RubyKaigi見てて思い出したのですが、def式はSymbolを返すようにしませんか？
そうすると、
class Foo
private def foo()
  # ...
end
end

以下パッチ。

Index: vm.c
===================================================================
--- vm.c   (リビジョン 29124)
+++ vm.c   (作業コピー)
@@ -1893,7 +1893,7 @@ m_core_define_method(VALUE self, VALUE c
REWIND_CFP({
  vm_define_method(GET_THREAD(), cbase, SYM2ID(sym), iseqval, 0, rb_vm_cref());
});
  \- return Qnil;
  \+ return sym; }
static VALUE
@@ -1902,7 +1902,7 @@ m_core_define_singleton_method(VALUE sel
REWIND_CFP({
  vm_define_method(GET_THREAD(), cbase, SYM2ID(sym), iseqval, 1, rb_vm_cref());
});
  \- return Qnil;
  \+ return sym; }
static VALUE
=end

Related issues:
Related to Ruby master - Feature #6198: public/protected/private with attr_ * 

Rejected

Associated revisions
Revision 0f0b60ea - 08/02/2013 02:58 PM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

* vm.c (m_core_define_method, m_core_define_singleton_method): now
  the value of def-expr is the Symbol of the name of the method, not nil.
  ref. [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]
* test/ruby/test_syntax.rb (TestSyntax#test_value_of_def): test for
  above changes.
vm.c (m_core_define_method, m_core_define_singleton_method): now
the value of def-expr is the Symbol of the name of the method, not
nil.
ref. [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]

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test/ruby/test_syntax.rb (TestSyntax#test_value_of_def): test for above changes.

parse.y (value_expr_gen): now NODE_DEFN and NODE_DEFS are not void value expressions. get rid of wrong warning with -w, and make to pass tests with chkbuild. ref. [Feature #3753]

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@42347 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

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Fix test failure to follow r42347 ref #3753

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@42352 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

Fix test failure to follow r42347 ref #3753

Fix test failure to follow r42347 ref #3753
Revision 42352 - 08/03/2013 07:57 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)
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Fix test failure to follow r42347 ref #3753

Revision a28d1eff - 08/14/2013 05:35 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

- proc.c (rb_mod_define_method): now they return the symbols of the defined methods, not the methods/procs themselves.
  [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]

- NEWS: documents about above change and def-expr (see r42337).

- test/ruby/test_module.rb: tests about above change.

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@42551 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

Revision 42551 - 08/14/2013 05:35 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

- proc.c (rb_mod_define_method): now they return the symbols of the defined methods, not the methods/procs themselves.
  [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]

- NEWS: documents about above change and def-expr (see r42337).

- test/ruby/test_module.rb: tests about above change.

Revision 42551 - 08/14/2013 05:35 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

- proc.c (rb_mod_define_method): now they return the symbols of the defined methods, not the methods/procs themselves.
  [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]

- NEWS: documents about above change and def-expr (see r42337).

- test/ruby/test_module.rb: tests about above change.

Revision 42551 - 08/14/2013 05:35 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

- proc.c (rb_mod_define_method): now they return the symbols of the defined methods, not the methods/procs themselves.
  [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]

- NEWS: documents about above change and def-expr (see r42337).

- test/ruby/test_module.rb: tests about above change.
proc.c (rb_mod_define_method): now they return the symbols of the defined methods, not the methods/procs themselves.
[ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]

NEWS: documents about above change and def-expr (see r42337).

test/ruby/test_module.rb: tests about above change.

---

History

#1 - 08/31/2010 05:01 PM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)
- Category set to core
- Status changed from Open to Assigned
- Assignee set to matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

```ruby
begin
end
```

#2 - 08/31/2010 05:11 PM - mrkn (Kenta Murata)

```ruby
begin
+1
end
```

#3 - 10/27/2012 11:58 PM - yhara (Yutaka HARA)
- Description updated
- Target version set to 2.6

#4 - 06/06/2013 12:23 PM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)
- Target version changed from 2.6 to 2.1.0
We accept this change for 2.1 in the developers' meeting on 2013-07-27. We also think define_method() should return symbols as well.

Matz.

This issue was solved with changeset r42337.
Usaku, thank you for reporting this issue.
Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.
May Ruby be with you.

- Status changed from Assigned to Closed
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

This issue was solved with changeset r42337.
Usaku, thank you for reporting this issue.
Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.
May Ruby be with you.

- Status changed from Closed to Assigned
- % Done changed from 100 to 50

This issue was solved with changeset r42347.
Usaku, thank you for reporting this issue.
Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.
May Ruby be with you.

- Status changed from Assigned to Closed
- % Done changed from 50 to 100

This issue was solved with changeset r42347.
Usaku, thank you for reporting this issue.
Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.
May Ruby be with you.

- Status changed from Assigned to Closed
- % Done changed from 50 to 100
Yes, I think Module#define_method should return a symbol as def statement does.

Matz.

This issue was solved with changeset r42551.
Usaku, thank you for reporting this issue.
Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.
May Ruby be with you.

- proc.c (rb_mod_define_method): now they return the symbols of the defined methods, not the methods/procs themselves. [ruby-dev:42151] [Feature #3753]
- NEWS: documents about above change and def-expr (see r42337).
- test/ruby/test_module.rb: tests about above change.