Let me explain how this undermines integrity verification with a specific example:

Suppose we're using this naive concatenation approach to verify the integrity of files in a system. An attacker could:

1. Original legitimate files:

/etc/passwd
/etc/shadow

When concatenated: "/etc/passwd/etc/shadow"

1. Malicious manipulation:

/etc/pas
/swd/etc/shadow

When concatenated: "/etc/pas" + "swd/etc/shadow" = "/etc/passwd/etc/shadow"

Both would produce the SAME hash value, even though:

- In case 1, we have two valid system files
- In case 2, we have two different files, potentially hiding malicious content

This undermines integrity because:

- 1. We cannot detect this tampering
- 2. The hash is supposed to change if the data changes in any way
- 3. The system would incorrectly verify these as "identical" when they're actually different

This is why proper integrity verification needs to account for boundaries between objects, usually by either:

- Hashing objects separately
- Including length prefixes
- · Using unambiguous delimiters