

Entity Framework Core - Introduction

The ORM Concept

Core

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Technical Trainers



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#csharp-db

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Entity Framework Core

Overview and Features

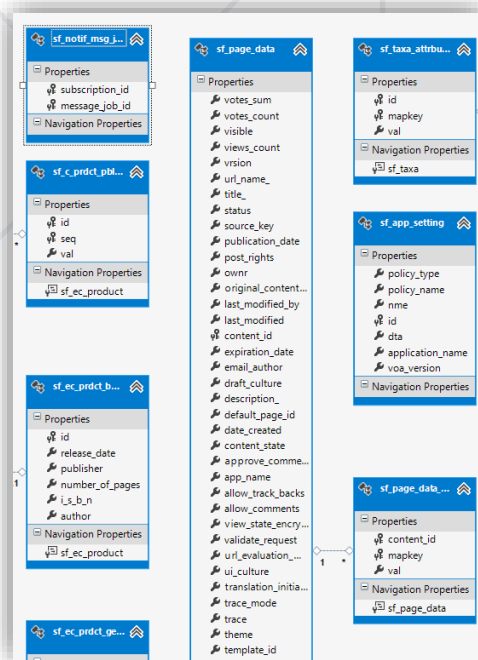
Entity Framework Core: Overview

- The standard **ORM framework** for **.NET** and **.NET Core**
- Provides LINQ-based data queries and **CRUD** operations
- Automatic **change tracking** of in-memory objects
- Works with many relational databases (with different providers)
- Open source with independent release cycle



EF Core: Basic Workflow

1. Define the data model (**Code First** or **Scaffold from DB**)
2. Write & execute query over **IQueryable**
3. EF generates & executes an **SQL query** in the **DB**



```
var toolName = "";

var snippetOptions = DefaultToolGroup
    .Tools
    .OfType<EditorListToll>()
    .Where(t =>
        t.Name == toolName &&
        t.Items != null &&
        t.Items.Any())
    .SelectMany(
        (t, index) =>
            t.Items
                .Select(item =>
                    new
                    {
                        text = item.Text,
                        value = item.Value
                    }
                ));

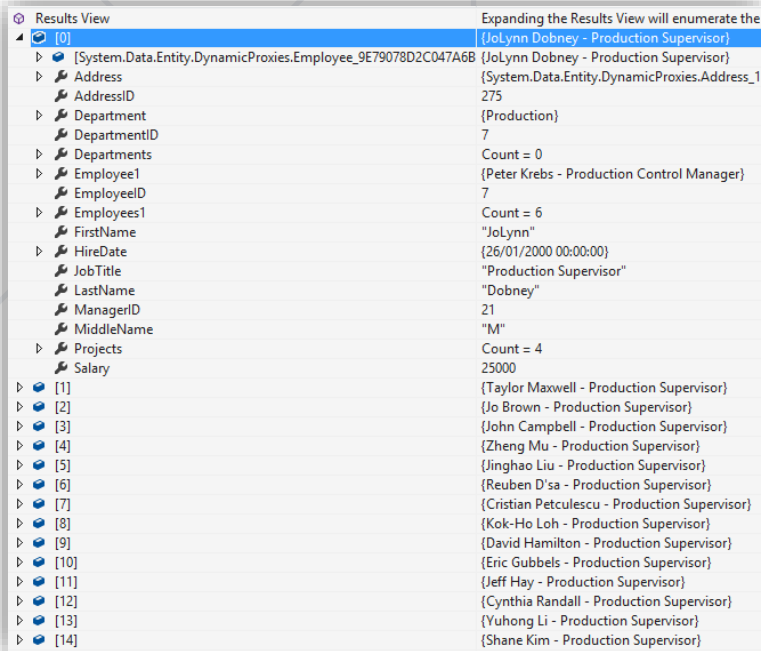
if(snippetOptions.Any())
{
    options[toolName] = snippetOptions;
}
```

```
exec sp_executesql N'SELECT
[Filter2].[UserInCourseId] AS [UserInCourse
[Filter2].[UserId] AS [UserId],
[Filter2].[CourseInstanceId] AS [CourseIns
[Filter2].[FirstCourseGroupId] AS [FirstCou
[Filter2].[SecondCourseGroupId] AS [SecondC
[Filter2].[ThirdCourseGroupId] AS [ThirdCou
[Filter2].[FourthCourseGroupId] AS [FourthC
[Filter2].[FifthCourseGroupId] AS [FifthCou
[Filter2].[IsLiveParticipant] AS [IsLivePar
[Filter2].[Accommodation] AS [Accommodatio
[Filter2].[ExcellentResults] AS [ExcellentR
[Filter2].[Result] AS [Result],
[Filter2].[CanDoTestExam] AS [CanDoTestExam
[Filter2].[CourseTestExamId] AS [CourseTest
[Filter2].[TestExamPoints] AS [TestExamPoi
[Filter2].[CanDoPracticalExam] AS [CanDoPra
[Filter2].[CoursePracticalExamId1] AS [Cour
[Filter2].[PracticalExamPoints] AS [Practic
[Filter2].[AttendancesCount] AS [Attendanc
[Filter2].[HomeworkEvaluationPoints] AS [HC
FROM (SELECT [Extent1].[UserInCourseId] A
AS [SecondCourseGroupId], [Extent1].[Thirdd
[IsLiveParticipant], [Extent1].[Accommodati
[CourseTestExamId], [Extent1].[TestExamPoi
[PracticalExamPoints], [Extent1].[Attendanc
FROM [courses].[UsersInCourses] AS
INNER JOIN [courses].[CoursePractic
WHERE ( EXISTS (SELECT
1 AS [C1]
FROM [courses].[CoursePract
WHERE [Extent1].[UserInCour
)) AND ([Extent2].[AllowExamFilesEv
INNER JOIN [courses].[CoursePracticalExams]
WHERE ([Filter2].[UserId] = @__linq__0) AN
```

