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WebClient.DownloadString Method

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Definition

Overloads

DownloadString(String)

DownloadString(Uri)

Definition

Namespace: System.Net

Assembly: System.Net.WebClient.dll

Downloads the requested resource as a String. The resource to download may be specified as either String containing the URI or a Uri.
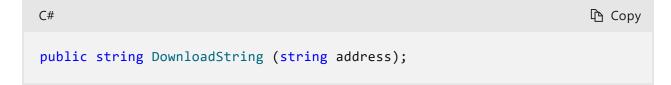
Overloads

⛶ Expand table

DownloadString(String)	Downloads the requested resource as a String. The resource to download is specified as a String containing the URI.
DownloadString(Uri)	Downloads the requested resource as a String. The resource to download is specified as a Uri.

DownloadString(String)

Source: WebClient.cs ↗

Downloads the requested resource as a String. The resource to download is specified as a String containing the URI.

```
C#                                                    📋 Copy

public string DownloadString (string address);
```

Parameters

`address`   String

A String containing the URI to download.

Returns

String

A String containing the requested resource.

Exceptions

ArgumentNullException

The `address` parameter is `null`.

WebException

The URI formed by combining BaseAddress and `address` is invalid.

-or-

An error occurred while downloading the resource.

NotSupportedException

The method has been called simultaneously on multiple threads.

Examples

The following code example demonstrates calling this method.

C#   📋 Copy

```C#
public static void DownloadString(string address)
{
    WebClient client = new WebClient();
    string reply = client.DownloadString(address);

    Console.WriteLine(reply);
}
```

Remarks

> ⊗ **Caution**
>
> `WebRequest`, `HttpWebRequest`, `ServicePoint`, and `WebClient` are obsolete, and you shouldn't use them for new development. Use **HttpClient** instead.

This method retrieves the specified resource. After it downloads the resource, the method uses the encoding specified in the Encoding property to convert the resource to a String. This method blocks while downloading the resource. To download a resource and continue executing while waiting for the server's response, use one of the DownloadStringAsync methods.

If the BaseAddress property is not an empty string ("") and `address` does not contain an absolute URI, `address` must be a relative URI that is combined with BaseAddress to form the absolute URI of the requested data. If the QueryString property is not an empty string, it is appended to `address`.

This method uses the RETR command to download an FTP resource. For an HTTP resource, the GET method is used.

> ⓘ **Note**
>
> This member outputs trace information when you enable network tracing in your application. For more information, see **Network Tracing in .NET Framework**.

Applies to

▼ .NET 9 and other versions

Product	Versions
.NET	Core 2.0, Core 2.1, Core 2.2, Core 3.0, Core 3.1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
.NET Framework	2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.6, 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.7, 4.7.1, 4.7.2, 4.8, 4.8.1
.NET Standard	2.0, 2.1

DownloadString(Uri)

Source: WebClient.cs ⧉

Downloads the requested resource as a String. The resource to download is specified as a Uri.

```
C#                                                    Copy

public string DownloadString (Uri address);
```

Parameters

address   Uri

A Uri object containing the URI to download.

Returns

String

A String containing the requested resource.

Exceptions

ArgumentNullException

The `address` parameter is `null`.

WebException

The URI formed by combining BaseAddress and `address` is invalid.

-or-

An error occurred while downloading the resource.

NotSupportedException

The method has been called simultaneously on multiple threads.

Remarks

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.NET Standard	2.0, 2.1

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