

Mar 26

Ruby-bbcode-to-md removes [[and [

TangentialDuck neounix

6h

Hello.

Using [GitHub - nialonde/ruby-bbcode-to-md: Convert BBCode to Markdown](#). in migration processing we found:

```
[[ $string2 =~ ROS[0-9]+$ ]] && echo OK || echo NOK
```

returns

```
$string2 =~ ROS[0-9]+$ ]] && echo OK || echo NOK
```

stripping away [[

Best regards,

Neo (Tim)

Note: We checked the preprocessing method and it works fine in the migration script; and so we assumed the bug was in ruby-bbcode-to-md because that is the only method which we found which processes the raw text after ``preprocessing(and all if find coming out ofpreprocessing``).

6 / 15
Mar 26

18m ago



We are not Ruby experts and decided to post this bug report.

Edited...

Mar 26

6 / 15

Mar 26

TangentialDuck neounix

6h

Also, I don't actually understand the reason meta team member [@techAPJ](#) moved our bug report to support. Is there a reason for this?

  **techapj** 25 mins —  bug →  support

I followed the exact format of a similar bug report in the same plugin, here:

Ruby-bbcode-to-markdown removes https

Hello. Using [GitHub - nlalonde/ruby-bbcode-to-md: Convert BBCode to Markdown](#). like "[youtube]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COvnHv42T-A[/youtube]".bbcode_to_md it returns "http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COvnHv42T-A" stripping away the https. Ryan

Things have changed since 2016 and these issues that were bugs in 2016, now in 2020 they are not bugs but are support questions?

Thanks for your help

18m ago



Arpit Jalan techAPJ team

6h

I moved this topic to [#support](#) because this is not something that affects Discourse directly. See this post in the topic you linked:

Ruby-bbcode-to-markdown removes https

I think you are mistaken. That Howto doesn't recommend using `bbcode_to_md`. Well, it doesn't discourage its usage either, but at least it's off by default. 🙄 And does it affect Discourse itself? No, only the import scripts that are using that gem.

TangentialDuck neounix

5h

As I understand now, all issues with `plugins` should be posted in support.

I did a lot of searching before posting this bug report. Sorry, but I did not read that anywhere (plugin bugs do not go in bugs). Is that posted somewhere?

In addition, I carefully studied this very similar bug report on the same plugin, and it was not moved to support and remains in bug. You can see why anyone would be confused, I am sure.

A bug almost identical to a bug in the same plugin in the bug category is not a bug.

I will have to become smarter here at meta ... 😊

Mar 26

6 / 15
Mar 26

18m ago



Arpit Jalan techAPJ team

5h

Note that [ruby-bbcode-to-md](#) is not a Discourse plugin. It's a Ruby gem that can be used while performing an import.

TangentialDuck neounix

5h

techAPJ:

Note that [ruby-bbcode-to-md](#) is not a Discourse plugin. It's a Ruby gem that can be used while performing an import.

Then it is more-than-likely a good idea to move the bug report I referenced to support so others who diligently search the site, following in the footsteps of those great giants before us, can post in the right category.

Feel free to move the 2016 bug post on a Ruby gem to support and that will help others post in the right category.

TangentialDuck neounix

4h

Confirmed bug in ruby-bbcode-to-md

```
cat test.rb
```

Mar 26

6 / 15
Mar 26

18m ago



```
require 'ruby-bbcode-to-md'
hello = "[[ $string2 =~ ROS[0-9]+$ ]] && echo OK || echo NOK".bbcode_to_md
puts hello
```

```
ruby test.rb
$string2 =~ ROS[0-9]+$ ]] && echo OK || echo NOK
```

Mar 26

6 / 15

Mar 26

TangentialDuck neounix

2h

As our team as pointed out, it's more buggy than [[

```
$ cat test.rb
require 'ruby-bbcode-to-md'
hello = 'for key in "${!aa[@]}"'.bbcode_to_md
puts hello
```

```
$ ruby test.rb
for key in &quot;${!aa@}&quot;;
```

ruby-bbcode-to-md is a black hole for left square brackets in a code fragment.

