

How can I check a C# variable is an empty string "" or null? [duplicate]

Asked 7 years, 10 months ago Active 11 months ago Viewed 178k times



91

This question already has an answer here:

[Easier way of writing null or empty?](#) 5 answers



I am looking for the simplest way to do a check. I have a variable that can be equal to "" or null. Is there just one function that can check if it's not "" or null?



12

c#

edited Oct 22 '18 at 11:21



Patrick Hofman

134k 18 190 253

asked Nov 22 '11 at 9:40



Samantha J T Star

6,396 62 193 347

marked as duplicate by [Patrick Hofman](#) c# Oct 22 '18 at 11:21

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](#).

6 Answers




193

```
if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(myString)) {  
    //  
}
```



answered Nov 22 '11 at 9:41

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- 1 when i use `IsEmpty` it says: 'string' does not contain a definition for `IsEmpty` , can i use `IsEmpty` in [msdn](#) or should i use `IsNullOrEmpty` ? – [stom](#) Nov 3 '15 at 14:49 
- 3 Very simple and useful. I wish PHP could have something like this – [Andrew Liu](#) Dec 17 '15 at 5:23
- 5 @Lion Liu: Actually I think PHP has exactly as much to offer. See: php.net/manual/en/function.empty.php – [Milan](#) Feb 2 '16 at 20:09
- 4 I like `IsNullOrWhiteSpace` (null, empty, or whitespace...) – [Tony Trembath-Drake](#) Feb 25 '17 at 13:16
- 1 @AndrewLiu there is you simple do if (empty(\$my_var)) – [chadpeppers](#) Dec 18 '17 at 19:10

Since .NET 2.0 you can use:

42

```
// Indicates whether the specified string is null or an Empty string.
string.IsNullOrEmpty(string value);
```

Additionally, since .NET 4.0 there's a new method that goes a bit farther:

```
// Indicates whether a specified string is null, empty, or consists only of white-space characters.
string.IsNullOrWhiteSpace(string value);
```

edited Nov 14 '17 at 12:54



[Kurt Van den Branden](#)

5,917 6 39 61

answered Nov 22 '11 at 9:45



[madd0](#)

7,721 2 30 54

if the variable is a string

9

```
bool result = string.IsNullOrEmpty(variableToTest);
```

if you only have an object which may or may not contain a string then

```
bool result = string.IsNullOrEmpty(variableToTest as string);
```

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jk.

11.9k

5

30

48

-
- 1 I had the same problem and the second one doesn't work correctly. Try this: `object x=3; bool result = string.IsNullOrEmpty(x as string);` 'x as string' will be null so the result is true despite x having a value other than null or an empty string. I didn't find a short solution, used a double check. – [molnarm](#) Apr 17 '12 at 14:14
-
- 1 @MártonMolnár it would have to contain a string 3 is not a string so this is expected try using "3" instead – [jk.](#) Apr 17 '12 at 16:59
-

`string.IsNullOrEmpty` is what you want.

2



answered Nov 22 '11 at 9:42

[cristobalito](#)

3,627

22

39



2



```
if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(myString))
{
    . . .
}
```

edited Nov 22 '11 at 9:56

[Marek Grzenkiewicz](#)

14.5k

6

72

94

answered Nov 22 '11 at 9:51

[Asker](#)

530

1

3

13



Cheap trick:

1

`Convert.ToString((object)stringVar) == ""`

This works because `Convert.ToString(object)` returns an empty string if object is null. `Convert.ToString(string)` returns null if string is null.

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answered Nov 22 '11 at 9:42



yrk

47 2 10

4 While technically correct I can categorically say I have never seen this method used. – [Adam Houldsworth](#) Nov 22 '11 at 9:43

why?..... – [Liam](#) Sep 17 '15 at 13:34

Are we to assume that this conversion of stringVar to a cast object returns empty string for both null and empty string assigned to the stringVar variable, but converting the same stringVar without the cast returns null and empty string instead? Im just trying to find out all the variations..... – [Stokely](#) Aug 29 '17 at 21:39

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