

How can I decode HTML characters in C#?

Asked 10 years, 10 months ago Active 5 months ago Viewed 317k times

▲ I have email addresses encoded with HTML character entities. Is there anything in .NET that can convert them to plain strings?

372

c#



41

edited Nov 5 '11 at 21:23



Mark Byers

618k 138 1394
1357

asked Sep 23 '08 at 18:01



Vasil

17.2k 24 80 108

9 Answers

▲ You can use [HttpUtility.HtmlDecode](#)

598



If you are using .NET 4.0+ you can also use [WebUtility.HtmlDecode](#) which does not require an extra assembly reference as it is available in the `System.Net` namespace.

edited Nov 14 '11 at 17:11

answered Sep 23 '08 at 18:02



Quintin Robinson

70.4k 14 109 128

1 It's supposed to be in `System.Web`, but it isn't. I haven't touched C# for more than a year, if I get a bit more frustrated with this I'll convert them manually. — Vasil Sep 23 '08 at 18:10

1 It's in the .NET 2.0 version of `System.Web` — Mark Cidade Sep 23 '08 at 18:14

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8 In case you're trying trying to decode the Query String, you need to use `HttpUtility.UrlDecode` – [PeterX](#) May 23 '13 at 8:10

On .Net 4.0:

182

`System.Net.WebUtility.HtmlDecode()`

No need to include assembly for a C# project

edited Aug 12 '14 at 0:00



[Jeroen Vannevel](#)

35.9k 18 85 144

answered Apr 14 '10 at 17:40



[Indy9000](#)

7,344 2 23 32

6 It is better solution because `HttpUtility` doesn't decode "'" symbol.. I don't know why.. – [RedCat](#) Sep 13 '11 at 13:44

This is required in developing for the Universal Windows platform. – [matthewsheets](#) Jun 10 '15 at 19:32

Will this cause XSS in .Net web pages? – [Senura Dissanayake](#) Aug 15 '18 at 11:53

As @CQ says, you need to use [HttpUtility.HtmlDecode](#), but it's not available in a non-ASP .NET project by default.

42

For a non-ASP .NET application, you need to add a reference to `System.Web.dll` . Right-click your project in Solution Explorer, select "Add Reference", then browse the list for `System.Web.dll` .

Now that the reference is added, you should be able to access the method using the fully-qualified name `System.Web.HttpUtility.HtmlDecode` or insert a `using` statement for `System.Web` to make things easier.

answered Sep 23 '08 at 18:29



[OwenP](#)

18.1k 13 60 84

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16



Rob Cooper

21.5k 25 98 141

1 Agreed, that's why I use HttpUtility, fell into same trap =P – [Quintin Robinson](#) Sep 23 '08 at 18:07

Use `Server.HtmlDecode` to decode the HTML entities. If you want to *escape* the HTML, i.e. display the `<` and `>` character to the user, use `Server.HtmlEncode`.

7

answered Sep 23 '08 at 18:02



Daniel Schierbeck

1,309 2 14 22

4 There may not be a server context (i.e. when running test cases and the like) I fell in to this trap before :) – [Rob Cooper](#) Sep 23 '08 at 18:04

To decode HTML take a look below code

7

```
string s = "Svendborg V&#230;rft A/S";  
string a = HttpUtility.HtmlDecode(s);  
Response.Write(a);
```

Output is like

Svendborg Værft A/S

edited Feb 28 at 15:57



Patrick

327 2 14

answered Nov 17 '16 at 10:01



Abhishek Jaiswal

829 9 4

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4

takes a string and returns a string .

answered Jun 25 '16 at 3:36

[Hypershadsy](#)

166 2 10

Write static a method into some utility class, which accept string as parameter and return the decoded html string.

1

Include the `using System.Web.HttpUtility` into your class

```
public static string HtmlEncode(string text)
{
    if(text.length > 0){
        return HttpUtility.HtmlDecode(text);
    }else{
        return text;
    }
}
```

answered May 25 '18 at 9:34

[Tahir Alvi](#)

479 2 9 32

For .net 4.0

1

Add a reference to `System.net.dll` to the project with `using System.Net;` then use the following extensions

```
// Html encode/decode
public static string HtmDecode(this string htmlEncodedString)
{
```

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```
{
    return htmlEncodedString;
}

public static string HtmEncode(this string htmlDecodedString)
{
    if(htmlDecodedString.Length > 0)
    {
        return System.Net.WebUtility.HtmlEncode(htmlDecodedString);
    }
    else
    {
        return htmlDecodedString;
    }
}
```

answered Oct 3 '18 at 13:00



Vinod Srivastav

1,848 1 13 24

protected by [wudzik](#) Dec 7 '16 at 6:38

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