

Using [NotNull] for a method's parameters

Asked 4 years, 1 month ago Active 3 months ago Viewed 28k times



Consider [this code](#) from ASP.NET MVC's source code:

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```
public static IApplicationBuilder UseMvc(  
    [NotNull] this IApplicationBuilder app,  
    [NotNull] Action<IRouteBuilder> configureRoutes) {...}
```



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According to [this](#) answer, the annotated parameters must not be null. Then why can I pass null to the method? That is, in the case below, why doesn't the compiler give me any error?

```
app.UseMvc(null);
```

c#

edited Feb 10 '18 at 0:34



bubbleking

1,301 1 17 32

asked Sep 27 '15 at 9:21



Sirwan Afifi

8,008 7 48 94

2 Related: [NotNull attribute](#). – [Frédéric Hamidi](#) Sep 27 '15 at 9:26

2 Answers



The only attribute that can cause the compiler to generate an error is the [ObsoleteAttribute](#) . It is because this attribute's behavior is hard-coded into the compiler.

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Attributes like the `NotNull` attribute are generally meant for tools (like ReSharper) to generate warnings or errors while writing code. Please read about this particular attribute [here](#).

You can also use tools like PostSharp to [issue additional build-time errors](#).



edited Feb 14 at 23:48



Community ♦

1 1

answered Sep 27 '15 at 9:25



Dmytro Shevchenko

25.2k 6 44 61

8 link github.com/aspnet/Home/wiki/... doesn't talk about [NotNull] – ympostor Aug 15 '17 at 10:19



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If you wish to move Null checks to be implemented by aspects and not need to be done by hand. The clear solution is to use [Fody](#) the open source build weaver. Specifically you want to leverage the [NullGuard Fody](#).

```
PM> Install-Package NullGuard.Fody
```

Should be everything required to get set up to use Fody with null guards. The documentation shows how you can have fine grain control if you desire.

2019 Update

C# 8 and .NET Core 3.0 permanently eliminate null reference exceptions.

[Tutorial: Migrate existing code with nullable reference types](#)

[Tutorial: Express your design intent more clearly with nullable and non-nullable reference types](#)

edited Aug 2 at 20:09

answered May 4 '16 at 14:03



Chris Marisic

22.8k 18 142 244