

# January TC39 @@toStringTag discussion

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Jordan Harband edited this page on Jan 7, 2015 · 2 revisions

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### Items to discuss:

- An easy one: in <https://people.mozilla.org/~jorendorff/es6-draft.html#sec-object.prototype.toString> step 17b, the list of pre-ES6 `Object.prototype.toString` values seems to be missing `Math`, `JSON`, and `Object`. [Spec bug](#)
- Should built-in @@toStringTag values have `{ configurable: false }`? If a user wants an instance of a thing with a custom @@toStringTag, they can subclass it via `class` or `Object.create`, and override @@toStringTag to whatever they like. If someone overrides @@toStringTag for a realm's `Array`, for example, then any `Array.isArray` method implemented in terms of an `Object.prototype.toString` call (the universal method of doing so in userland code) will break for that realm's `Array`s. This is a dangerous thing to allow. `Symbol.toStringTag` is nonconfigurable, presumably because it's a well-known value that needs to be relied upon - why is `ljharb@gmail.com.toStringTag` any different for builtins? See <https://esdiscuss.org/topic/configurability-of-tostringtag-for-built-ins> for some discussion.
- Should `Object.prototype.toString` add a prefix to *all* non-built-in @@toStringTag values? Currently, <https://people.mozilla.org/~jorendorff/es6-draft.html#sec-object.prototype.toString> specifies that for a predefined list of values (which happen to be the default @@toStringTag values for pre-ES6 builtins), any custom @@toStringTag value should have a "" prefix added. The note also says "It does not provide a reliable type testing mechanism for other kinds of built-in or program defined objects.". *Proposal:* We could simplify the spec here, as well as userland code that needs to inconsistently check for the ~ prefix, as well as remove the limitation (that it can not be a reliable type testing mechanism for other kinds of built-in ... objects), by changing this logic to simply *always* add a "" prefix whenever a user-supplied @@toStringTag is provided.

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