

The real advantage of using the `With` statement, rather than spelling out the object for each statement, is that `With` is more efficient. Your Visual Basic projects will run a little faster if you use `With`. On a large, complicated project, the savings can be significant.

Concatenating Text

At times you need to join strings of text. For example, you may want to join a literal and a property. You can “tack” one string of characters to the end of another in the process called **concatenation**. Use an ampersand (&), preceded and followed by a space, between the two strings.

Examples

```
MessageLabel.Text = "Your name is: " & NameTextBox.Text
NameAndAddressLabel.Text = NameTextBox.Text & " " & AddressTextBox.Text
```

Continuing Long Program Lines

Basic interprets the code on one line as one statement. You can type very long lines in the Editor window; the window scrolls sideways to allow you to keep typing. However, this method is inconvenient; it isn't easy to see the ends of the long lines.

New to Visual Basic 2010, if you break a line in an acceptable location, you can use **implicit line continuation**. You also can continue to use explicit line continuation characters as in previous versions of Visual Basic.

Implicit Line Continuation

Visual Basic 10 allows you to just press Enter to split a single statement into multiple lines as long as you follow certain rules. For the Basic statements you have learned so far, you can break a line

1. After a comma.
2. Either after an opening parenthesis or before a closing parenthesis.
3. After a concatenation operator (&).
4. After the equal sign (=) in an assignment statement.

You can find a complete list of rules under the Help topic “Statements in Visual Basic”.

As an example, you can split an assignment statement following the equal sign but not before it:

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```
PromotionTextBox.Text =
    "Get a free MP3 download with the purchase of a CD"

GreetingsLabel.Text = "Greetings " & NameTextBox.Text & ": " &
    "You have been selected to win a free prize. " &
    "Just send us $100 for postage and handling."
```

TIP

Although in some situations Basic allows concatenation with the + operator, the practice is not advised. Depending on the contents of the text box, the compiler may interpret the + operator as an addition operator rather than a concatenation operator, giving unpredictable results or an error. ■