18m ago



TangentialDuck neounix

1h

Let's try it another way, escaping:

```
$ cat test.rb
require 'ruby-bbcode-to-md'
hello = "for key in \"${!aa[@]}\".bbcode_to_md
puts hello
```

```
$ ruby test.rb
for key in &quot;${!aa[@]}&quot;;
```

It's ruby-bbcode-to-md the "code mangler". ! :). Run for the hills !

This is a real world example, we are not just making this up:

Mar 26

6 / 15

Mar 26

18m ago



Code:

```
#!/bin/bash
# bash 4+ or ksh 93+ required

input=test.txt

# aa[] is an associative (string-indexed) array
typeset -A aa
#declare -A aa # is bash-only

# loop through the key/value file, store in aa[]
while IFS="=" read key value
do
    aa[$key]=$value
done < bbb.txt

# loop through the target file, do not split on whitespace
while IFS= read line
do
    # for each $line
    # loop through the array(-indices)
    for key in "${!aa[@]}"
    do
        # get the corresponding value
        value=${aa[$key]}
        # do the substitutions $key -> $value
        line=${line//$key/$value}
    done
    # printf is more robust than echo
    printf "%s\n" "$line"
done < $input
```

That gem is quite the mangler, there padre 😊😊

. (my poor attempt at humor... LOL)

Neil Lalonde neil team

1h

Agreed it looks like that gem isn't good on content that includes code snippets. The last time I touched it was 2016, and I'm not sure if it's being used during migrations since then.

Mar 26

6 / 15

Mar 26

18m ago



If all the code in the source data is inside code blocks, then it may be possible to improve the gem to ignore everything inside.

TangentialDuck **neounix**

1h

Yep, there is no doubt... ruby-bbcode-to-md is quite a code mangler...

Well, you cannot blame the authors for trying :). At least they tried to write a bbcode to md parser



Neil Lalonde **neil** **team**

39m

From your direct PMs to me, I think the problem is that you were not expecting to be using this gem, and I agree that it shouldn't be enabled by default.

I can see some importers like `bulk_import/phpbb_postgresql.rb` are using it by default, which seems wrong. The best approach is to require **a command line argument to enable it**.

```
def use_bbcode_to_md?  
  ARGV.include?("bbcode-to-md")  
end
```

We should use that everywhere.

Mar 26

6 / 15

Mar 26

18m ago



TangentialDuck neounix

34m

neil:

From your direct PMs to me, I think the problem is that you were not expecting to be using this gem, and I agree that it shouldn't be enabled by default.

No Sir.

I never mentioned in PM what we were not expecting to use this gem.

Almost all the migration docs on discourse discuss using this plugin, the importance of it, and the docs shows plenty of `app.yml` examples of this with no warning the code is not supported or a potential code mangler. There was never any indication this was some obsolete code abandoned years ago. It is right there in `base.rb` on most all migrations. We had no idea this gem was a mangler.

UNIX.COM has a huge knowledge base of code, over nearly two decades, especially shell scripts, and of course there is a lot of bbcode and of certainly our team expected the bbcode-to-md plugin to work as advertised.

This hand washing of the ruby-bbcode-to-md gem is unexpected, frankly. But is OK. Now we know, our entire migration is mangled and we have a lot of work to do to decide how to proceed with all this mangled code.

Our guys who wrote all this great code and made all of these strong contributions to the global unix and linux community for years will never accept their code is mangled in migration. I would never ask them to accept it either. I have too much respect for them, all of them.

It's not a big deal... but now we know... this gem is a code mangler.

At least we can show some humor:

ruby-bbcode-to-md the red nosed mangler... sung to the tune of all of our favorite Christmas song.

Mar 26

6 / 15

Mar 26

18m ago





1 Minute Ago # 9

Neo
Administrator

18,977, 3,263

Update:

It turns out the plugin recommended by the discourse community, `ruby-bbcode-to-md` is basically garbage, and completely mangles `code` in migration.

I want to thank MadeInGermany for finding that bug. It's serious and it's ugly.

The code, as migrated, is unacceptable.

Now, we have to figure out what we are going to do about it.

Personally, I need to sleep on it as I am not a happy camper at the moment.

Mar 26

6 / 15
Mar 26

18m ago

Neil Lalonde neil team

18m

Ok clearly I can't parse the information out of your jokes. I'll stop.

CLOSED 18 MINS AGO

Mar 26

6 / 15
Mar 26

18m ago

