

Re: Arghhh...strict, but not strict enough

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Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.vb/2009-04/msg00438.html>

- *From:* "Scott M." <s-mar@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 12 Apr 2009 10:50:40 -0400
-

CType is not short for "convert" to a type. It's short for "cast" to type.

IMHO the term "convert" is thrown around too easily. Convert implies that a thing is transformed into a different thing. like a person can convert their religion, they may do that, but they remain the same person.

That's not what happens with CType. With CType, you may get a duplication of the original data, but with a different type of reference variable pointing to that new data.

I just think that the term "convert" is used (even by Microsoft) incorrectly. It gives the impression that something other than what is actually happening is taking place.

-Scott

"Cor Lighthert[MVP]" <Notmyfirstname@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:Ooaq29vuJHA.4476@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Scott,

I see therefore CType is a shortcut for Convert Type. That is because it does not convert, that is simple American logic.

They make it so difficult there in America for people outside the USA.

Although this page state something else, can it be that CType is to convert and cast as that is possible instead.

<http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/kca3w8x6.aspx>

Cor

"Scott M." <s-mar@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:uVmvb7suJHA.4592@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Re: Arghhh...strict, but not strict enough

Not quite Armin, You don't get a conversion with CType. You may get a duplication of data boxed or unboxed into a new type if your input and output parameters are reference and value types or vice versa. When both of the inputs are of the same fundamental type, you just get a cast of the reference.

A conversion implies that the original data is transformed into something else and CType doesn't do that. It *can* copy data and put that into a new type, but it can't convert the data into a new type.

-Scott

"Armin Zingler" <az.nospam@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:el6hWBduJHA.5764@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

John Whitworth wrote:

Thanks Armin – I got there from Patrice's message. But is there a difference between CType and directcast?

DirectCast only casts. CType (also) converts if necessary. Even if both lead to the same (IL) code in this case, I prefer Directcast – personal taste only – if I want to cast. With CType, the VB compiler generates the code required to do the conversion in other cases.

The difference between casting and converting is that a conversion creates a new object while casting just changes the type of the reference.

Armin