

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, WPF, WinForms, ASP.NET, Entity Framework

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
- F# 4

.NET Core 1

Previously known as .NET Core 5 - why name change?



Cross-platform



Open source, **with** code contributions

Features

Subset of .NET Framework features

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

Status



RC1, but still a lot of turbulence

Things will change: see the [Roadmap](#)



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