Ruby master - Bug #7773
Calling send("attribute=", value) returns nil instead of value
02/03/2013 05:41 PM - gaffneyc (Chris Gaffney)

Status: Closed
Priority: Normal
Assignee: nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)
Target version: 2.0.0
ruby -v: 2.0.0-rc1

Description
When calling an attribute writer created using either attr_accessor or attr_writer via send nil is returned from the send call instead of the new value.

I've attached a test case that is failing on current head (51794) and 2.0.0-rc1. I've done a git bisect and it looks like commit 37228 (db1e99cd) is the first offending commit.

I've been able to reproduce on OS X 10.8 and Ubuntu 12.04.

Associated revisions
Revision 6851ad47 - 02/06/2013 05:31 PM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)

- vm_insnhelper.c: attr_writer should return its argument [Bug #7773]
- test/ruby/test_basicinstructions.rb: Test for above

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@39121 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

Revision 39121 - 02/06/2013 05:31 PM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)

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History

#1 - 02/06/2013 09:59 PM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)
- Status changed from Open to Feedback

Why do you consider it a bug?

#2 - 02/07/2013 12:06 AM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)
- Category set to core
- Status changed from Feedback to Open
- Target version set to 2.0.0

nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada) wrote:

Why do you consider it a bug?

I don't know about Chris, but here is why I consider it a bug:

• returning nil is less useful than value
• it is less intuitive too (to me)
• it is a change of behavior (possibly breaking some existing code)
• this change of behavior was never announced, discussed or approved AFAIK
• the referred commit has no stated or implied intention to change this
• the referred commit has no test to that effect

What I wonder is: why do you consider it could possibly be a feature?

#3 - 02/07/2013 01:01 AM - gaffneyc (Chris Gaffney)

I consider it a bug because the behavior only happens using send. If I were to call bar= directly (see below) it returns the value that was set.

class Foo
attr_writer :bar
end

Foo.new.bar = "test" # => "test"

Should send behave differently than sending the message directly?

#4 - 02/07/2013 01:13 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)
gaffneyc (Chris Gaffney) wrote:

I consider it a bug because the behavior only happens using send.

Actually, it is not a bug itself. An assignment-like method call always returns its right value rather than the return value from the method. The following code shows the difference:

```ruby
class Foo
def foo=(x)
  "foo"
end
end
x = Foo.new
p(x.foo = 42) #=> 42
p(x.send(:foo=, 42)) #=> "foo"
```

However, as MarcAndre said, a method defined by attr_accessor used to return its argument, at least in ruby 1.9.3p194. There seems to be a regression. Nobu, could you investigate it?

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Yusuke Endoh mame@tsg.ne.jp

#5 - 02/07/2013 02:31 AM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)
- Status changed from Assigned to Closed
- % Done changed from 0 to 100

This issue was solved with changeset r39121. Chris, thank you for reporting this issue. Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated. May Ruby be with you.

- vm_insnhelper.c: attr_writer should return its argument [Bug #7773]
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#6 - 02/07/2013 02:33 AM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)
I meant to assign it to myself... in any case, it's fixed with r39121.

Files

| send_test.rb | 280 Bytes | 02/03/2013 | gaffneyc (Chris Gaffney) |