4. EF transforms the query results into .NET objects

5. Modify data with C# code and call **SaveChanges()**

6. Entity Framework generates & executes SQL command to modify the DB



Results View

Expanding the Results View will enumerate the

[0]	{JoLynn Dobney - Production Supervisor}
[1]	{Taylor Maxwell - Production Supervisor}
[2]	{Jo Brown - Production Supervisor}
[3]	{John Campbell - Production Supervisor}
[4]	{Zheng Mu - Production Supervisor}
[5]	{Jinghao Liu - Production Supervisor}
[6]	{Reuben D'sa - Production Supervisor}
[7]	{Cristian Petculescu - Production Supervisor}
[8]	{Kok-Ho Loh - Production Supervisor}
[9]	{David Hamilton - Production Supervisor}
[10]	{Eric Gubbels - Production Supervisor}
[11]	{Jeff Hay - Production Supervisor}
[12]	{Cynthia Randall - Production Supervisor}
[13]	{Yuhong Li - Production Supervisor}
[14]	{Shane Kim - Production Supervisor}

```
private void ChangeBlogPostName(int id,
    string newName)
{
    var db = new Context();
    var post = db.Posts
        .FirstOrDefault(x => x.Id == id);

    if(post == null)
    {
        throw new ArgumentNullException(
            "Item with that id was not found");
    }

    post.Name = newName;
    db.SaveChanges();
}
```

```
exec sp_executesql N'SET NOCOUNT ON;
DELETE FROM [Categories]
WHERE [CategoryID] = @p0;
SELECT @@ROWCOUNT;
UPDATE [Categories] SET [CategoryName] = @p1
WHERE [CategoryID] = @p2;
SELECT @@ROWCOUNT;
INSERT INTO [Categories] ([CategoryID], [CategoryName])
VALUES (@p3, @p4),
(@p5, @p6);
```

- To add **EF Core support** to a project in **Visual Studio**
 - Install it from **NuGet** using Visual Studio or **dotnet CLI**

