

## Ruby master - Feature #6265

### Remove 'useless' 'concatenation' syntax

04/06/2012 09:53 PM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)

<b>Status:</b>	Assigned
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal
<b>Assignee:</b>	naruse (Yui NARUSE)
<b>Target version:</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
What is wrong with this code:	
<code>some_method 'argument1', 'argument2' 'argument3'</code>	
Yes, the missing colon, but it is not always easy to notice that...	
What is this ('concatenation' 'syntax') useful for?	
Why writing ('some ' 'concatenation') instead of 'some concatenation'?	
A missing colon between string arguments can lead to some bugs that may be hard to find, specially if the arguments are optional.	
And I can't see any useful case where this allowed syntax for concatenation would help.	

#### Associated revisions

##### Revision 4a309b76 - 10/25/2012 04:22 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

- parse.y: show a warning for concatenating string literals because it will be deprecated in the future. patched by mame (Yusuke Endoh) at [ruby-core:44207]. [ruby-core:44156] [Feature #6265]

git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@37317 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

##### Revision 37317 - 10/25/2012 04:22 AM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)

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**Revision c6629c48 - 10/25/2012 11:50 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

Revert r37316

The commit introduces too many failures and disturbs release engineering.  
Re-commit it with fixed tests.

Thu Oct 25 13:09:01 2012 NAKAMURA Usaku [usa@ruby-lang.org](mailto:usa@ruby-lang.org)

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git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@37327 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

**Revision 37327 - 10/25/2012 11:50 AM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

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#### Revision 80ba379c - 12/06/2012 05:26 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

- lib/rubygems/command\_manager.rb: Removed string concatenation syntax. [Bug #6265]
- lib/rubygems/commands/install\_command.rb: ditto
- lib/rubygems/commands/uninstall\_command.rb: ditto
- lib/rubygems/indexer.rb: ditto
- lib/rubygems/security/policy.rb: ditto
- lib/rubygems/security.rb: ditto
- lib/rubygems/uninstaller.rb: ditto
- test/rubygems/test\_gem\_commands\_cert\_command.rb: ditto
- test/rubygems/test\_gem\_package.rb: ditto
- test/rubygems/test\_gem\_security.rb: ditto
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git-svn-id: svn+ssh://ci.ruby-lang.org/ruby/trunk@38230 b2dd03c8-39d4-4d8f-98ff-823fe69b080e

#### Revision 38230 - 12/06/2012 05:26 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)

- lib/rubygems/command\_manager.rb: Removed string concatenation syntax. [Bug #6265]
- lib/rubygems/commands/install\_command.rb: ditto
- lib/rubygems/commands/uninstall\_command.rb: ditto
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**History**

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**#1 - 04/06/2012 11:23 PM - now (Nikolai Weibull)**

On Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 14:53, rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas) [rr.rosas@gmail.com](mailto:rr.rosas@gmail.com) wrote:

What is this ('concatenation' 'syntax') useful for?

```
raise ArgumentError,
'they are useful for long strings that are so long that they need '\
to span multiple lines to fit within a reasonable line width'
```

**#2 - 04/06/2012 11:52 PM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)**

- Target version changed from 3.0 to 2.0.0

Hi,

now (Nikolai Weibull) wrote:

On Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 14:53, rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas) [rr.rosas@gmail.com](mailto:rr.rosas@gmail.com) wrote:

What is this ('concatenation' 'syntax') useful for?

```
raise ArgumentError,
'they are useful for long strings that are so long that they need '\
'to span multiple lines to fit within a reasonable line width'
```

In this example, replacing the "\" with a "+" will give basically the same result without using the concatenation rule.

Are there valid use cases where two strings are concatenated on the same line? I think that's really what the request is all about, i.e. forbid that kind of concatenation for two strings on the same line.

### #3 - 04/07/2012 12:00 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

- Status changed from Open to Assigned
- Target version changed from 2.0.0 to 3.0

```
msg = 'put "\n" here -> ' "\n"
```

I found an actual example in lib/mkrmf.rb:

```
hdr = [#include "ruby.h" "\n"]
```

Anyway, 2.0 should remain all existing features unless there is a good reason.

