

Ruby master - Feature #8494

Safe method for defensive copies. alternative to 'dup'

06/05/2013 04:26 PM - ellipsoid (Andrew Northrop)

Status:	Open	
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Target version:		
Description		
<p>As a developer I want a simple method that will return a "safe" version of my object So I can make defensive copies easily and safely</p> <p>This is related to issue 1844: http://www.ruby-forum.com/topic/3650325</p> <p>I have tried using 'dup' to make defensive copies, but 'dup' throws an exception when used on a Fixnum and the like, because these values aren't copyable.</p> <p>I tried to throw a "respond_to?" around the call, but that didn't work, since these classes still technically respond to 'dup'.</p> <p>It looks like there's an extension method to do this (http://ruby-doc.org/gems/docs/c/core_ex-0.6.6.3/CoreEx/TryDup.html), but I don't see why this isn't in the core language. It seems like a common enough use case.</p> <p>As far as naming, 'dup' is really just the means to an end. A more meaningful name would be something like 'defensive', or 'safe'. Although 'try_dup' like the extension method would also work.</p> <p>Any chance of something like this making it in to Ruby core?</p>		