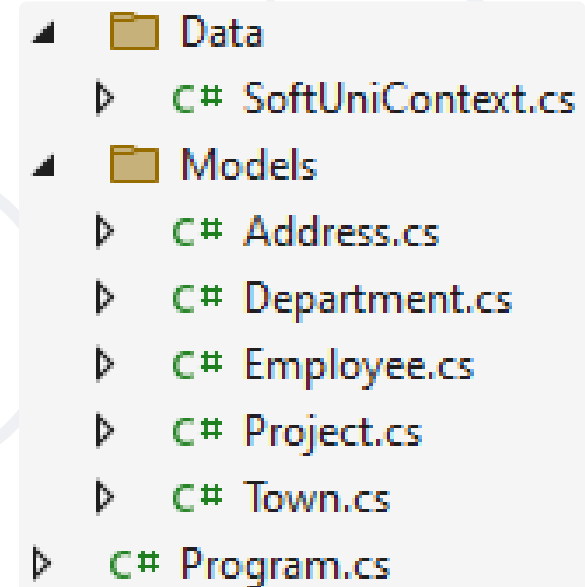
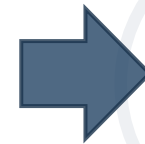
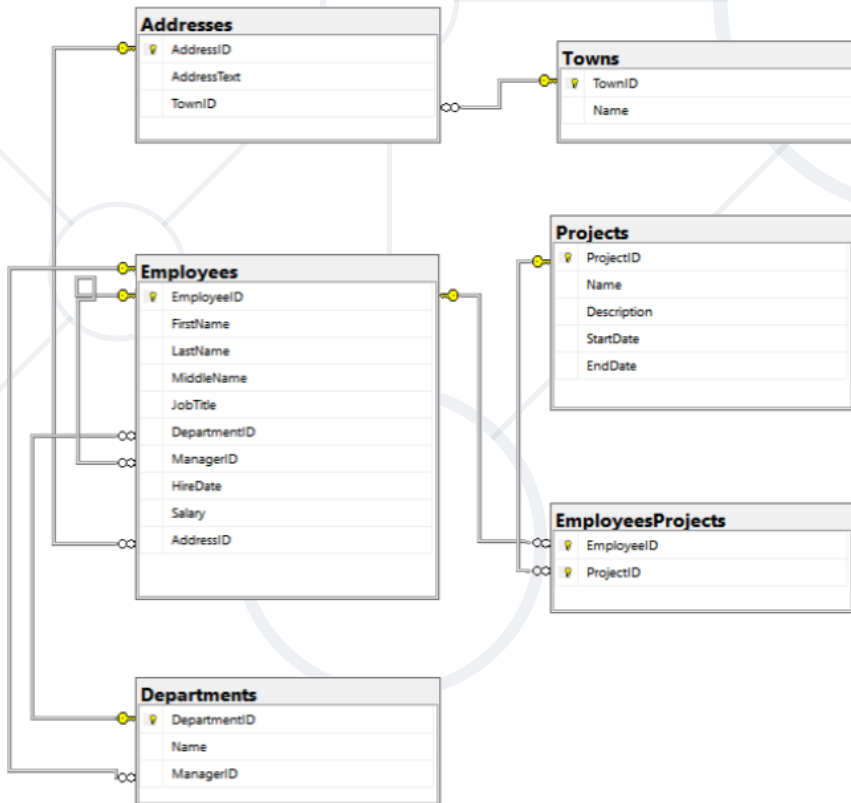
```
dotnet add package Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore
```
 - EF Core is modular – any **data providers** must be installed too

```
Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.SqlServer
```
 - To use the Entity Framework Core CLI tools

```
dotnet tool install --global dotnet-ef
```

```
dotnet add package Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.Design
```


