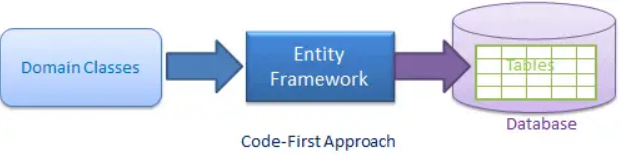
# What is Code-First?

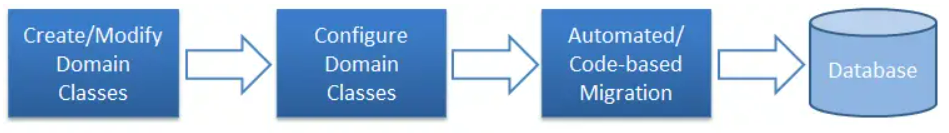
Entity Framework introduced the Code-First approach with Entity Framework 4.1. Code-First is mainly useful in [Domain Driven Design](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/magazine/dd419654.aspx). In the Code-First approach, you focus on the domain of your application and start creating classes for your domain entity rather than design your database first and then create the classes which match your database design. The following figure illustrates the code-first approach.



As you can see in the above figure, EF API will create the database based on your domain classes and configuration. This means you need to start coding first in C# or VB.NET and then EF will create the database from your code.

## Code-First Workflow

The following figure illustrates the code-first development workflow.



The development workflow in the code-first approach would be: Create or modify domain classes -> configure these domain classes using Fluent-API or data annotation attributes -> Create or update the database schema using automated migration or code-based migration.

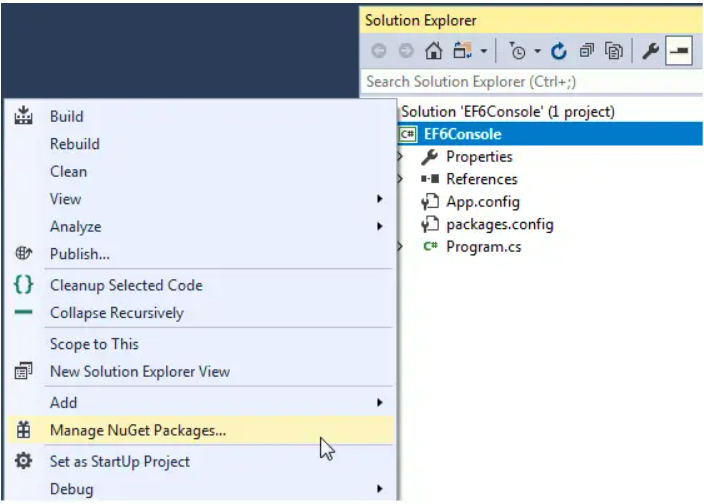
### Install Entity Framework 6

You need to install EntityFramework.dll (EF API) in your project in Visual Studio in order to work with the Code-First approach.