--

Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp)

### #4 - 04/07/2012 12:03 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)

I found an actual example in lib/mkrmf.rb:

```
hdr = [#include "ruby.h" "\n"]
```

Wouldn't this read better this way?

```
hdr = [%Q{#include "ruby.h"\n}]
```

### #5 - 04/07/2012 01:47 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)

I don't think the current code in mkrmf.rb is good.  
I just meant that the syntax is actually used and thus we cannot remove it from 2.0.  
I'm not against this proposal in the future.

```
$ cat concat_quine.rb
eval$s="s='eval$s='+$s.split.join.dump;('%0382b'%(('40i3tgbj1q4n'+
'" "n3" "t7" "1py" "1ur" "h" "+"
'" "xtb74az" "4" "ym" "2" "03" "fx542i6" "e" "udoj" ').#
t" "o_i(36)" "<" "<7" "0" ")") ".gsub(/" "0" "(?=1" ")|xx
|" "1(=?=0)/" ") " {$" "&" "<<" "34}.tr(" "'1'," "'<<
3" "2)" ".g" "s" "ub" ("(" "0" ")");";s.
slice!(0,1)}.scan(/.{66}/){puts$&}#_CONCAT_QUINE_(c)_Y.Endoh_2012"
```

```
$ ruby concat_quine.rb
eval$s="s='eval$s='+$s.split.join.dump;('%0382b'%(('40i3tgbj1q4n'+
'" "n3" "t7" "1py" "1ur" "h" "+"
'" "xtb74az" "4" "ym" "2" "03" "fx542i6" "e" "udoj" ').#
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|" "1(=?=0)/" ") " {$" "&" "<<" "34}.tr(" "'1'," "'<<
3" "2)" ".g" "s" "ub" ("(" "0" ")");";s.
slice!(0,1)}.scan(/.{66}/){puts$&}#_CONCAT_QUINE_(c)_Y.Endoh_2012"
```

### #6 - 04/07/2012 05:29 AM - now (Nikolai Weibull)

On Fri, Apr 6, 2012 at 16:52, marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)

[ruby-core@marc-andre.ca](mailto:ruby-core@marc-andre.ca) wrote:

> What is this ('concatenation' 'syntax') useful for?

```
raise ArgumentError,
  'they are useful for long strings that are so long that they need \'
  'to span multiple lines to fit within a reasonable line width'
```

In this example, replacing the "\" with a "+" will give basically the same result without using the concatenation rule.

The "basically the same" being that the first happens at compile time and the second at run time, for anyone wondering.

**#7 - 04/07/2012 11:14 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Yusuke, am I supposed to understand what you meant with the code in your last comment? If so, I didn't get it...

Nikolai, good point, I haven't thought about this before and I wasn't wondering :)

But do you really think that this could have some meaningful impact in the performance of replacing \" with '+'?

**#8 - 04/09/2012 08:04 AM - matz (Yukihiko Matsumoto)**

- Assignee changed from matz (Yukihiko Matsumoto) to mame (Yusuke Endoh)

I agree with removing string concatenation in 3.0.

**#9 - 04/09/2012 12:43 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)**

Matz,

I agree with removing string concatenation in 3.0.

Okay. Then, is the syntax deprecated in 2.0?  
If so, it would be good to warn it.

```
diff --git a/parse.y b/parse.y
index 0393dc1..1726117 100644
--- a/parse.y
+++ b/parse.y
@@ -3916,6 +3916,7 @@ string      : tCHAR
     | string string1
     {
       /*%%*/
+     rb_warning0("string concatenation syntax is deprecated");
       $$ = literal_concat($1, $2);
       /*%
       $$ = dispatch2(string_concat, $1, $2);
```

Rodorigo,

Yusuke, am I supposed to understand what you meant with the code in your last comment? If so, I didn't get it...