- **Database First** model models the **entity classes** after the **database**



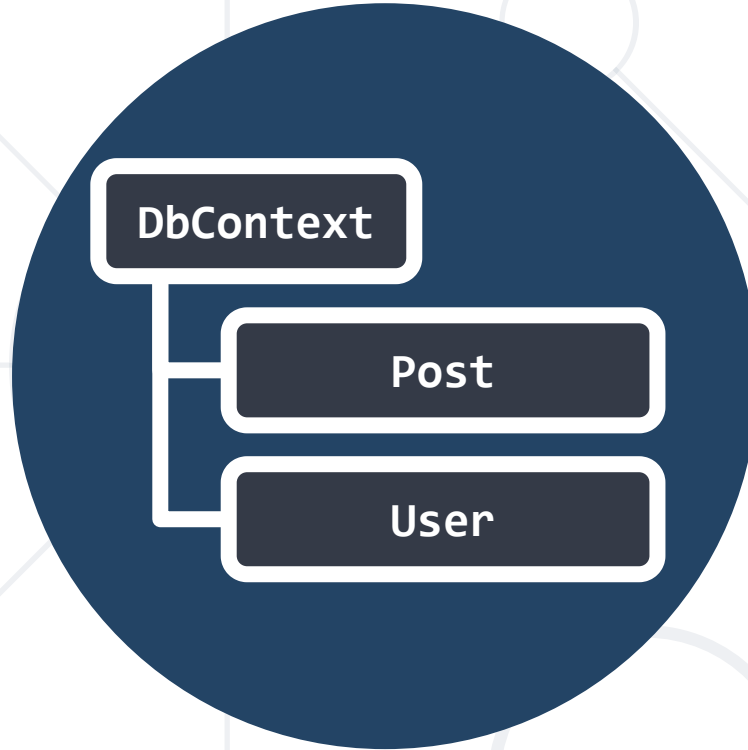
- Scaffolding **DbContext** from DB with **EF Core CLI Tools**

```
dotnet ef dbcontext scaffold "Server=...;Database=...;Integrated Security=true" Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.SqlServer -o Models
```

- To update with the latest database changes, use the **-f** flag
 - To use attributes for configuring the model use the **-d** flag

```
dotnet ef dbcontext scaffold "..." Microsoft... -o Models -f -d
```

- Scaffolding requires the following NuGet packages installed
 - **Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.SqlServer**
 - **Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.Design**



EF Core Components

Overview of System Objects

- Bunch of normal C# classes (POCO)
 - May contain **navigation properties** for **table relationships**

```
public class PostAnswer
{
    public int Id { get; set; }
    public string Content { get; set; }
    public int PostId { get; set; }
    public Post Post { get; set; }
}
```

Primary key

Foreign key

Navigation property

- Recommended to be in a **separate class library**

- Maps a **collection** of **entities** from a **table**
- Set operations: **Add, Attach, Remove, Find**
- **DbContext** contains multiple **DbSet<T>** properties

```
public class DbSet<TEntity> :  
System.Data.Entity.Infrastructure.DbQuery<TEntity>  
    where TEntity : class  
    Member of System.Data.Entity
```

```
public DbSet<Post> Posts { get; set; }
```

- Usually named after the database, e.g., **BlogDbContext**, **ForumDbContext**
- Inherits from **DbContext**
- Manages model classes using **DbSet<T>** type
- Implements **identity tracking**, **change tracking**
- Provides **API** for **CRUD** operations and **LINQ-based** data access
- Recommended to be in a separate class library
 - Don't forget to reference the EF Core library + any providers
- Use several **DbContext** if you have too much models

Defining DbContext Class - Example

EF Reference

```
using Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore;  
using CodeFirst.Data.Models;
```

Models Namespace

```
public class ForumDbContext : DbContext  
{  
    public DbSet<Category> Categories { get; set; }  
    public DbSet<Post> Posts { get; set; }  
    public DbSet<User> Users { get; set; }  
}
```



Reading Data

Querying the DB Using Entity Framework

- **DbContext** provides
 - CRUD Operations
 - A way to **access entities**
 - Methods for **creating** new entities (**Add()** method)
 - Ability to **manipulate database data by** modifying **objects**
 - Easily navigate through **table relations**
 - Executing **LINQ queries** as native **SQL queries**
 - Managing database **creation/deletion/migration**

- First create instance of the **DbContext**

```
var context = new SoftUniDbContext();
```

