

Ruby trunk - Feature #1880

Hash#flatten Doesn't Operate Recursively for Hash Values

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

Status:	Rejected
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)
Target version:	2.0.0
Description	
<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 => [:orange, :orange, :coconut, {:inside=>:white, :outside=>:brown}, :grapes, {:colour=>[:red, :green]}] h.flatten(20) => [:orange, :orange, :coconut, {:inside=>:white, :outside=>:brown}, :grapes, {:colour=>[: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
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#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