

# 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?

63

For example - I want to set `foo` to 'bar' by default, but the binding might immediately resolve to 'baz'. How does this play out in the lifecycle hooks?



9

```
@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'
```

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).



edited Aug 9 at 21:28

asked Mar 17 '16 at 21:23



Bryan Rayner

2,099 2 19 32

What happens when you try it? – [JB Nizet](#) Mar 17 '16 at 21:28

1 @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

5 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 question 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() – [kitimempolku](#) Oct 19 '16 at 6:16 ✎

## 1 Answer



93



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

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() {
```

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

```
}
```

## 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 `onChange` 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

4

26

45

---

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. `@slice`pan 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 AngularJS app to Angular 7.x – Andris Aug 2 at 10:35

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our [Cookie Policy](#), [Privacy Policy](#), and our [Terms of Service](#).

