

DataBoundLiteralControl difficulties

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when accessing the content of this object (in this case a date/time string whose length is 20 characters), the browser displays the corresponding date normally.

however, when the fiels is empty it does not display anything.

so what's the problem?

i am trying to implement a decision structure that will depend on the value of the control: if it exist the do A, and if it is an empty string do B.

the problem is that the "empty string" is not at all empty, even though nothing renders! in the course of debugging i found that the length of this "empty string" is 49 characters long, and i even see the characters, and have absolutely no idea what they are, how they got there, or what they are doing there.

when a value is present (the regular 20-character date/time string), the length of the text is 69 characters. there are obviously 49 characters that are eluding me in any case, but i cannot create a dependable method based on the length without being certain that it will always be constant, and in doing that the first step is seeing the ionvisible characters.

how can i see them? why are they there? can ui strip them away? i tried to trim them, but was unsuccessful.

the code:

```
Dim dblc As DataBoundLiteralControl, str As String
dblc = CType( e.Item.Cells(6).Controls(0),
System.Web.UI.DataBoundLiteralControl )
str = dblc.Text
lblFeedback.Text = "Length = " & str.Length & ", Value = " & str
```