

Ruby - Bug #14500

Missing Regexp documentation and clarification on behavior of \K for edge case

02/21/2018 05:07 AM - Sundeep (Sundeep Agarwal)

Status:	Closed	Backport: 2.6: UNKNOWN, 2.7: UNKNOWN, 3.0: UNKNOWN
Priority:	Normal	
Assignee:		
Target version:		
ruby -v:		
Description		
Capturing section (https://ruby-doc.org/core-2.5.0/Regexp.html#class-Regexp-label-Capturing)		
• formatting issue: nth • suggestion to add a note on \0 similar to the note mentioned in Special global variables (https://ruby-doc.org/core-2.5.0/Regexp.html#class-Regexp-label-Special+global+variables) section about \$& • suggestion to add that numbered capturing groups is limited to 9		
Anchors section (https://ruby-doc.org/core-2.5.0/Regexp.html#class-Regexp-label-Anchors)		
• suggestion to add documentation on \K • need clarification if the below behavior seen is expected and mention it while adding documentation		
<pre>\$ echo 'aaa' ruby -pe 'gsub(/a\K/, ":")' a:aa:</pre>		
<pre>\$ # what I expected \$ echo 'aaa' ruby -pe 'gsub(/(a)/, "\\1:")' a:a:a:</pre>		

Associated revisions

Revision 4fc9ddd7b6af54abf88d702c2e11e97ca7750ce3 - 07/27/2021 07:30 PM - jeremyevans (Jeremy Evans)

Update Capturing and Anchors sections of regexp documentation

Document that only first 9 numbered capture groups can use the \n backreference syntax. Document \0 backreference. Document \K anchor.

Fixes [Bug #14500]

Revision 4fc9ddd7b6af54abf88d702c2e11e97ca7750ce3 - 07/27/2021 07:30 PM - jeremyevans (Jeremy Evans)

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Revision 4fc9ddd7 - 07/27/2021 07:30 PM - jeremyevans (Jeremy Evans)

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Fixes [Bug #14500]

History

#1 - 02/24/2018 01:30 AM - znz (Kazuhiro NISHIYAMA)

Sundeep (Sundeep Agarwal) wrote:

- suggestion to add that numbered capturing groups is limited to 9

```

irb -r irb/completion --simple-prompt
>> / () () () () () () () (a) / =~ "a"
=> 0
>> $!0
=> "a"

```

oh, I didn't check with \$10. I'd tried with backreference. Any idea how to use \10?

```
$ echo 'abcdefghij' | ruby -pe 'sub(/(.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) ./, "\9:")'  
:i:  
$ echo 'abcdefghij' | ruby -pe 'sub(/(.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) ./, "\10:")'  
:a0:  
$ echo 'abcdefghij' | ruby -pe 'sub(/(.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) (.) ./) {"#\${10}:"}'  
:j:
```

- Tracker changed from Misc to Bug
- Backport set to 2.6: UNKNOWN, 2.7: UNKNOWN, 3.0: UNKNOWN

Sundeep (Sundeep Agarwal) wrote:

- suggestion to add documentation on $\backslash K$
- need clarification if the below behavior seen is expected and mention it while adding documentation

```
$ echo 'aaa' | ruby -pe 'gsub(/aK/, ":")'
a:aa:

$ # what I expected
$ echo 'aaa' | ruby -pe 'gsub(/(a)/, "\\1:")'
a:a:a:
```

I agree about the other documentation issues, and I'll push a commit shortly to address them.

- Status changed from Open to Closed

Applied in changeset [git/4fc9ddd7b6af54abf88d702c2e11e97ca7750ce3](#).

Document that only first 9 numbered capture groups can use the \n backreference syntax. Document \0 backreference. Document \K anchor.

05/30/2025