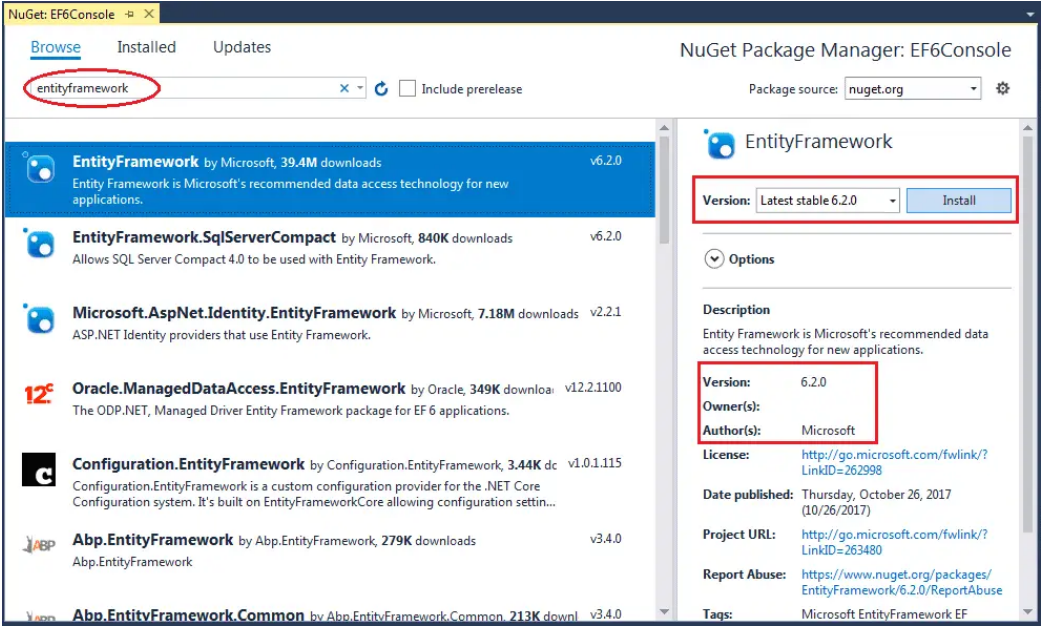
Here, we will install Entity Framework 6 API using NuGet Package Manager in Visual Studio. (You can install EF via NuGet the same way in any version of Visual Studio.)

Right click on your project in the solution explorer and select **Manage NuGet Packages.**

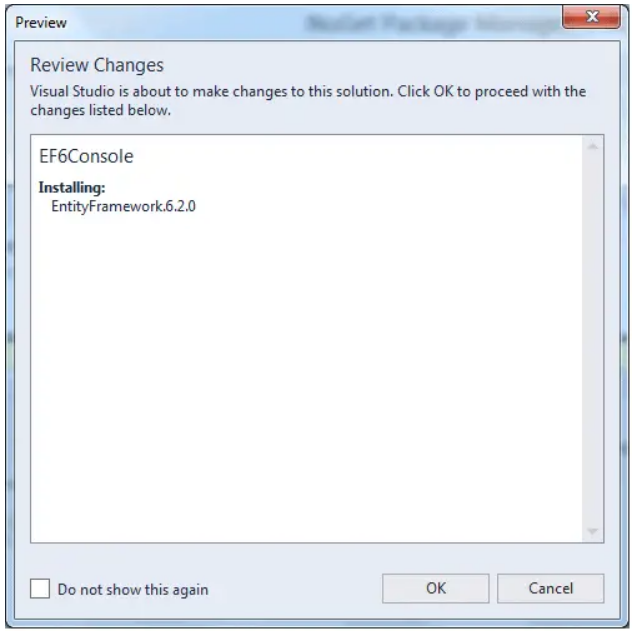
This will open the **Manage NuGet Packages** dialogue box. Search for EntityFramework in the top left search box and press Enter. It will display all the API/plug-ins starting with EntityFramework as shown below.

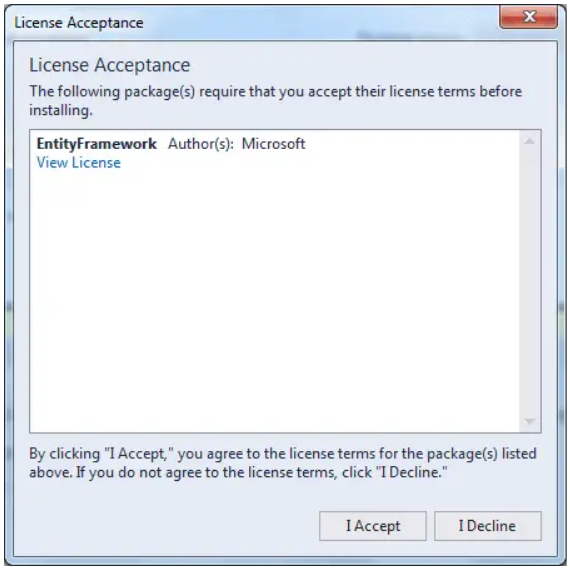


Select EntityFramework (make sure that the author is Microsoft and the version is 6.x) and click on **Install**. This will open the preview box as shown below. Review the changes and click **OK**.

