

Ruby trunk - Feature #7359

#eql? and #equal? naming

11/15/2012 10:00 PM - aef (Alexander E. Fischer)

Status:	Rejected	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:	matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)	
Target version:	Next Major	
Description		
<p>In my opinion the difference between <code>@#eql?@</code> and <code>@#equal?@</code> is really unintuitive. How about making their difference more obvious by giving one of them a more accurate name?</p> <p>My proposal is to rename <code>@#equal?@</code> to <code>@#identic?@</code>.</p> <p>If you deprecate <code>#equal?</code> at the same time, maybe in the far future it can have a comeback as an alias for <code>#eql?</code> to make those people happy who dislike to use abbreviations just to reduce the character count by two and simultaneously making it harder to read in a classical sense.</p> <p>If you like it, let me know. Then I will provide a patch.</p>		

History

#1 - 11/16/2012 07:31 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Status changed from Open to Rejected

Making them little more intuitive does not worth breaking millions of existing programs.

Matz.

#2 - 11/16/2012 09:29 AM - trans (Thomas Sawyer)

"Making them little more intuitive does not worth breaking millions of existing programs."

That's true, but why does it have to be one or the other? Just,

```
alias identical? equal?
```

And let that be for a year or two while getting word out to people they should start to use `#identical?` instead of `#equal?` for future. After a year or two of that, add a warning to `#equal?`. And let that be for another couple of years. Only after that, in a new major version, e.g. Ruby 2.2, 2.3 or Ruby 3.0 or whatever, would `#equal?` actually change. Plenty of time for an orderly managed transition.

It may seem minor, but little things add up. Why reject what is clearly an improvement just b/c it requires a managed transition?