

Sorting Items in a ListBox or DropDownList in ASP.NET

`sortListItems` - As many of you might know, ASP.NET does not come with a sort function for the dropdownlist or listbox. It is true that you can place the items from a dataset in the list in sorted order. The problem is that once the items are in the list, they can no longer be sorted. If you need to add/remove items from the list, there is no way to sort the list. The `sortListItems` function displayed below sorts an existing dropdownlist or listbox. It should also sort any other control which has listitems but, has only been tested on those two mentioned above. The list parameter is set as `Object` to allow compatibility with different types of objects. This (although not tested) allows for the sorting of any object which uses the `Listitem` to hold the list of values.

The following function will sort the items in a dropdownlist or listbox by using the `SortedList` object:

```
Private Sub sortListItems(ByVal list As Object)

    ' Create Variables
    Dim li As ListItem
    Dim sl As SortedList = New SortedList

    ' Loop through each Item in the List and
    ' move each item over to the SortedList
    For Each li In list.Items
        sl.Add(li.Text, li.Value)
    Next

    ' Move sorted items back to List again
    list.DataSource = sl
    list.DataValueField = "Value"
    list.DataTextField = "Key"
    list.DataBind()

End Sub
```

Here is a sample call to the function where the dropdownlist to sort is called `ddlCustomers`:

```
sortListItems(ddlCustomers)
```

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Questions or Comments?

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