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Java - Reasons for Allowing null as a HashMap Key?

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Why Java decided to allow 'null' as a key in HashMap? As we know hashCode() can't be calculated on null value. Is there any design consideration for this decision to allow null key in HashMap which is not there in Hashtable(Other than considering as a default value)?

[java](#)

asked Mar 28 '12 at 17:23



[Sivasubramaniam Arunachalam](#)

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1 Answer

From the [JDK 1.2 Java Collections API Change Summary](#) (not sure where to find the official version on Oracle's website):

Added null-key support to HashMap. This was done for consistency with TreeMap and the late, unlamented ArrayMap, and because customers requested it. Now all of our general-purpose collection implementations accept null keys, values and elements.

[Link to Stack Overflow question about this and other null-related issues](#)

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