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Null-Coalescing Operator in C#







The Null Coalescing Operator (??) is an overlooked but beneficial C# operator.







We use the ?? to determine whether a variable's value is null and, if so, to return a default value instead.





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Before

```
public decimal CalculateTax(decimal amount, int? taxRate)

{
    // Example 1 (if & else)
    if(taxRate is null)
        throw new ArgumentNullException(nameof(taxRate), $"Null value is not allowed.");

return (amount / 100) * taxRate;
}
```

```
public decimal CalculateTax(decimal amount, int? taxRate)

{
    // Example 2 (Ternary Operator)
    taxRate = taxRate is null ? 18 : taxRate;

    return (amount / 100) * taxRate;
}
```









After

```
public decimal CalculateTax(decimal amount, int? taxRate)

{
    // (Null Coalescing Operator)
    // If the taxRate variable is null, then it will be assigned as 18.
    return (amount / 100) * taxRate ?? 18;
}
```

It simplifies the process.









Another example

```
public decimal CalculateTax(decimal amount, int? taxRate)

{
    // (Null Coalescing Operator)
    // If the taxRate variable is null, then it will throw an ArgumentNullException.
    return (amount / 100) * taxRate ?? throw new ArgumentNullException(nameof(taxRate), $"Null value is not allowed");
}
```

It reduces the amount of code.





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