Avoid exception with C# Substring() method? [duplicate]

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★

This question already has an answer here:
[What method in the String class returns only the first N characters?](#) *10 answers*

Is there another way or a proper way to use SubString()

Here is my sample:

```
var prefix = "OKA";
Console.WriteLine($"{prefix.Substring(0, 4)}");
// Result: Index and length must refer to a location within the string.Parameter name:
length
```

So to avoid this exception I must write something like this:

```
var prefix = "OKA";
Console.WriteLine($"{prefix.Substring(0, prefix.Length > 4 ? 4 : prefix.Length)}");
// Result: OKA
```

This work but become difficult to read when you need to use this trick all the time in your code.

So I there something smart I can use like

```
var prefix = "OKA";
Console.WriteLine($"{prefix:XX}");
// XX is not working
```

I also try many alternative and documentation. My
conclusion is there is no better solution or I need to write
my own formatter but I would like to hear it from you.

c#   string

asked Jan 9 '18 at 11:12

Bastien Vandamme

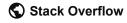**6,306**   22   70   129

marked as duplicate by Zohar Peled, Community ♦ Jan
9 '18 at 11:43

This question has been asked before and already has an
answer. If those answers do not fully address your question,
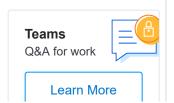please ask a new question.

3 Answers

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you could write an extension method that does the logic for
you?

```
static class SomeHelperClass
{
    public static string Truncate(this string value, int l
        => (value != null && value.Length > length) ? valu
    value;
}
```

and use

```
Console.WriteLine(prefix.Truncate(4));
```

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edited Jan 9 '18 at 11:52

answered Jan 9 '18 at 11:15

Marc Gravell ♦
800k   200   2172
2578

Same idea posted one second earlier, nicely done –
Camilo Terevinto Jan 9 '18 at 11:17

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or even shorter - `=> value.Substring(0, Math.Min(length, value.Length));` – Zohar Peled Jan 9 '18 at 11:18 ✎

@Zohar Peled, Smart –   Bastien Vandamme   Jan 9 '18 at 11:24

@BastienVandamme Indeed, but not mine :-) Voted as duplicate. – Zohar Peled Jan 9 '18 at 11:28 ✎

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2   And avoiding a null exception *"value?.Substring(0, Math.Min(length, value.Length));"* – PaulF Jan 9 '18 at 11:49

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2

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You could write an extension method so you don't have to repeat the same logic over and over again:

```
public static class StringExtensions
{
    public static string Prefix(this string value, int leng
    {
        if (value.Length > length)
        {
            return value;
        }

        return value.SubString(0, length);
```

Then:

```
Console.WriteLine("OKA".Prefix(4));
```

answered Jan 9 '18 at 11:15

[Camilo Terevinto](#)

20.4k   6   40   70

Doesn't save many printable characters, however it looks neater

0

```
$"{prefix.Substring(0, Math.Min(4, prefix.Length))}"
```

answered Jan 9 '18 at 11:20

[TheGeneral](#)

40.2k   8   46   74