

How do I modify the contents of a boxed Windows Runtime value?

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When you box a value in the Windows Runtime, it's boxed for good. You can't change the value inside a box. Most of the time, it's pretty obvious that you can't do it:

```
// C#
void UpdateX(Nullable<Point> pt)
{
    if (pt != null) {
        // Error: Cannot modify the return value of Point?.Value
        // because it is not a variable
        pt.Value.X = 42.0;
    }
}

// C++/WinRT
void UpdateX(IReference<Point> pt)
{
    if (pt != nullptr) {
        // Error: expression must be a modifiable lvalue
        pt.Value().X = 42.0;
    }
}

// C++/CX
void UpdateX(IBox<Point>^ pt)
{
    if (pt != nullptr) {
        // Error: lvalue required as left operand of assignment
        pt->Value.X = 42.0;
    }
}
```

In the case of C++/WinRT, I think the error is unlikely to occur because you're clearly modifying the result of a function call.

But for C# and C++/CX, the property syntax looks a lot like a member variable access, and you may not realize that the property value is secretly the result of a function call.

Boxed values are read-only. If you look at `IReference<T>` (which is the interface at the ABI layer that is used for Windows Runtime boxed values), you'll see that there is a read-only `Value` property, but no method for setting a new value. Once a value is boxed, you can't change it.

But what if you want to change it?

You'll have to box up a new value and then ask everybody to switch over to it.

```
// C#
Nullable<Point> UpdateX(Nullable<Point> pt)
{
    if (pt != null) {
        var value = pt.Value;
        value.X = 42.0;
        pt = value; // box up a new value
    }
    return pt;
}

// C++/WinRT
IReference<Point> UpdateX(IReference<Point> pt)
{
    if (pt != nullptr) {
        auto value = pt.Value();
        value.X = 42.0;
        pt = winrt::box_value(value); // box up a new value
    }
    return pt;
}

// C++/CX
IBox<Point> UpdateX(IBox<Point>^ pt)
{
    if (pt != nullptr) {
        auto value = pt->Value;
        value.X = 42.0;
        pt = value; // box up a new value
    }
    return pt;
}
```

Of course, you now have to take the updated boxed value and update wherever you got it from.

```
// C#  
flyoutShowOptions.Position = UpdateX(flyoutShowOptions.Position);  
  
// C++/WinRT  
flyoutShowOptions.Position(UpdateX(flyoutShowOptions.Position()));  
  
// C++/CX  
flyoutShowOptions->Position = UpdateX(flyoutShowOptions->Position);
```