14/2012 10:35 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)**

- *Status changed from Assigned to Rejected*

I'm rejecting this feature ticket because no progress has been made for a long time. See .

I think flatten means an operation on Array, in Ruby.  
"flatten" on Hash is also possible, but Hash#flatten is not for that. I think we need:

- a use case
- another appropriate name
- detailed semantics (what does {a: {a: 1}}.flatten return?)

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Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp)