

- Deprecate preserving the pre-Ruby 2.4 behavior of `to_time`

With Ruby 2.4+ the default for `to_time` changed from converting to the local system time to preserving the offset of the receiver. At the time Rails supported older versions of Ruby so a compatibility layer was added to assist in the migration process. From Rails 5.0 new applications have defaulted to the Ruby 2.4+ behavior and since Rails 7.0 now only supports Ruby 2.7+ this compatibility layer can be safely removed.

To minimize any noise generated the deprecation warning only appears when the setting is configured to `false` as that is the only scenario where the removal of the compatibility layer has any effect.

*Andrew White*

- `Pathname.blank?` only returns true for `Pathname.new("")`

Previously it would end up calling `Pathname#empty?` which returned true if the path existed and was an empty directory or file.

That behavior was unlikely to be expected.

*Jean Boussier*

- Deprecate `Notification::Event`'s `#children` and `#parent_of?`
- Change default serialization format of `MessageEncryptor` from `Marshal` to `JSON` for Rails 7.1.

Existing apps are provided with an upgrade path to migrate to `JSON` as described in `guides/source/upgrading_ruby_on_rails.md`

*Zack Deveau and Martin Gingras*

- Add `ActiveSupport::TestCase#stub_const` to stub a constant for the duration of a yield.

*DHH*

- Fix `ActiveSupport::EncryptedConfiguration` to be compatible with Psych 4

*Stephen Sugden*

- Improve `File.atomic_write` error handling
- Fix `Class#descendants` and `DescendantsTracker#descendants` compatibility with Ruby 3.1.

[The native `Class#descendants` was reverted prior to Ruby 3.1 release](#) but `Class#subclasses` was kept, breaking the feature detection.

*Jean Boussier*

Please check [7-0-stable](#) for previous changes.