Sorry for the confusion. The code is just a joke.  
I can write such a code much easily without the syntax.

```
eval$$=%q(puts(%(eval$$=%q(#$s)))#####)#####
##      ###      ###      #####      #####      ##
## #####      ###      ##      #####      #####      ##      #####      #####
## #####      ###      ##      #####      #####      ##      #####      #####
## #####      ###      ##      #####      #####      #####      #####
##      #####      #####      ##      #####      #####      #l#      #####      #####
#####)#####)
```

--  
Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsq.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsq.ne.jp)

**#10 - 04/09/2012 02:23 PM - matz (Yukihiko Matsumoto)**

Hi,

In message "Re: [ruby-core:44207] [ruby-trunk - Feature #6265] Remove 'useless' 'concatenation' syntax" on Mon, 9 Apr 2012 12:43:58 +0900, "mame (Yusuke Endoh)" [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp) writes:

I agree with removing string concatenation in 3.0.

Okay. Then, is the syntax deprecated in 2.0?  
If so, it would be good to warn it.

I agree with making it deprecated. It is up to you to make it warn or not.

matz.

**#11 - 04/09/2012 10:46 PM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Thank you very much! I do also agree that we should warn users so that they have some time to change their "" style to "+".

Also, while on the subject, don't you think that Ruby specs should state that ("some " + "string") would concatenate the strings in compiling time and that they shouldn't expect the :+ method to be called? That way we wouldn't have any performance degradation using this style...

**#12 - 04/09/2012 10:52 PM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Hi Yusuke, I guessed it was a joke, but I couldn't get it at that time. Actually I had a hard time reading "CONCAT" in your last example. After that, I could read it too in the first ones, which is much harder :) I guess I have some problem with my brain! :D

**#13 - 04/10/2012 12:59 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)**

Hi,

(12/04/09 22:46), rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas) wrote:

Also, while on the subject, don't you think that Ruby specs should state that ("some " + "string") would concatenate the strings in compiling time and that they shouldn't expect the :+ method to be called? That way we wouldn't have any performance degradation using this style...

It can't, because String#+ might be overridden.

--

Nobu Nakada

**#14 - 04/10/2012 01:23 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Em 09-04-2012 12:53, Nobuyoshi Nakada escreveu:

Hi,

(12/04/09 22:46), rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas) wrote:

Also, while on the subject, don't you think that Ruby specs should state that ("some " + "string") would concatenate the strings in compiling time and that they shouldn't expect the :+ method to be called? That way we wouldn't have any performance degradation using this style...

It can't, because String#+ might be overridden.

I know, that is why I proposed this to be changed in a specification level.

For instance, what would be the issue with an overridden String#+ not being called in such cases?

**#15 - 04/10/2012 04:23 AM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)**

(2012/04/09 14:19), Yukihiro Matsumoto wrote:

I agree with making it deprecated. It is up to you to make it warn or not.

I prefer current behavior because it is same as C and it is easy to remember.

Why you remove it? I think the proposed reasons before don't make sense for me.

--  
// SASADA Koichi at atdot dot net

**#16 - 04/10/2012 07:23 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Em 09-04-2012 16:06, SASADA Koichi escreveu:

(2012/04/09 14:19), Yukihiro Matsumoto wrote:

I agree with making it deprecated. It is up to you to make it warn or not.  
I prefer current behavior because it is same as C and it is easy to remember.

Why you remove it? I think the proposed reasons before don't make sense for me.

Hi Koichi, I created this issue because I did have this problem.

I've hit some key by mistake in my Vim editor and it deleted the comma separating two string arguments and it took me a while to figure it out what have happened.

**#17 - 04/10/2012 07:23 AM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)**

(2012/04/10 7:01), Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas wrote:

Hi Koichi, I created this issue because I did have this problem.

I've hit some key by mistake in my Vim editor and it deleted the comma separating two string arguments and it took me a while to figure it out what have happened.

On the other hand, I have never met such mistake. So I want to know such mistake should be considered or not.

--  
// SASADA Koichi at atdot dot net

**#18 - 04/10/2012 09:49 AM - duerst (Martin Dürst)**

ko1 (Koichi Sasada) wrote:

I prefer current behavior because it is same as C and it is easy to remember.

It is more important in C because it can help with macros (#define). Fortunately, we don't have macros in Ruby, so it's less important in Ruby.

Why you remove it? I think the proposed reasons before don't make sense for me.

I agree that there's no urgent need to remove it.