- In the constructor you can pass a database connection string
- **DbContext** properties
 - **Database** - **EnsureCreated/Deleted** methods, DB Connection
 - **ChangeTracker** - Holds info about the **automatic change tracker**
 - All entity classes (tables) are listed as properties
 - e.g., **DbSet<Employee> Employees { get; set; }**

- Executing **LINQ-to-SQL** query over EF entity

```
using (var context = new SoftUniEntities())
{
    var employees = context.Employees
        .Where(e => e.JobTitle == "Design Engineer")
        .ToArray();
}
```

EF translates this
to an SQL query

- **Employees** property in the **DbContext**

```
public partial class SoftUniEntities : DbContext
{
    public DbSet<Employee> Employees { get; set; }
    public DbSet<Project> Projects { get; set; }
    public DbSet<Department> Departments { get; set; }
}
```

- We can also use **extension methods** for constructing the query

```
using (var context = new SoftUniEntities())
{
    var employees = context.Employees
        .Where(c => c.JobTitle == "Design Engineering")
        .Select(c => c.FirstName)
        .ToList();
}
```

ToList() materializes the query

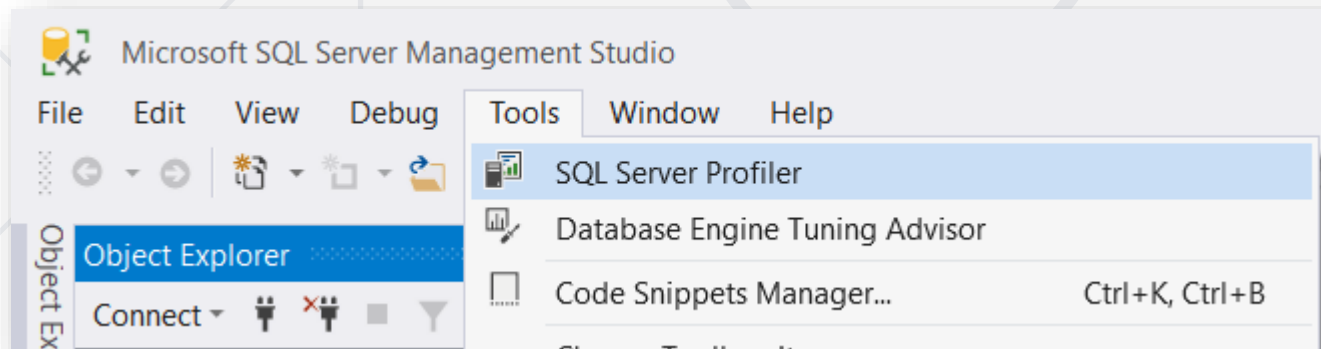
- Find element by **ID**

```
using (var context = new SoftUniEntities())
{
    var project = context.Projects.Find(2);
    Console.WriteLine(project.Name);
}
```

- **Where()**
 - Searches by given condition
- **First()/Last() / FirstOrDefault() / LastOrDefault()**
 - Gets the **first/last** element which matches the condition
 - Throws **InvalidOperationException** without **OrDefault**
- **Select()**
 - Projects (conversion) collection to another type
- **OrderBy() / ThenBy() / OrderByDescending()**
 - Orders a collection

- **Any()**
 - Checks if any element matches a condition
- **All()**
 - Checks if all elements match a condition
- **Distinct()**
 - Returns only unique elements
- **Skip() / Take()**
 - Skips or takes X number of elements

- Queries sent to SQL Server can be **monitored** with the SQL Server Profiler
 - Included with the **SQL Server** installation



- Queries can be gotten using the built-in **ToQueryString()** method

```
db.Courses.Where(x => x.Title == "EF Core").ToQueryString()
```

A background network diagram consisting of a grid of light gray lines intersecting at various points. Some of these intersections are marked with small, empty light gray circles. A larger, solid dark blue circle is centered in the upper half of the image, containing the word 'CRUD' in white, italicized, sans-serif font.

