

Re: Checking for A Blank String

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- *From:* "Tom Leylan" <tleylan@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 10 Mar 2007 20:18:35 -0500
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"Herfried K. Wagner [MVP]" <hurf-spam-me-here@xxxxxx> wrote...

This is not a discussion about basing preferences on ideology. I have given technical reasons why I avoid using 'String.IsNullOrEmpty' currently.

Yes and in this case you pointed out a bug. But how many other very similar discussions have we had about the VB compatibility library?

If it was available in VB6 Herfried prefers to use it in VB.Net.

Again, completely wrong. Although I am currently only active in the English VB group, I use VB.NET, VB6, C#, and some other programming languages equally. When using VB.NET, I use VB.NET, not only the .NET Framework, as I do with other programming languages.

Completely wrong? It doesn't seem like that to me based upon your postings covering some 5+ years. We've discussed topics in the VB6 newsgroup and now in the VB.Net newsgroups but I don't recall reading or responding to any of your posts on a C# newsgroup. Be that as it may I'm not stating that you don't know another language I wrote quite plainly if you run into VB6 stuff which is available in VB.Net you tend to choose the VB-compatible option.

I understand that along with your reasons I am addressing those who are on the fence. Those who may not consider themselves VB gurus and who might one day like to develop software (and be employable) in more than one language.

Again I do not see the relation to the topic because nobody claims that he/she "speaks" VB only.

Re: Checking for A Blank String

The topic is not the Len() function, it is simply the example that sparked the thread. The reality is there are people reading these messages that are just learning VB and those that can write code in another but are pretty unlikely to write an entire application in say Java. I often address message to those groups to get them to consider that other languages implement constructs which can be of use the VB.Net developer. That if (for instance) there was no linked list that one couldn't be written.

In the words of Herfried: "Well, then I suggest you specify more clearly what you are talking about."

Tom, in contrast to you I do not blame you for making mistakes. Everybody makes them, I make them and even you make them.

I have never written "Well, then I suggest you specify more clearly what you are talking about." to you or anybody else that I'm aware of with the exception of my quoting you this time. Now you're contrasting me to the person who wonders how I write software and suggests that I might learn to write more clearly so they get their made up attributions correct.

I wrote:

| Trying to avoid the use of VB's intrinsic functions is like trying to
use a
| screwdriver to screw in a nail although there is a hammer in the toolbox
for
| the reason that "a screwdriver is a more professional tool than a
hammer."

Yes that's what you wrote. The .Net Framework is not "more professional" any more than the Windows API is more professional. And you clearly wrote "using a screwdriver to screw in a nail." So people who do it are in essence "stupid" or are you now claiming that using a screwdriver to screw in a nail is sometimes a reasonable solution? You aren't of course because it isn't. If using the wrong tool is the same as using a "different" tool it's time to go back to Logic 101.

Professionals often discuss various ways to solve a problem if somebody posts "Yeah, or we could all just plink away on Amigas or something" (1) it is an indication of their insincerity or lack of knowledge on the subject.

(1) from "Things to Say When You're Losing a Technical Argument"

Re: Checking for A Blank String

It seems that you negatively connotate the term "low-level", which is not what I do.

Calling functions in function library has never been considered low-level to anyone I've known in the computer industry. But if you will agree we can settle on Wikipedia's definition:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low-level_programming_language. How does `String.IsNullOrEmpty` (or other Framework methods) fall into the context as expressed there? Are they close to the hardware and do they provide little or no abstraction from a computer's microprocessor? The answer as you will find through a little diligence is no, of course not.

And here is a definition from Answers.com that seems even further from what you claim low-level means.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/low-level-language>

Rather than my applying a negative connotation doesn't it appear more likely that you misused the term "low-level" to make people think it was harder to use the .Net Framework?

You understand the difference between buying (for instance) a Sony TV which develops a problem and proclaiming "Sony TVs suck" and the statement "I bought a Sony once and it had a problem."

Does that really matter here? If there are problems associated with the function, regardless of their actual reason, why would I want to prefer it over another method that doesn't suffer from the problem and has been used for years?

It only matters when you insist that your misapplication of the screwdriver analogy along with your misuse of the term low-level combined with your insistence that there are fewer letters to type in the function name `Len()` matters. You can write "I hit that bug" if you in fact hit that bug and everybody would consider that a heads-up warning. Alternatively you can scour your friend's blogs for rarely encountered bugs to support your position. One is real, one is artificial. If I post a bug report there is every reason to believe another developer writing reasonable code would encounter it as well. If I write "VB.Net sucks" because I encounter a bug I'd appreciate it people just told me to keep my unsupportable opinions to myself.

I am currently working in another domain, not using .NET at all, but I would not have a problem to do my work in C# if this was decided for a project.

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In that case what would you do if you needed need to test if a string was `IsNullOrEmpty`? There is a bug in the JIT optimizer you know?