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# Subtract days from a DateTime

Asked 7 years, 2 months ago   Active 5 months ago   Viewed 242k times



I have the following code in my C# program.

117

```
DateTime dateForButton = DateTime.Now;  
dateForButton = dateForButton.AddDays(-1); // ERROR: un-representable DateTime
```



Whenever I run it, I get the following error:



16

*The added or subtracted value results in an un-representable DateTime.  
Parameter name: value*

Iv'e never seen this error message before, and don't understand why I'm seeing it. From the answers Iv'e read so far, I'm lead to believe that I can use -1 in an add operation to subtract days, but as my question shows this is not the case for what I'm attempting to do.

c#

datetime

edited Apr 9 at 18:04



gunr2171

7,919 10 48 70

asked Jun 22 '12 at 7:33



Buena

836 2 12 21

Should work , is this the problem area ? – [V4Vendetta](#) Jun 22 '12 at 7:35

1 it **has** to work, don't see any problem with this... – [Tigran](#) Jun 22 '12 at 7:36

12 That error usually occurs when you try to subtract an interval from `DateTime.MinValue` or you want to add something to `DateTime.MaxValue` (or you try to instantiate a date outside this min-max interval). Are you sure you're not assigning `MinValue` somewhere? – [CyberDude](#) Jun 22 '12 at 7:38

1 CyberDude, your comment is in fact Answer. How can I vote on your Comment and Assign it as Answer? – [Buena](#) Jun 22 '12 at 7:46

4 Please post the code between lines 2 and 3 of your code. – [Dimitris Kostas](#) Jun 22 '12 at 7:48

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## 8 Answers



66



That error usually occurs when you try to subtract an interval from `DateTime.MinValue` or you want to add something to `DateTime.MaxValue` (or you try to instantiate a date outside this min-max interval). Are you sure you're not assigning `MinValue` somewhere?

answered Jun 22 '12 at 7:46

[CyberDude](#)

5,981 2 22 37



252



```
DateTime dateForButton = DateTime.Now.AddDays(-1);
```

edited Jun 22 '12 at 8:47

[stakx](#)

66.6k 16 139 229

answered Jun 22 '12 at 7:48

[christiandev](#)

14.4k 8 39 70

12 This answer, answer the topic title. This never should be downvoted. Most of people come here from google. If someone don't agree with this answer should offer an edit on topic title. יר – [MarceloBarbosa](#) Jun 8 '15 at 12:54

2 It may answer the topic title, but if you read into the actual question, it's clearly NOT the question the OP was asking. Instead of guilt tripping people into accepting your answer, and crying because the asker awarded a different answer as the one that solved their problem, you should have possibly edited the OP's question and title so it made more sense. You clearly have enough reputation points to edit the question, so that the title and the description make more sense and provide more help, the OP clearly didn't know how to word things correctly so lets try to help with that eh? – [shawty](#) Mar 19 '18 at 12:11



41



You can do:

```
DateTime.Today.AddDays(-1)
```

edited Dec 4 '17 at 16:10



answered Oct 31 '14 at 12:17



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You can use the following code:

35

```
dateForButton = dateForButton.Subtract(TimeSpan.FromDays(1));
```



edited Jun 22 '12 at 8:46



stakx

66.6k

16

139

229

answered Jun 22 '12 at 7:41



Rajesh Subramanian

5,422

3

22

37

3 Why was this down voted? It works. – dtsg Jun 22 '12 at 7:49

4 This will also fail if the date is DateTime.MinValue. AddDays(-1) works just as well – Panagiotis Kanavos Jun 22 '12 at 7:49



The object (i.e. destination variable) for the AddDays method can't be the same as the source.

3

Instead of:



```
DateTime today = DateTime.Today;  
today.AddDays(-7);
```

Try this instead:

```
DateTime today = DateTime.Today;  
DateTime sevenDaysEarlier = today.AddDays(-7);
```

edited Aug 2 '16 at 18:14



Isuka

2,271

5

21

28

answered Aug 2 '16 at 17:25



Mark Benson

41

1

1 This answer does not really bring a new point if we are looking to the other existing answers. – Isuka Aug 2 '16 at 17:36

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3

My solution is **TimeSpan**.


```
DateTime.Now - TimeSpan.FromDays(1);
```

answered Jul 18 '18 at 15:28




UsernameNotFound

31 1

1

The `dateTime.AddDays(-1)` does not subtract that one day from the `dateTime` reference. It will return a new instance, with that one day subtracted from the original reference.



```
DateTime dateTime = DateTime.Now;
DateTime otherDateTime = dateTime.AddDays(-1);
```

edited Feb 27 at 11:02



Mason

384 3 17

answered Nov 17 '16 at 12:32



cahit beyaz

3,210 1 21 20

Care to explain how this would solve the OP's problem? Almost anyone can write code, that's the easy part. (However, in this case, I actually don't see how this would solve the OP's problem at all.) – [fourpastmidnight](#) Nov 17 '16 at 21:37

0

Using `AddDays(-1)` worked for me until I tried to cross months. When I tried to subtract 2 days from 2017-01-01 the result was 2016-00-30. It could not handle the month change correctly (though the year seemed to be fine).

I used `date = Convert.ToDateTime(date).Subtract(TimeSpan.FromDays(2)).ToString("yyyy-mm-dd");` and have no issues.

edited Feb 9 '17 at 15:25



Ricardo Rocha

2,000 1 21 56

answered Feb 9 '17 at 13:37



Ainsley Hobart

9 1

`AddDays(-1)` works just fine cross months – [Daniel Gustafsson](#) Nov 6 '17 at 7:52

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