

Ruby master - Misc #10783

String#concat has an "appending" behavior

01/26/2015 10:05 AM - as-cii (Antonio Scandurra)

Status:	Open
Priority:	Normal
Assignee:	
Description	
Ruby String documentation (http://www.ruby-doc.org/core-2.2.0/String.html) introduces the two terms Appending and Concatenation :	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concatenation (aka +) —Returns a new String containing other_str concatenated to str.• Append (aka <<) —Concatenates the given object to str.	
However, calling concat results in an appending operation. I find this particularly confusing and against the Principle of Least Surprise (e.g. I'd expect concat to actually concatenate something). On the other hand I understand that changing such a small method would result in a quite significant breaking change.	
Do you see this as an inconsistency? If yes, is there any particular design (or historical) reason behind it?	
Thank you.	
P.s. Seems like this is the case for Array as well.	

History

#1 - 01/26/2015 04:39 PM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

I can't find the place in the documentation that says "Concatenation (aka +)". Is this your own claim? If so, then that is not correct.

#2 - 01/26/2015 06:20 PM - as-cii (Antonio Scandurra)

Tsuyoshi Sawada wrote:

I can't find the place in the documentation that says "Concatenation (aka +)". Is this your own claim? If so, then that is not incorrect.

I'll copy over the relevant excerpts.

```
str + other_str → new_str
Concatenation—Returns a new String containing other_str concatenated to str.
```

```
str << integer → str
str << obj → str
Append—Concatenates the given object to str. If the object is a Integer, it is considered as a codepoint, and is converted to a character before concatenation.
```

But then concat is defined as:

```
concat(integer) → str
concat(obj) → str
Append—Concatenates the given object to str. If the object is a Integer, it is considered as a codepoint, and is converted to a character before concatenation.
```

I summarized what I had read in the documentation, therefore it was not an exact quote.

#3 - 01/26/2015 08:15 PM - sawa (Tsuyoshi Sawada)

I see. You are assimilating the ordinary word "concatenation" with the Ruby method name concat. They are different. But I agree that the documentation is misleading. It should avoid such confusing wording.

#4 - 08/08/2018 03:08 AM - ioquatix (Samuel Williams)

I also agree that this is confusing, and the only way to fix it would really be to rename concat to append. There is a proposal for something like this here: <https://bugs.ruby-lang.org/issues/14033>