CRUD

CRUD Operations

With Entity Framework

- To create a new database table row use the method **Add(...)** of the corresponding **DbSet**

```
var project = new Project()  
{  
    Name = "Judge System",  
    StartDate = new DateTime(2023, 1, 26),  
};
```

Create a new
Project
object

```
context.Projects.Add(project);  
context.SaveChanges();
```

Add the object to the **DbSet**

Execute SQL statements

- We can also add cascading entities to the database

```
Employee employee = new Employee();  
employee.FirstName = "John";  
employee.LastName = "Doe";  
employee.Projects.Add(new Project { Name = "SoftUni Conf" } );  
softUniEntities.Employees.Add(employee);  
softUniEntities.SaveChanges();
```

- The **Project** will be added when the **Employee** entity (employee) is inserted to the database

- **DbContext** allows modifying entity properties and persisting them in the database
 - Just load an entity, modify it and call **SaveChanges()**
- The **DbContext** automatically tracks all changes made on its entity objects

```
Employees employee =  
    softUniEntities.Employees.First();  
employee.FirstName = "Alex";  
context.SaveChanges();
```

SELECT the
first order

Execute an
SQL UPDATE

Deleting Existing Data

- Delete is done by **Remove()** on the specified entity collection
- **SaveChanges()** method performs the delete action in the database

```
Employees employee =  
    softUniEntities.Employees.First();  
softUniEntities.Employees.Remove(employee);  
softUniEntities.SaveChanges();
```

Mark the entity for deleting
at the next save

Execute the SQL DELETE
command



EF Core Configuration

NuGet Packages, Configuration

What is the Code First Model?

- **Code First** means to write the .NET classes and let EF Core create the **database** from the **mappings**

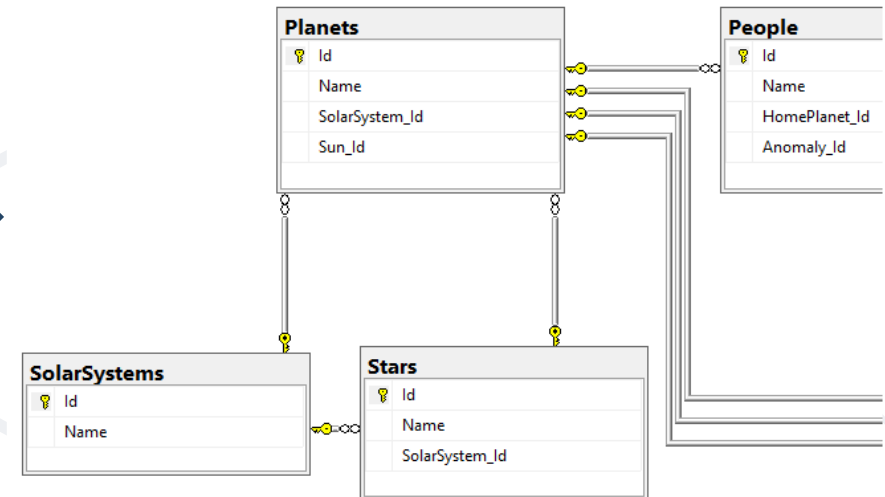


```

C# Planet.cs
└─ Planet
    └─ Planet()
       Id : int
       Name : string
       Sun : Star
       SolarSystem : SolarSystem
       OriginAnomalies : ICollection<Anomaly>

C# SolarSystem.cs
└─ SolarSystem
    └─ Id : int
       Name : string

C# Star.cs
└─ Star
    └─ Id : int
       Name : string
       SolarSystem : SolarSystem
```



Why Use Code First?

- Write code **without** having to define **mappings** in XML or **create** database **tables**
- Define objects in **C# format**
- Enables database persistence with no configuration
- Changes to code can be **reflected** (migrated) in the schema
- **Data Annotations** or **Fluent API** describe properties
 - **Key, Required, MinLength**, etc.

Code First with EF Core: Setup

- To add EF Core support to a project in Visual Studio

- Install it from **Package Manager Console**

```
Install-Package Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore
```

- Or using **.NET Core CLI**

```
dotnet add package Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore
```

- EF Core is modular – any **data providers** must be installed too

```
Microsoft.EntityFrameworkCore.SqlServer
```


How to Connect to SQL Server?