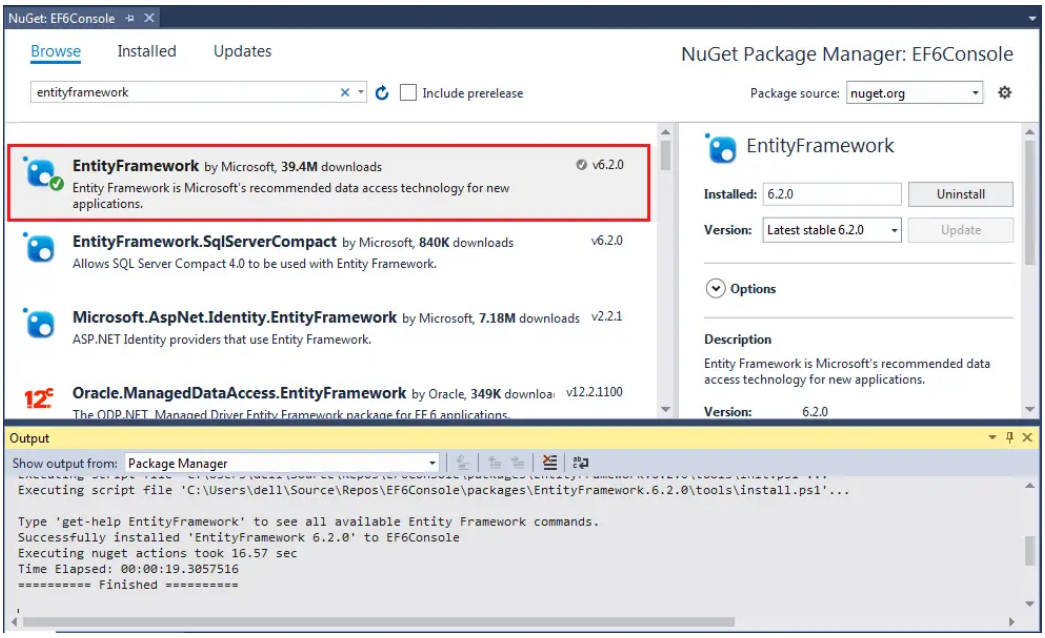


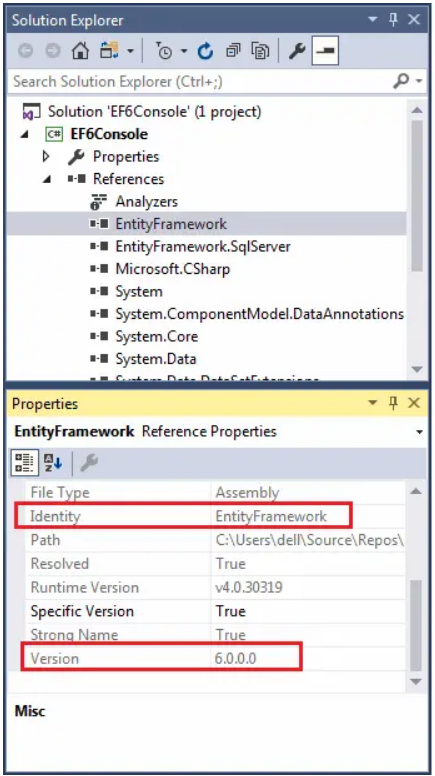
Again, click on the **I Accept** button in the License Acceptance dialogue box to start the installation.





This will install Entity Framework API in the project.

After installation, make sure that the appropriate version of EntityFramework.dll is included in the project.



## Connection String

Connection string has been defined in the Web.Config file.

<connectionStrings>

<add name="conn"

connectionString="Server=Server\_Address;

Initial Catalog=DatabaseName;

User Id=Server\_UserName;

Password=Server\_Password;"

providerName="System.Data.SqlClient" />

</connectionStrings>