

# What does the pipe(|) mean in typescript?



While browsing some typescript code of @ng-bootstrap I have found pipe( | ) operator.

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```
export declare const NGB_PRECOMPILE: (typeof NgbAlert | typeof NgbTooltipWindow)[];
```



What is the use of pipe( | ) operator in typescript?



typescript

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edited Jul 28 '16 at 6:07

asked Jul 28 '16 at 5:56



Jobin

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## 2 Answers



This is called [union type](#) in typescript.

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A union type describes a value that can be one of several types.



Have a look at this example:



```
class Test1 {  
  public a:string  
}  
class Test2 {  
  public b:string  
}
```

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```
x = [Test1]; //ok
x = [Test1, Test2]; //ok
x = [Test3]; //compilation error
```

edited Mar 21 at 7:52

answered Jul 28 '16 at 6:05



Aleksey L.

13.3k 31 38



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The pipe represents 'or'. So in this context it says that either of the declared types is allowed. Perhaps it is easy to understand a union with primitive types:

```
let x: (string | number);
```

```
x = 1; //ok
x = 'myString'; //ok
x = true; //compilation error for a boolean
```

edited Apr 29 at 5:25

answered Jun 20 '17 at 3:53



cham

880 11 28

5 in JS double pipeline is a logical OR, single pipeline is a bitwise operator OR. – Kirill Nov 1 '17 at 16:44

Also, it only seems to work with primitives, because `thing: One | Two` where both types are an interface with different properties, it will merge (union?) them, and complain that neither match eachothers properties. That won't work with primitives, because i cant just merge an object with `boolean` or something – TrySpace Apr 4 '18 at 17:21

This answer is definitively wrong as @kirill points out above. – RavenHurst Apr 23 at 17:16

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