- One way to connect is to create a **Configuration** class with your connection string

```
public static class Configuration
{
    public const string ConnectionString = "Server=.;Database=...;";
}
```

- Then add the connection string in the **OnConfiguring** method in the **DbContext** class

```
protected override void OnConfiguring(DbContextOptionsBuilder builder)
{
    if (!builder.IsConfigured)
        builder.UseSqlServer(Configuration.ConnectionString);
}
```

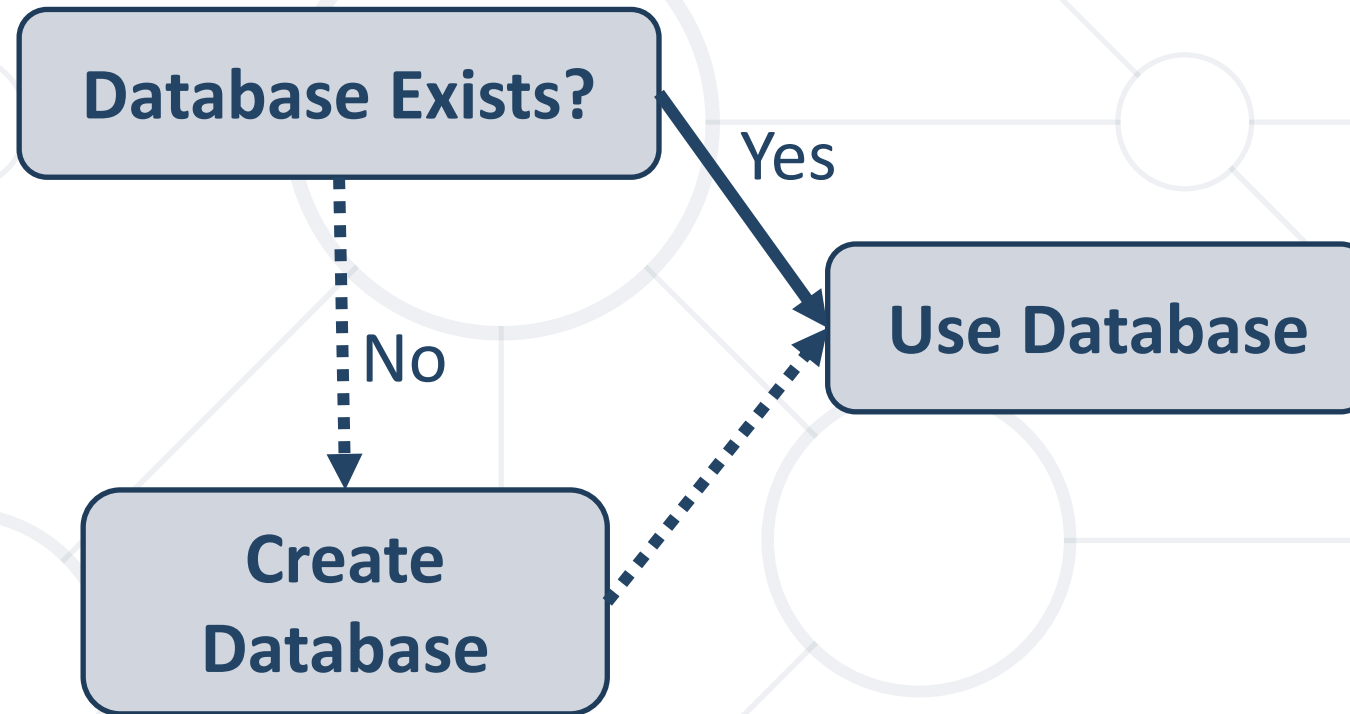
- The **OnModelCreating** method let us use the Fluent API to describe our **table relations** to **EF Core**

```
protected override void OnModelCreating(ModelBuilder builder)
{
    builder.Entity<Category>()
        .HasMany(c => c.Posts)
        .WithOne(p => p.Category);

    builder.Entity<Post>()
        .HasMany(p => p.Replies)
        .WithOne(r => r.Post);

    builder.Entity<User>()
        .HasMany(u => u.Posts)
        .WithOne(p => p.Author);
}
```


