Asp.net - Add blank item at top of dropdownlist

Ask Question

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Why is the dropdown not showing my blank item first? Here is what I have

```
drpList.Items.Add(New ListItem("", ""))

With drpList
    .DataSource = myController.GetList(userid)
    .DataTextField = "Name"
    .DataValueField = "ID"
    .DataBind()
End With
```

Edit ~ I am binding to a Generig List, could this be the culprit?

asp.net   drop-down-menu

edited May 5 '12 at 12:17

kapa
64.7k   17   136   166

asked Nov 5 '08 at 23:00

Saif Khan
9,845   25   88   140

1   This relates to: stackoverflow.com/questions/983716/... – mcfea Apr 16 '14 at 23:19

10 Answers

After your databind:

258

```
drpList.Items.Insert(0, new ListItem(String.Empty, String.Empty));
drpList.SelectedIndex = 0;
```

edited Oct 7 '11 at 22:58

Bob Kaufman
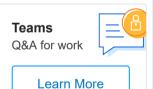**8,820**   12   62   94

answered Nov 5 '08 at 23:05

JasonS
13k   9   33   46

Alternately, you can instantiate a ListItem, set its Selected property to true, and then insert it into drpList as above. – skia.heliou Jun 15 '15 at 16:22

3   *This may help those looking for an answer to work with sqlDataSource data* In my case, I also had to add drpList.AppendDataBoundItems = true; to bind it to the current data in the Page_Load method – sabastienfyrre Sep 14 '15 at 14:47

You can use `AppendDataBoundItems=true` to easily add:

28

```
<asp:DropDownList ID="drpList" AppendDataBoundItems="true" runat="se
    <asp:ListItem Text="" Value="" /><br/>
</asp:DropDownList>
```

edited Sep 24 '14 at 5:53

Imad
4,178   3   24   64

answered Nov 28 '12 at 2:57

ayhtut
316   3   2

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1   VS doesn't like the <br /> tag and it works for me without it. This is such a
     clean option, I don't know why it doesn't have more votes. – Tony L. May
     21 '15 at 14:29

     Worked like a charm. Thanks for the design time solution. –
     DataCat Robin Aug 27 '15 at 14:26

2   Don't forget to set Selected="true" – Fandango68 Feb 24 '16 at 23:35

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The databinding takes place after you've added your blank list item,
and it replaces what's there already, you need to add the blank item
to the beginning of the List from your controller, or add it after
databinding.

EDIT:

After googling this quickly as of ASP.Net 2.0 there's an
"AppendDataBoundItems" true property that you can set to...append
the databound items.

for details see

http://imar.spaanjaars.com/QuickDocId.aspx?quickdoc=281 or

http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-
us/library/system.web.ui.webcontrols.listcontrol.appenddataboundite
ms.aspx

answered Nov 5 '08 at 23:02

Whisk
2,586   1   25   27

I tried setting this already to true, but doesn't work. –   Saif Khan   Nov 5

'08 at 23:06

3   One think you need to watch out for is having your dropdown list grow after each postback by appending the same data over and over. – Keith Sirmons Nov 5 '08 at 23:07

Is the blank item not there, or there but just not selected? – Whisk Nov 5 '08 at 23:07

This would work if you had the blank one in your .aspx markup, then bound in code behind. – John Sheehan Nov 5 '08 at 23:38

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I think a better way is to insert the blank item first, then bind the data just as you have been doing. However you need to set the `AppendDataBoundItems` property of the list control.

We use the following method to bind any data source to any list control...

```
public static void BindList(ListControl list, IEnumerable datasource
string textName)
{
    list.Items.Clear();
    list.Items.Add("", "");
    list.AppendDataBoundItems = true;
    list.DataValueField = valueName;
    list.DataTextField = textName;
    list.DataSource = datasource;
    list.DataBind();
}
```

answered Mar 18 '09 at 17:36

Andy McCluggage
20.1k   15   49   66

Sorry for the C# code to a VB question – Andy McCluggage Mar 18 '09 at 17:46

This one worked for me. Thanks! – Cesar May 4 '14 at 6:38

Like "Whisk" Said, the trick is in "AppendDataBoundItems" property

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```csharp
protected void Page_Load(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
    if (!IsPostBack)
    {
        DropDownList1.AppendDataBoundItems = true;
        DropDownList1.Items.Insert(0, new ListItem(String.Empty, Str
        DropDownList1.SelectedIndex = 0;
    }
}
```

Thanks "Whisk"

answered Oct 30 '10 at 20:14

user492376

Do your databinding and then add the following:

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```vb
Dim liFirst As New ListItem("", "")
drpList.Items.Insert(0, liFirst)
```

answered Nov 5 '08 at 23:04

Dillie-O
23.7k   14   83   133

it looks like you are adding a blank item, and then databinding, which

3

would empty the list; try inserting the blank item after databinding

edited Nov 5 '08 at 23:06

answered Nov 5 '08 at 23:01

Steven A. Lowe
53.6k   16   120   197

when I do that, the blank row appears at the bottom. – Saif Khan   Nov 5 '08 at 23:04

You can specify the index to insert into. Look at JasonS' solution. – AndyG Nov 5 '08 at 23:06

@[Saif Khan]: and if that doesn't work, insert the blank row into your datasource, then databind – Steven A. Lowe Nov 5 '08 at 23:08

3

simple

at last

```
ddlProducer.Items.Insert(0, "");
```

edited May 8 '12 at 18:27

arrowd
22.8k   4   53   83

answered May 8 '12 at 12:50

Umesh
31   1

```
ddlCategory.DataSource = ds;
ddlCategory.DataTextField = "CatName";
ddlCategory.DataValueField = "CatID";
```

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Cách 1:

```
ddlCategory.Items.Add(new ListItem("--please select--", "-1"));
ddlCategory.AppendDataBoundItems = true;
ddlCategory.SelectedIndex = -1;

ddlCategory.DataBind();
```

Cách 2:

```
ddlCategory.Items.Insert(0, new ListItem("-- please select --",
"0"));
```

(Tested OK)

edited May 18 '14 at 12:22

answered Apr 24 '13 at 8:10

Chưa biết
491 4 5

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You could also have a union of the blank select with the select that has content:

```
select '' value, '' name
union
select value, name from mytable
```

edited Mar 2 '15 at 21:58

Undo ♦
23.1k 20 90 114

answered Mar 2 '15 at 21:53

CINCHAPPS
420   3   10

Looking back, I wouldn't recommend this method except only as an alternative. I like the event for flexibility sake (OnDataBound="mydropdown_DataBound"), but in my current case, I'm adopting the (AppendDataBoundItems="true") for simplicity sake. – CINCHAPPS Mar 3 '15 at 14:55