Ruby master - Feature #5977

Remove $, and avoid perlish global variables

02/07/2012 09:38 PM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)

Status: Rejected
Priority: Normal
Assignee: 
Target version: 2.0.0

Description
Hello,

As I mentioned at RubyConf, I would like the $, global variable to be removed for 2.0.

I would like to avoid "perlish" global variables in general, but I think many can't be removed for compatibility, and a few are actually useful shortcuts (mostly to the pattern matching variables). They are nice for golfing and small scripts, but I believe they hurt bigger scripts/code.

$, is used as the default separator for Array#join (and Kernel#print), and I think it causes more harm than good:

- I believe many ruby codes would fail (different and unexpected output) when setting $, , because it means a simple ary.join is not deterministic: you need ary.join("") which is long and quite unexpected for a "default" behavior.
- The behavior would be much clearer (a simple method with a sensible default) and so the documentation.
- It's mostly unused, and except for trivial scripts it will just be complicated to manage as it impacts globally the output.

What do you think?

Related issues:
Related to Ruby master - Feature #14240: warn four special variables: $; $, $/ $\ added

Closed

History
#1 - 02/14/2012 09:15 AM - rogerdpack (Roger Pack)
+1 those are incomprehensible for beginners.

#2 - 02/14/2012 12:57 PM - trans (Thomas Sawyer)
Yes, but is is serious incompatibility and would have to wait for after 2.0, according to Matz' plans.

#3 - 02/14/2012 04:53 PM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)
It is some kind of incompatibility, but I think most code does not use $, at all, thus only some rare small scripts would be affected.

However, if this is unacceptable for compatibility, please change the target.

#4 - 02/14/2012 05:07 PM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)
- Status changed from Open to Rejected

As Thomas mentioned, Ruby 2.0 would not introduce serious incompatibility. Reopen in the future (3.0?).

matz.

#5 - 12/26/2017 09:15 PM - Eregon (Benoit Daloze)
- Related to Feature #14240: warn four special variables: $; $, $/ $\ added