Hash#flatten Doesn't Operate Recursively for Hash Values

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>Rejected</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority:</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignee:</td>
<td>matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Target version:</td>
<td>2.0.0</td>
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### Description

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.

```ruby
```

```ruby
h.flatten
```

```ruby
h.flatten(20)
```

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.

### 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

```
Matching 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?
```

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

```
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.

--
Yusuke Endoh mame@tsg.ne.jp
```

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

```
Target version changed from 1.9.2 to 2.0.0
```

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09/09/2021
I'm rejecting this feature ticket because no progress has been made for a long time. See [ruby-core:42391].

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@tsq.ne.jp