

Can Object.GetType() ever return null?

▲ Merely curious.

7 Is there any time when calling `.GetType()` on an object will return null?

▼ Hypothetical usage:

★

```
public Type MyMethod( object myObject )  
{  
    return myObject.GetType();  
}
```

c# types

edited Apr 25 '13 at 12:01



nawfal

45.2k 37 263 308

asked Feb 4 '10 at 15:49



John Farrell

22.5k 10 67 104

5 Answers

▲ GetType on an object can never return null - at the very least it will be of type object. if myObject is null, then you'll get an exception when you try to call GetType() anyway

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answered Feb 4 '10 at 15:52



AdaTheDev

110k 23 168 179

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```
static void WhatAmI<T>() where T : new() {
    T t = new T();
    Console.WriteLine("t.ToString(): {0}", t.ToString());
    Console.WriteLine("t.GetHashCode(): {0}", t.GetHashCode());
    Console.WriteLine("t.Equals(t): {0}", t.Equals(t));

    Console.WriteLine("t.GetType(): {0}", t.GetType());
}
```

Here's the output for a certain `T` :

```
t.ToString():
t.GetHashCode(): 0
t.Equals(t): True
```

Unhandled Exception: System.NullReferenceException: Object reference not set to an instance of an **object**.

What is `T` ? Answer: any `Nullable<U>` .

(Credit original concept to Marc Gravell.)

answered Feb 4 '10 at 15:58



jason

199k 29 372 495

I see what you did there ;-p – [Marc Gravell](#) ♦ Feb 4 '10 at 16:29

@Marc Gravell: I did credit you if that is what you mean. I couldn't find the post where you first presented that though to provide a link? I thought it was in the C#/NET gotcha thread. – [jason](#) Feb 4 '10 at 16:37 ✎

If the `myObject` parameter is null, then you won't be able to call `GetType()` on it. A `NullReferenceException` will be thrown. Otherwise, I think you will fine.

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[http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.object.gettype\(VS.85\).aspx](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/system.object.gettype(VS.85).aspx)

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MSDN only lists a type object as the return value.

I'd imagine other than that all you can get is a "not set to an instance of an object" exception (or maybe its null reference) Because MSDN does say INSTANCE.

answered Feb 4 '10 at 15:52



Neil N

19.7k

14

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Basically, no, it can't (ever return null) and won't.

0

answered Feb 4 '10 at 15:53



Wim Hollebrandse

10.8k

27

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