

## Re: default parameters

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.csharp/2008-02/msg03800.html>

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- *From:* "Rudy Velthuis" <[newsgroups@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:newsgroups@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 26 Feb 2008 17:14:39 -0800
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Christopher wrote:

One thing that really erks me is the lack of default parameters in C#, such that I have to write 16 versions of a constructor in C#, one for every permutation of default params in a C++ constructor, when migrating. While I know that C# does not support default parameters, can someone explain the reasoning behind why it does not?

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/msdntv/transcripts/20040624csharpahTranscript.aspx>

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Hejlsberg:

Okay. The question is, Why don't we have default parameters? I think there are a couple of reasons. First of all, they're somewhat duplicative of overloading. I mean you can do the same with overloading, and which is indeed what people do today, but yes, you're right. It's more typing for sure. I think the other one is subtler, and in retrospect maybe not as important as I thought. Originally in the language design are— our issue with default parameters is that they burned the default into the call site as opposed to leave it up to the implementation. If you do overloads, let's say you have void f, and then, let's say, you have void f of index, for example, and void f of index is where the work happens, right? Then in this guy here, you simply say echo 5, because your default is 5. When the user calls f, it is up to you to change— you can change what your default is later in v2 of your API. When you have a call f somewhere, this by the compiler is translated into f of 5 in the call site,—

—because it just copies that value. Now you can never change the default. This gives you more flexibility, but— and I thought that that was important. Perhaps it's not all that important, but—

Re: default parameters

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"Physics is not a religion. If it were, we'd have a much easier time raising money." — Leon Lenderman

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