

# WebForms NullReferenceException Fix Guide

## Resolving Missing DropDownList Control Error

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### 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.

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### 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
```

```
<div class="vs-filters">
  <div class="vs-filter-group">
    <asp:DropDownList ID="ddlDrivers" runat="server" AutoPostBack="true"
      OnSelectedIndexChanged="ddlDrivers_SelectedIndexChanged"
      CssClass="vs-dropdown">
    </asp:DropDownList>

    <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>
```

## 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:

```

csharp

```

```

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
```

```
protected global::System.Web.UI.WebControls.DropDownList ddlDrivers;
```

### 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

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## 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

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## Benefits

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

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## 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