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[Mike Kadow](#) · May 24, 2016   2m read

NewBie's Corner Session 4 The Plus Sign and Concatenation Operators

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Welcome to NewBie's Corner, a weekly or biweekly post covering basic Caché Material.

Click on the Caché Cube in your system tray and select Terminal to try out the commands.

Plus Sign (+) operator

Typically, the Plus sign (+) adds two numbers together. This is true in COS (Caché ObjectScript), but COS uses it in other ways as well.

Set the variable X to a value of +12

```
Set X=+12
Write X
12
```

Set the variable X to the value of +"ABC"

```
Set X=+"ABC"
Write X
0
```

Here, the Set command sets the variable X to +"ABC". Since X is not numeric, the plus sign forces X to be numeric, a zero. In COS, the plus sign is used in many ways.

```
Set X="ABC"
Write +X
0
Write X          ; The actual value of X does not change
ABC
```

So,

 if X="ABC" and +X=0,

What does +"5ABC" yield?

If you answered 5 you are right, not 5000, but just 5

Then, what about X = "ABC5", what does +X yield?

Or what about X = "A5376", what does +X yield?

What about X = "", what does +X yield?

X = "—" ?

Concatenation Operator

Now, be careful not to confuse the Plus Sign operator with the Concatenation operator, the Underscore.

```
Set X="My dog's name is"
Set Y="Teddy."
Set DOG=X_" "_Y
Write DOG
My dog's name is Teddy.
```

As you can see, the underscore concatenated variables X and Y.

Until next time.

--Mike Kadow

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If you have a comment, please respond through the InterSystems Developer Community, don't send me private email. Unless of course you wish to address me only.

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" It is not how much you know, but how well you communicate it to others."

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