**#19 - 04/10/2012 05:40 PM - alexeymuranov (Alexey Muranov)**

I think it is nice to have a syntax to concatenate strings in compile time. I do not think that missing commas are hard to notice.

**#20 - 04/10/2012 10:24 PM - trans (Thomas Sawyer)**

The only time I have found it useful is with \ for multi-line string, for things like entry in Ruby based-config file. E.g.

```
self.description = 'This is a multi-line ' \  
                  'description of something.'
```



**#21 - 04/10/2012 10:25 PM - trans (Thomas Sawyer)**

trans (Thomas Sawyer) wrote:

The only time I have found it useful is with `\` for multi-line string, for things like entry in Ruby based-config file. E.g.

```
self.description = 'This is a multi-line' \  
                  'description of something.'
```

**#22 - 05/26/2012 10:08 AM - Anonymous**

I agree with Alex that when I first saw it I thought it was cool, but then I never really needed to use it, like trans says.

**#23 - 07/04/2012 02:44 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

I'm glad to see that I'm not the only one to experience this issue :)

<https://github.com/frodsan/rails/commit/1c5722cdf675fce6c7f69bf5ca773ce3db8fe19>

**#24 - 07/09/2012 11:02 PM - marcandre (Marc-Andre Lafortune)**

- *Category set to core*

- *Target version changed from 3.0 to 2.0.0*

Changing target for 2.0 so that we add the deprecation warning.

A warning is good practice and should happen at the best moment: at parse time.

**#25 - 10/25/2012 01:22 PM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)**

- *Status changed from Assigned to Closed*

- *% Done changed from 0 to 100*

This issue was solved with changeset r37317.

Rodrigo, thank you for reporting this issue.

Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.

May Ruby be with you.

- 
- `parse.y`: show a warning for concatenating string literals because it will be deprecated in the future. patched by mame (Yusuke Endoh) at [ruby-core:44207]. [ruby-core:44156] [Feature #6265]

**#26 - 10/25/2012 01:41 PM - usa (Usaku NAKAMURA)**

- *Status changed from Closed to Assigned*

- *Assignee changed from mame (Yusuke Endoh) to drbrain (Eric Hodel)*

Now I've committed mame-san's patch (I was asked by him to commit instead of him).

But this change introduced some failures to make test-all, because rubygems

uses string concatenation at lib/rubygems.rb:1246-1249.

Eric, could you change these lines?

**#27 - 10/25/2012 08:50 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

- *Status changed from Assigned to Closed*

This issue was solved with changeset r37327.

Rodrigo, thank you for reporting this issue.

Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.

May Ruby be with you.

---

Revert r37316

The commit introduces too many failures and disturbs release engineering.

Re-commit it with fixed tests.

Thu Oct 25 13:09:01 2012 NAKAMURA Usaku [usa@ruby-lang.org](mailto:usa@ruby-lang.org)

```
* parse.y: show a warning for concatenating string literals because
it will be deprecated in the future.
patched by mame (Yusuke Endoh) at [ruby-core:44207].
[ruby-core:44156] [Feature #6265]
```

**#28 - 10/25/2012 08:54 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

- Status changed from Closed to Assigned

I reverted r37316 because such too many failures prevents watching CI.  
Please re-commit it with fixes for those tests.  
<http://u32.rubyci.org/~chkbuild/ruby-trunk/log/20121025T110301Z.log.html.gz>

**#29 - 10/25/2012 08:58 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

- Status changed from Assigned to Feedback

- Assignee deleted (drbrain (Eric Hodel))

Since affected libraries are so many, the fix should be done by the proposer.

Moreover I think this insists that string concatenation is not useless.

**#30 - 10/25/2012 09:43 PM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)**

I also strongly object this change, since it needed many escapes which were unnecessary otherwise.

**#31 - 10/26/2012 09:28 PM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Right now I'm in the middle of some very tight deadlines in my job and won't have time to fix all usages of this kind of string concatenation but I'd be happy to do so next year, although I'm afraid I wouldn't be on time for Ruby 2.0 release :(

**#32 - 10/27/2012 01:49 AM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)**

I don't think it is appropriate to include this change in the ruby 2.x series without any deprecation period. I have many libraries that depend on it.

