WebForms NullReferenceException Fix Guide

Resolving Missing DropDownList Control Error

Problem Overview

The application is experiencing a NullReferenceException related to the missing (ddlDrivers) DropDownList control. The code references this control, but it doesn't exist in the markup, causing runtime errors.

Solution Steps

Step 1: Update Markup (ViewSchedule.aspx)

Replace the existing filters section:

```
asp

<div class="vs-filters">

<div class="vs-filter-group">

<asp:Button ID="btnPrintSchedule" runat="server" Text="Print Schedule"

CssClass="vs-action-btn" OnClick="btnPrintSchedule_Click"/>

<asp:Button ID="btnExportCSV" runat="server" Text="Export CSV"

CssClass="vs-action-btn vs-secondary-btn" OnClick="btnExportCSV_Click"/>

</div>
</div>
```

With this updated version that includes **ddlDrivers**:

asp		

Step 2: Update Code-Behind (ViewSchedule.aspx.cs)

Add the event handler for dropdown selection:

```
csharp

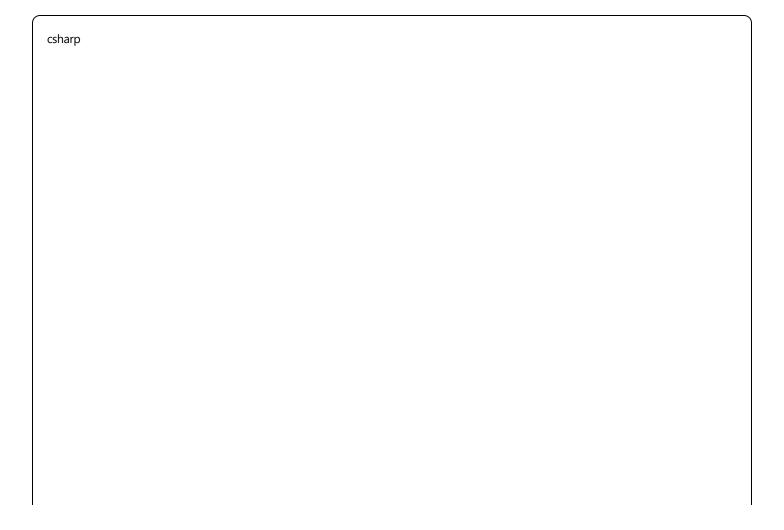
protected void ddlDrivers_SelectedIndexChanged(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    LoadSchedule(); // Or any logic to filter by selected driver
}
```

Update the (Page_Load) method to populate the dropdown:

csharp

```
protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
  if (!IsPostBack)
  {
    if (Session["AccessID"] == null || Session["AccessID"].ToString() != "4" ||
       Session["DriverID"] == null)
    {
       Response.Redirect("~/User Management/Login.aspx");
       return;
    }
    currentWeekStart = DateTime.Today.AddDays(-(int)DateTime.Today.DayOfWeek +
                            (int)DayOfWeek.Monday);
    LoadDrivers(); // Populate the dropdown
    LoadWeekDates();
    LoadSchedule();
  }
}
```

Add the LoadDrivers method to safely populate the dropdown:



```
private void LoadDrivers()
  try
    ddlDrivers.Items.Clear();
    using (SqlConnection connection = new SqlConnection(
         ConfigurationManager.ConnectionStrings["NMUBookTradeConnection"].ConnectionString))
    {
       connection.Open();
       SqlCommand cmd = new SqlCommand(
         "SELECT driverID, driverName + ' ' + driverSurname AS FullName FROM Driver",
         connection);
       SqlDataReader reader = cmd.ExecuteReader();
       ddlDrivers.Items.Add(new ListItem("Select Driver", ""));
       while (reader.Read())
         ddlDrivers.Items.Add(new ListItem(
            reader["FullName"].ToString(),
           reader["driverID"].ToString()));
      }
    }
    // Optionally, pre-select the current driver
    if (Session["DriverID"] != null)
       ddlDrivers.SelectedValue = Session["DriverID"].ToString();
  catch (Exception ex)
    // Log error or show user-friendly message
```

Step 3: Designer File (ViewSchedule.designer.cs)

Ensure the following declaration exists in the designer file:

csharp

If the declaration is missing:

- 1. Right-click the (.aspx) page in Visual Studio
- 2. Select "Convert to Web Application"
- 3. This will regenerate the designer file with the correct declarations

Summary of Fixes

- Added the missing (ddlDrivers) DropDownList control to the markup
- Implemented data binding in (Page_Load) with the (LoadDrivers) method
- Applied null safety practices and error handling
- **Included** the event handler (ddlDrivers_SelectedIndexChanged) for user interactions
- Ensured proper designer file declarations

Benefits

- Resolves the (NullReferenceException) error
- Provides driver filtering functionality
- Maintains existing UI structure and styling
- Implements proper error handling and data binding practices

Notes

- The dropdown is populated with driver names from the database
- AutoPostBack is enabled for immediate filtering when selection changes
- The current driver from the session is pre-selected if available
- Error handling prevents crashes if database operations fail