```
U4WH8STNX: yeah it does have a lot of overhead
U4WH8STNX: well conceptual overhead that is
U4872964V: maybe not a discussion for <#C192T0Q1E|beginners> though
U4WH8STNX: sure: slightly smiling face:, got carried away
U3HQVHERX: <a href="https://tour.golang.org/welcome/1">https://tour.golang.org/welcome/1</a>
U4WH8STNX: Fixed: <a href="https://ellie-app.com/3TrzZNYf4F3a1/1">https://ellie-app.com/3TrzZNYf4F3a1/1</a>
U0F7JPK36: Oh no this isn't your fault, the error message for this needs to be way better than it currently is
U6FECHN3B: I have a question regarding how data is structured within Elm vs in JavaScript.if I were to pass in an
array of Objects from JavaScript to Elm, is a List of Elm records equivalent enough for that to work i.e. passing from
JavaScript the following:
U6FECHN3B: `````
U6FECHN3B: sorry
U6FECHN3B: ```[{key: key, value: value}, {key: key, value: value}]
U65B9414J: I'm using Json.Decode.Pipeline.`
type alias User =
  { name : String
  , age : Int
  , githubid : Maybe String
userDecoder: Decoder User
userDecoder =
  decode User
     |> required "name" string
     |> required "age" int
     --|> optional "githubid" (nullable string) (Just "")
     |> optional "githubid" (nullable string) Nothing
U65B9414J: commented out line works
U6FECHN3B: would that be represented in Elm as
type alias itemname =
{ key: String, value: String
U65B9414J: replacing Just "" with Nothing fails. Anyone knows why.
U6FECHN3B: something according to that
U6FECHN3B: I'm looking to pass in an array of key value pairs via a port
U48AEBJQ3: <@U65B9414J> It compiles for me. What error are you getting?
U65B9414J: <@U48AEBJQ3> The 3rd argument to function `optional` is causing a mismatch.
73|
           optional "githubid" (nullable string) Nothing
                                 ^^^^
Function 'optional' is expecting the 3rd argument to be:
  Maybe String
But it is:
  Msg
```

U65B9414J: I have pasted the whole code here

<a href="https://gist.github.com/neerajdotname/b7deadea90d42b49e0b4f41d1b5488bb">https://gist.github.com/neerajdotname/b7deadea90d42b49e0b4f41d1b5488bb></a>

U65B9414J: If key is missing or is null then I'm trying to get Nothing in return and not Just "".

U48AEBJQ3 : <@U6FECHN3B> Ports have to decode incoming data. Elm helps out a bit by providing automated ways to decode simple structures. If you had a port of type `port mylncomingPort : (List ItemName -&gt; msg) -&gt; Sub msg` it should work? I usually just do `port mylncomingPort : (Value -&gt; msg) -&gt; Sub msg` and write my own decoders.

U6FECHN3B: in this case it would be a very simple structure just of key value pairs of type String