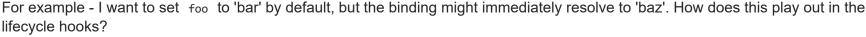
How to set default values for Angular 2 component properties?

Asked 3 years, 7 months ago Active 2 months ago Viewed 74k times



When writing Angular 2.0 components, how does one set default values for properties?

lifecycle hooks?





```
@Component({
    selector: 'foo-component'
export class FooComponent {
   @Input()
   foo: string = 'bar';
   @Input()
   zalgo: string;
   ngOnChanges(changes){
          console.log(this.foo);
         console.log(changes.foo ? changes.foo.previousValue : undefined);
          console.log(changes.foo ? changes.foo.currentValue : undefined);
```

Given the following templates, this is what I expect the values would be. Am I wrong?

```
<foo-component [foo] = 'baz'></foo-component>
// Logged to console:
// 'baz'
// 'bar'
// 'baz'
<foo-component [zalgo] = 'released'></foo-component>
// Logged to console:
// 'bar'
```

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edited Aug 9 at 21:28

asked Mar 17 '16 at 21:23



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What happens when you try it? – JB Nizet Mar 17 '16 at 21:28

- @BryanRayner the way currently console's are getting printed are correct..what is the problem which you facing? Pankaj Parkar Mar 17 '16 at 21:58
- I am not currently facing a problem, just seeking clarification on the intended behavior. When I didn't find the answer to my curiosity, I decided I would ask the guestion in case others had the same desire for clarity. - Bryan Rayner Mar 17 '16 at 22:41

In your example you are missing the parenthesis on the @Input() – kitimenpolku Oct 19 '16 at 6:16 /

1 Answer



That is interesting subject. You can play around with two lifecycle hooks to figure out how it works: ngonChanges and ngonInit.

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Basically when you set default value to Input that's mean it will be used only in case there will be no value coming on that component. And the interesting part it will be changed before component will be initialized.



Let's say we have such components with two lifecycle hooks and one property coming from input.



```
@Component({
 selector: 'cmp',
export class Login implements OnChanges, OnInit {
 @Input() property: string = 'default';
 ngOnChanges(changes) {
   console.log('Changed', changes.property.currentValue,
changes.property.previousValue);
 ngOnInit() {
```

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}

Situation 1

Component included in html without defined property value

As result we will see in console: Init default

That's mean onChange was not triggered. Init was triggered and property value is default as expected.

Situation 2

Component included in html with setted property <cmp [property]="'new value'"></cmp>

As result we will see in console:

```
Changed new value Object {}
Init new value
```

And this one is interesting. Firstly was triggered on Change hook, which setted property to new value, and previous value was **empty** object! And only after that onInit hook was triggered with new value of property.

answered Aug 30 '16 at 5:57



Mikki 4 891

891 4 26 49

6 Is there any links to the official docs for this behavior? Would be good to understand the logic and reasoning behind this, also be able to track what the behavior is per version. – Bryan Rayner Dec 12 '16 at 17:42

I have not seen such info, all above is my own investigation. I think you can find more answers if you will read compiled js files – Mikki Dec 12 '16 at 17:47

- 2 documentation is here Slicedpan Oct 4 '17 at 20:25
- 1 I was looking for documentation on the @Input having default values. @slicepan has a link to the docs for the component lifecycle, but I did not see a default value used in the documentation. nycynik Mar 12 '18 at 23:41
- 1 You are lifesaver. This made my head hurt, while was upgrading from Angular JS app to Angular 7.x Andris Aug 2 at 10:35

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