Database Connection Workflow

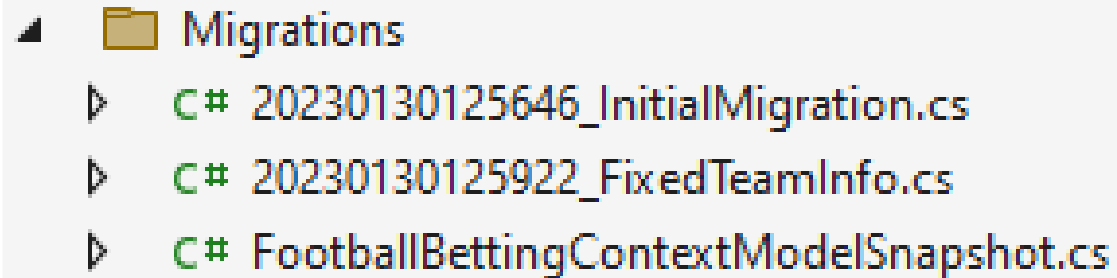




Database Migrations

What Are Database Migrations?

- 
- Updating database schema **without losing data**
 - Adding/dropping tables, columns, etc.
 - Migrations in EF Core keep their **history**
 - Entity Classes, DB Context versions are all **preserved**
 - **Automatically** generated



```
└─ Migrations
   ├── C# 20230130125646_InitialMigration.cs
   ├── C# 20230130125922_FixedTeamInfo.cs
   └─ C# FootballBettingContextModelSnapshot.cs
```

- To use migrations in EF Core, we use the **dotnet ef migrations add** command from the EF CLI Tools

```
dotnet ef migrations add {MigrationName}
```

- To undo a migration, we use **migrations remove**

```
dotnet ef migrations remove {MigrationName}
```

- Commit changes to the database

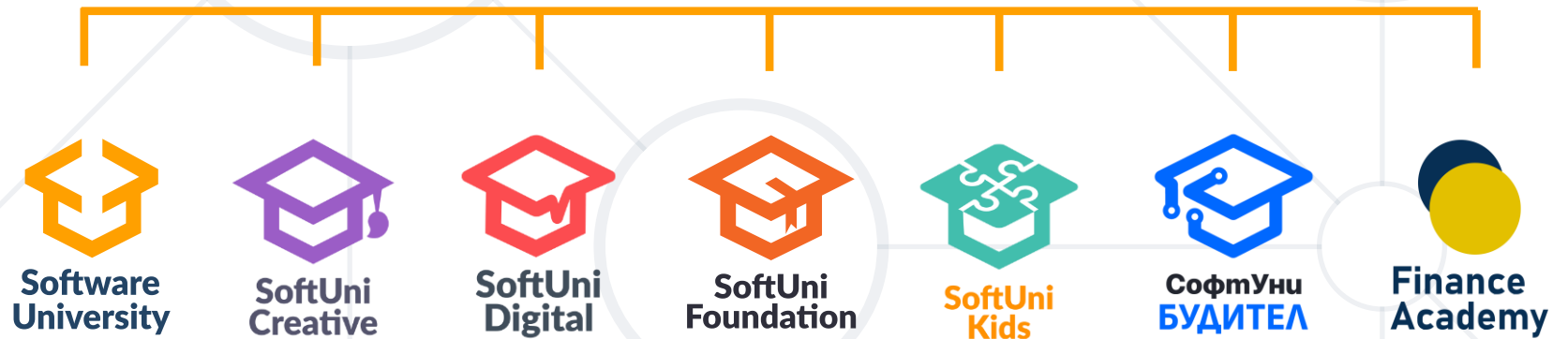
```
dotnet ef database update
```

```
db.Database.Migrate()
```

- **ORM frameworks** maps database schema to objects in a programming language
- **Entity Framework Core** is the standard .NET ORM
- **LINQ** can be used to query the **DB** through the **DB context**



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