

MaskedTextBox Operators

Exception	Condition
ArgumentException	The string supplied to the Mask property is not a valid mask. Invalid mask

Masking element	Description
0	Digit, required. This element will accept any single digit between 0 and 9.
9	Digit or space, optional.
#	Digit or space, optional. If this position is blank in the mask, it will be rendered as a space. Spaces and tabs are allowed.
L	Letter, required. Restricts input to the ASCII letters a-z and A-Z. This mask element is case sensitive.
?	Letter, optional. Restricts input to the ASCII letters a-z and A-Z. This mask element is case sensitive.
&	Character, required. If the AsciiOnly property is set to true, this element behaves like the "C" element.
C	Character, optional. Any non-control character. If the AsciiOnly property is set to true, this element behaves like the "&" element.
A	Alphanumeric, required. If the AsciiOnly property is set to true , the only characters allowed are the ASCII characters a-z and A-Z. This mask element behaves like the "a" element.
a	Alphanumeric, optional. If the AsciiOnly property is set to true , the only characters allowed are the ASCII characters a-z and A-Z. This mask element behaves like the "A" element.

.	Decimal placeholder. The actual display character used will be the decimal symbol defined by the control's FormatProvider property.
,	Thousands placeholder. The actual display character used will be the thousands separator determined by the control's FormatProvider property.
:	Time separator. The actual display character used will be the time symbol applied by the control's FormatProvider property.
/	Date separator. The actual display character used will be the date symbol applied by the control's FormatProvider property.
\$	Currency symbol. The actual character displayed will be the currency symbol defined by the control's FormatProvider property.
<	Shift down. Converts all characters that follow to lowercase.
>	Shift up. Converts all characters that follow to uppercase.
	Disable a previous shift up or shift down.
\	Escape. Escapes a mask character, turning it into a literal. "\\\" is the escape sequence for a backslash.
All other characters	Literals. All non-mask elements will appear as themselves within MaskedTextBox controls. They are not visible at any time, and cannot be moved or deleted by the user.

If you change a mask when `MaskedTextBox` already contains user input filtered by a previous mask, `MaskedTextBox` will attempt to migrate that input into the new mask definition. If it fails, it will clear the existing input. Assigning a zero-length string as the mask will preserve any existing data in the control. When used with a zero-length mask, `MaskedTextBox` behaves like a single-line `TextBox` control.

The decimal (`.`), thousandths (`,`), time (`:`), date (`/`), and currency (`$`) symbols default to displaying those symbols as defined by the application's culture. You can force them to display symbols for another culture by using the `FormatProvider` property.

Character insertion into the mask at run time is controlled by the `InsertKeyMode` property. Users can navigate through the mask by using the left and right arrow keys or the mouse cursor, and can skip optional positions in the mask by entering a space.

Mask	Behavior
<code>00/00/0000</code>	A date (day, numeric month, year) in international date format. The "/" character is the date separator appropriate to the application's current culture.
<code>00->L<LL-0000</code>	A date (day, month abbreviation, and year) in United States format in which the month is an uppercase letter followed by two lowercase letters.
<code>(999)-000-0000</code>	United States phone number, area code optional. If users do not want to enter the area code, they can move the mouse pointer directly at the position in the mask represented by the first parenthesis.
<code>\$999,999.00</code>	A currency value in the range of 0 to 999999. The currency, thousandth, and decimal separator are culture-specific equivalents.