

# Which framework should I use?

## .NET Framework

Latest version 4.6.1 (CLR 3)



Windows-only



Open source, but no code contributions

### Features

Fully featured: ADO.NET, WCF, WPF, WinForms, ASP.NET, Entity Framework, Window Server App Fabric, [many more](#)

### Status



Stable, tried and proven, production-ready framework.  
Fully supported by Microsoft



**Best for traditional Windows-only apps**

- WinForms / WPF Apps
- Console Apps
- Web Apps

### Deployment

.NET Framework comes with Windows, or as an installable on its own

### Both frameworks support

- New 64-bit compiler RyuJIT
- C# 7 (not released yet, preview only)
- F# 4

## .NET Core 1

Previously known as .NET Core 5 - why [name change](#)?



Cross-platform



Open source, **with** code contributions

### Features

Only subset of .NET Framework features

No Windows-specific functionality (no WPF, WinForms or ADO.NET)

### Status



.NET Core 1 released, supported and production-ready  
Tools Preview 2  
See the [Roadmap](#) for more details



**Best for Cross-platform / Cloud / Containerised apps**

- Console Apps
- ASP.NET Core 1.0 Web Apps [cloud & container-friendly]
- UWP Apps (new Windows 10 API)

### Deployment

.NET Core is modular, pick and choose only the NuGet packages that you need