Ruby - Feature #18490

MakeMakefile.pkg_config should accept multiple options

01/14/2022 02:52 PM - mdalessio (Mike Dalessio)

Status:	Closed
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)
Target version:	

Description

Summary

When building static libraries it is sometimes necessary to pass multiple flags to pkg-config. Currently, MakeMakefile.pkg_config does not allow this.

A PR has been submitted at https://github.com/ruby/ruby/pull/5436

Real-world example

One example of this is the libmagic library which is wrapped by the ruby-magic gem. The ruby-magic gem's extconf.rb needs to pass two options to pkg-config, so that the command executed should be:

```
pkg-config --libs --static libmagic
```

(Note that passing only --libs then only --static and merging the results is not sufficient; both must be passed on the same invocation.)

MakeMakefile.pkg_config only supports passing **one** option to pkg-config today.

Historical context

Prior to Ruby 3.1.0, it was possible to work around this limitation by crafting an options string like so:

```
pkg_config('libmagic', 'libs --static')
```

The option parameter would be interpolated into the command template as variable opt:

```
"#{$PKGCONFIG} --#{opt} #{pkg}
```

resulting in the desired command string of pkg-config --libs --static libmagic.

However, with commit https://github.com/ruby/ruby/commit/dff8d12 this hack stopped working because the underlying ruby code is now:

```
xpopen([*envs, $PKGCONFIG, "--#{opt}", pkg], err:[:child, :out], &:read)
```

which results in pkg-config returning an error:

```
"Unknown option --libs --static\n"
```

History

#1 - 01/17/2022 01:53 PM - mdalessio (Mike Dalessio)

Pinging @nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada) for feedback as he is the primary maintainer of mkmf

#2 - 01/18/2022 04:38 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

Thank you for the report and patch.
It seems fine.
Could you split adding tests of existing methods from the new feature?

#3 - 01/18/2022 02:50 PM - mdalessio (Mike Dalessio)

Thank you for taking the time to review. I've split the commit as you requested:

https://github.com/ruby/ruby/pull/5436/commits

#4 - 01/25/2022 02:15 AM - mdalessio (Mike Dalessio)

[@nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)](), I wanted to check if there was any other feedback on this feature? Thank you again for your time.

#5 - 01/29/2022 03:01 AM - matz (Yukihiro Matsumoto)

- Assignee set to nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

Accepted.

Matz.

#6 - 02/15/2022 07:30 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)

- Status changed from Open to Closed