

# What's the deal with that alternate form for menu item template separators?

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We saw [last time](#) that you can specify a separator in a menu item template by specifying zero for everything, even though technically you're supposed to pass `MFT_SEPARATOR` for the flags. What's the deal with that alternate form for menu item template separators?

This goes back to the early days of the `InsertMenu` function (and its friends like `AppendMenu` and `ModifyMenu`). [In the Before Time](#), the way you specified a separator was to add a null pointer. Not a null string (a string with no characters, consisting only of the null terminator), but an actual null pointer.

```
AppendMenu(hmenu, MF_STRING, 0, NULL);
```

The recommended way of adding a separator is, of course, to use `MF_SEPARATOR`, but this old-fashioned method is still supported for backward compatibility. The alternate form of the menu item template for separators is just a throwback to the days when this “old style” of adding a separator was in fact the only style.

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