

## Ruby master - Feature #4621

### NilClass#to\_hash

04/27/2011 03:33 PM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

<b>Status:</b>	Rejected
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Assignee:</b>	matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)
<b>Target version:</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
=begin Various methods defined on NilClass are handy to avoid Method undefined on NilClass errors. For example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to_a for multiple dimensioned array when there might not be some values for some indices: <code>array[i].to_a[j].to_a[k]</code></li><li>• to_s for pattern match that might fail: <code>string[regex].to_s*2</code></li><li>• to_i, to_f, to_c for index search that might fail, etc: <code>array.index(element).to_i*3</code></li></ul> But there is no NilClass#to_hash even though there is Hash#to_hash. If such method existed (equivalent to class NilClass; def to_hash; {} end end), then we would be able to do: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to_hash for multiple embedded hash when there might not be some values for some keys: <code>hash[:a].to_hash[:b].to_hash[:c]</code></li></ul> Is there any reason why to_a, to_s, to_i, to_f, to_c are all defined on NilClass but not for to_hash? If there is not, I would like to request this feature. =end	

### History

#### #1 - 04/27/2011 04:46 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)

- Category set to core

- Status changed from Open to Assigned

- Assignee set to matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

=begin

=end

#### #2 - 04/27/2011 04:52 PM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Status changed from Assigned to Rejected

=begin

=end

#### #3 - 04/27/2011 05:23 PM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

=begin

Hi,

In message "Re: [ruby-core:35924] [Ruby 1.9 - Feature #4621][Assigned] NilClass#to\_hash"  
on Wed, 27 Apr 2011 16:46:01 +0900, Yui NARUSE [redmine@ruby-lang.org](mailto:redmine@ruby-lang.org) writes:

|Is there any reason why to\_a, to\_s, to\_i, to\_f, to\_c are all defined on NilClass but not for to\_hash? If there is not, I would like to request this feature.

to\_a, etc. are explicit conversion methods, whereas to\_int, to\_hash, etc. are implicit conversion methods. I don't see any good reason to add implicit conversion methods to nil.

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matz.
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=end
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