

# Setting Drop-Down Field Values to Not Set in the Helix ALM SDK

If you use the Helix ALM SOAP SDK and try to change a drop-down field value to <not>, the behavior may not work as expected. For example, the following code was used in a C# application:

```
((CDropdownField)defect.customFieldList[0]).  
value = null;
```

The developer wanted to change the field value to null (<not>). However, the defect did not change.

After some troubleshooting, the developer used the following code:

```
((CDropdownField)defect.customFieldList[0]).value = "";
```

The difference? C# optimized this code and removed the null field from the response. The application then interpreted this to mean <not>.

Keep the following in mind:

- You cannot set a drop-down field value to <not> using the SOAP SDK because you can technically have a field value named <not> and it would be ambiguous.
- You cannot set the value to null. Languages, such as C#, read null as the absence of a value and exclude the value from the request. When SOAP gets the request, it sees that a value does not exist, assumes no changes were made, and continues processing.
- You can use an empty string. Languages, such as C#, interpret this to mean there is a value but it is empty. When SOAP gets the request, it sees that an empty value exists, and interprets this to mean <not> <not>.

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Article ID: 450

Last updated: 02 Jun, 2017

Revision: 4

Helix ALM (formerly TestTrack) -> Setting Drop-Down Field Values to Not Set in the Helix ALM SDK

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