Removing it in 3.0 with a warning in 2.x would be more appropriate.

**#33 - 10/27/2012 01:57 AM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

I indeed agree

**#34 - 10/27/2012 07:44 AM - ko1 (Koichi Sasada)**

- Assignee set to mame (Yusuke Endoh)

**#35 - 10/27/2012 06:38 PM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)**

Eric,

drbrain (Eric Hodel) wrote:

Removing it in 3.0 with a warning in 2.x would be more appropriate.

We are actually trying to do so. r37316 is a warning patch for that.  
And the warning, not changing syntax, caused many test failures in rubygems.

--

Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp)

**#36 - 11/20/2012 02:49 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)**

- Status changed from Feedback to Assigned

- Assignee changed from mame (Yusuke Endoh) to drbrain (Eric Hodel)

drbrain, do you have no intention of fixing rubygems? We cannot add the warning.

(Or please make matz change his mind ;-)

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Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp)

**#37 - 11/20/2012 02:11 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)**

I will fix RubyGems and RDoc, please stand by.

**#38 - 11/24/2012 11:20 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)**

Thanks drbrain!

--

Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp)

**#39 - 12/06/2012 02:26 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)**

- Status changed from Assigned to Closed

This issue was solved with changeset r38230.  
Rodrigo, thank you for reporting this issue.  
Your contribution to Ruby is greatly appreciated.  
May Ruby be with you.

- 
- lib/rubygems/command\_manager.rb: Removed string concatenation syntax. [Bug #6265]
  - lib/rubygems/commands/install\_command.rb: ditto
  - lib/rubygems/commands/uninstall\_command.rb: ditto
  - lib/rubygems/indexer.rb: ditto
  - lib/rubygems/security/policy.rb: ditto
  - lib/rubygems/security.rb: ditto
  - lib/rubygems/uninstaller.rb: ditto
  - test/rubygems/test\_gem\_commands\_cert\_command.rb: ditto
  - test/rubygems/test\_gem\_package.rb: ditto
  - test/rubygems/test\_gem\_security.rb: ditto
  - test/rubygems/test\_gem\_security\_policy.rb: ditto

**#40 - 12/06/2012 02:29 PM - drbrain (Eric Hodel)**

- Status changed from Closed to Assigned

- Assignee changed from drbrain (Eric Hodel) to mame (Yusuke Endoh)

Oops, it was accidentally closed.

I have removed the string concatenation syntax from rdoc and rubygems.

**#41 - 02/19/2013 01:53 AM - mame (Yusuke Endoh)**

- Subject changed from Remove 'useless' 'concatenation' syntax to Remove `&#x27;useless&#x27;` `&#x27;concatenation&#x27;` syntax

- Target version changed from 2.0.0 to 2.6

drbrain, thanks!

But sorry, it is too late to change 2.0.0. My bad.

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Yusuke Endoh [mame@tsg.ne.jp](mailto:mame@tsg.ne.jp)

**#42 - 06/26/2014 01:48 PM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

Yusuke, how about for 2.2.0?

**#43 - 07/31/2014 03:18 AM - nagachika (Tomoyuki Chikanaga)**

- Assignee changed from mame (Yusuke Endoh) to naruse (Yui NARUSE)

Release Manager of 2.2.0 is naruse san.

**#44 - 07/31/2014 03:34 AM - nobu (Nobuyoshi Nakada)**

I'm against it, it's not "useless" to me.

**#45 - 07/31/2014 12:15 PM - rosenfeld (Rodrigo Rosenfeld Rosas)**

I said "useless" in the sense that you can achieve the same using "+" and it makes it easy to introduce common bugs in case you forget a comma between two strings when calling a method and this has happened already in real code, including the Rails source code despite the test suite.

**#46 - 08/05/2014 05:38 PM - naruse (Yui NARUSE)**

- *Target version changed from 2.6 to 3.0*

**#47 - 08/10/2016 02:36 AM - shyouhei (Shyouhei Urabe)**

We looked at this issue at yesterday's developer meeting. This feature was once implemented, and then removed due to test failures.

The current situation is, it still renders lots of warnings when deprecation turned on. This string concatenation feature is used than people might think. It's still difficult to merge.