

comp.lang.java.programmer: Re: determining if a string is null

## Re: determining if a string is null

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Java/comp.lang.java.programmer/2003-11/2934.html>

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Date: Mon, 24 Nov 2003 11:54:53 -0700

Gary N. wrote:

> *Is there an easy way to determine if a string is null?*

>

> *String a = null;*

> *a.equals(""); // doesn't work*

Just to add to your other replies... you're using terminology in a dangerous way here. In the code above, you can't really check to see if a String is null, because there isn't a String there at all. Instead, you have a reference, and that reference is *\*capable\** of pointing to a String... but the whole meaning of 'null' is that there is no String there at all. (Furthermore, if there were a String, it would be meaningless to say that the String "is null". Only references can be null.)

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