

## Ruby - Bug #10518

### String "delete" method does not remove some characters from input string

11/16/2014 11:39 AM - sergio.gallelli (Sergio Gallelli)

<b>Status:</b>	Rejected	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	
<b>Assignee:</b>		
<b>Target version:</b>		
<b>ruby -v:</b>	ruby 2.1.4p265 (2014-10-27 revision 48166) [i386-mingw32]	<b>Backport:</b> 2.0.0: UNKNOWN, 2.1: UNKNOWN
<b>Description</b> <p>This bug affects all Ruby versions I tried, i.e. 2.0.0 and 2.1.4 on Windows and 2.1.5 on Linux. In some cases the String "delete" method does not remove all the characters from the input string I ask for removal. The problem seems to depend on the string passed as argument to the delete method and on the order of its characters. Please take a look at the simple "irb" dump below:</p> <pre>irb(main):001:0&gt; str = 'A-B' =&gt; "A-B" irb(main):002:0&gt; str.delete ' -#' =&gt; "A-B" irb(main):003:0&gt; str.delete ' #-' =&gt; "AB"</pre> <p>If I try to remove the dash from string 'A-B' passing ' -#' to the delete method, it does not work. If I change the order of the characters passed to the delete method, the result is correct. The attached Ruby program shows the above problem.</p>		

#### History

##### #1 - 11/16/2014 12:18 PM - Hanmac (Hans Mackowiak)

need to escape the -

```
irb(main):001:0> str = 'A-B'
=> "A-B"
irb(main):002:0> str.delete ' \-#'
=> "AB"
```

because with ' -#' i think you cant to remove from " " to "#"

##### #2 - 11/16/2014 12:18 PM - normalperson (Eric Wong)

[sergio.gallelli@gmail.com](mailto:sergio.gallelli@gmail.com) wrote:

```
irb(main):001:0> str = 'A-B'
=> "A-B"
irb(main):002:0> str.delete ' -#'
=> "A-B"
```

' -#' is interpreted as: range of characters from ' ' (space) to '#'.  
See String#count documentation

I suppose it is weird and surprising behavior, but I doubt it can change for compatibility. I would normally use String#tr if I wanted a range.

##### #3 - 11/16/2014 12:20 PM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)

I looked at the String#count documentation:

<http://www.ruby-doc.org/core-2.1.4/String.html#method-i-count>

Allow me to copy paste from it:

"Each other\_str parameter defines a set of characters to count. The intersection of these sets defines the characters to count in str. Any other\_str that starts with a caret ^ is negated. The sequence c1-c2 means all characters between c1 and c2. The backslash character can be used to escape ^ or - and is otherwise ignored unless it appears at the end of a sequence or the end of a other\_str."

Firstly, why are the strange code tags there?

Secondly - this is not made very clear to me IMHO that the - character is treated in a special way.

Perhaps the documentation can be made more clear in this regard.

**#4 - 11/16/2014 12:21 PM - shevegen (Robert A. Heiler)**

Aha, the code tags do not appear here on bugs.ruby-lang.org, but if you click on the link above at:

<http://www.ruby-doc.org/core-2.1.4/String.html#method-i-count>

then you can see them.

**#5 - 11/16/2014 12:39 PM - sergio.gallelli (Sergio Gallelli)**

Sorry, I did not realize the dash character stays for range and, as such, must be escaped. This is probably convenient in some cases, however it might be "dangerous" in other circumstances. Anyway, this is the way Ruby works, so I think this call can be closed.

Thanks.

**#6 - 02/06/2015 02:39 AM - shugo (Shugo Maeda)**

- Status changed from Open to Closed

**#7 - 02/06/2015 02:51 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)**

- Status changed from Closed to Rejected

Files			
str_delete_bug.rb	59 Bytes	11/16/2014	sergio.gallelli (Sergio Gallelli)