Ruby master - Bug #6548
Rake doesn't ignore arguments after --
06/06/2012 02:46 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>Closed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priority:</td>
<td>Normal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignee:</td>
<td>drbrain (Eric Hodel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target version</td>
<td>2.0.0</td>
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**Description**
I've created this issue first in GitHub before I realized that Rake is now part of stdlib:

https://github.com/jimweirich/rake/issues/115

I'll copy it here:

rake some_task -- some_arg

Raises an error after running some_task:

Don't know how to build task some_arg.

**History**

#1 - 06/13/2012 02:36 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)
- Status changed from Open to Assigned
- Assignee set to drbrain (Eric Hodel)

I guess rake in stdlib is just a mirror, so it should be first fixed in GitHub.
Anyway I'm assigning this to drbrain because recently he often import the latest Rake maybe from GitHub.

--
Yusuke Endoh mame@tsg.ne.jp

#2 - 06/14/2012 08:15 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)
- Status changed from Assigned to Closed
- Target version changed from 1.9.3 to 2.0.0

Primary development happens on github, so I will close this issue.

I left a comment on the github issue.

#3 - 10/19/2012 02:49 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)
It seems Jim Weirich doesn't believe this is a bug actually. I'd like to open up this for further discussion on ruby-core list.

Matz, do you have any opinion about how rake should handle "--" in arguments list?

#4 - 10/19/2012 03:12 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)
With all due respect to matz, the final decision should be Jim's.

Jim wrote rake and rake has supported the current behavior for many years. Please respect Jim's decision.

#5 - 10/19/2012 03:24 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)
It is not a matter of respect. I do respect Jim's opinion, but this is how I see this.

Clearly this is not expected behavior for any script (in Unix, -- means that additional options should be ignored).

Now if rake was independent from Ruby distribution we should be done and I wouldn't argue about this decision here.
But it is part of stdlib, and as so, I think this should be a Ruby core developers decision.

I don't think it is reasonable to break expectations of how programs should work. I respect Jim's opinion and I'm grateful for all his work, but I just think we should discuss this decision further more. After all rake is bundled with Ruby, it is not just an isolated gem.

### #6 - 10/19/2012 04:09 AM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas) wrote:

> It is not a matter of respect. I do respect Jim's opinion, but this is how I see this.

> Clearly this is not expected behavior for any script (in Unix, -- means that additional options should be ignored).

More accurately, in most unix programs, "--" denotes that everything after is treated as an argument instead of an option.

For example "fgrep -n -i foo" searches standard input for foo with -n and -i options, while "fgrep -n -- -i foo" searches for -i in foo with -n option.

What this means for rake is that "rake -- --tasks" should treat "--tasks" as a target/task instead of an option. It doesn't appear to do that ("rake -- --tasks" appears to execute the default task), which may be an issue.

Considering rake is "ruby make", there is an argument to be made that it should operate like make:

```bash
$ make -n foo
make: don't know how to make foo
$ make -- -n foo
make: don't know how to make -n
```

Note that the standard unix "--" behavior is for options handling only, and is unrelated to your example "rake some_task -- some_arg", which doesn't contain options.

Now if rake was independent from Ruby distribution we should be done and I wouldn't argue about this decision here.

But it is part of stdlib, and as so, I think this should be a Ruby core developers decision.

I don't think it is reasonable to break expectations of how programs should work. I respect Jim's opinion and I'm grateful for all his work, but I just think we should discuss this decision further more. After all rake is bundled with Ruby, it is not just an isolated gem.

I agree with Eric that it should be Jim's decision, unless matz wants to fork rake.

### #7 - 10/19/2012 09:16 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)

Here is my use case. I've developed some gems for testing client-side code, including oojs. I've created an example on how to use it even for non-Ruby/Rails applications.

Then I created a task like "rake oojs:spec -- --name=shopping_cart"

https://github.com/rosenfeld/oojs_assets_enabler

In the original oojs gem, there is actually a generator for it:

https://github.com/rosenfeld/oojs

```bash
rails g oojs:spec shopping_cart
```

For non-Ruby projects, I'd like to be able to do something similar using rake, but I would like to be able to call it like:

```bash
rake oojs:spec -- shopping_cart
```

But this is not possible. What is the expected way to provide some arguments to a rake task not using options?

### #8 - 10/19/2012 09:25 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

Use rake task arguments:


See also:

http://lmgtfy.com/?q=rake+task+arguments

### #9 - 10/19/2012 10:12 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)

Great! Thank you so much, Eric! I'll give it a try as soon as I find some time to work on this again.
Actually, the post Eric refers to is a bit out of date. Look for the section "Tasks with Arguments" in the Rakefile writeup on GitHub:

Thanks for pointing me out to the documentation, Jim, but just knowing about this feature existence was enough for me to get it working yesterday night:

https://github.com/rosenfeld/kojo_assets_enabler/commit/a38f67278821a4d7cc1e9c7564d4afa5186c81ef
https://github.com/rosenfeld/grails-oojs/commit/cf35e3f90c1f083582b84f8f9b116c7b1e02daaa

I'll be talking about oojs and oojspec tomorrow on Rock'n Rails so I thought it would be better if I fixed this soon :) 
http://www.rockandrails.com.br/

Thank you very much Jim and Eric for all your support. And thanks Jeremy, not only with regards to your excelent Sequel gem which I use everyday, but also for better explaining the expected behavior of "--" in Unix programs :) 

P.S: Sorry for posting this as an e-mail reply but Redmine was giving me a 500 error when I tried to update the issue there.

Em 19-10-2012 00:18, jimweirich (Jim Weirich) escreveu:

Actually, the post Eric refers to is a bit out of date. Look for the section "Tasks with Arguments" in the Rakefile writeup on GitHub:

Bug #6548: Rake doesn't ignore arguments after --
https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/6548#change-31035

Author: rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)
Status: Closed
Priority: Normal
Assignee: drbrain (Eric Hodel)
Category: lib
Target version: 2.0.0
ruby -v: ruby 1.9.3p125 (2012-02-16 revision 34643) [x86_64-linux]

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