

Lecture 2 Preparation

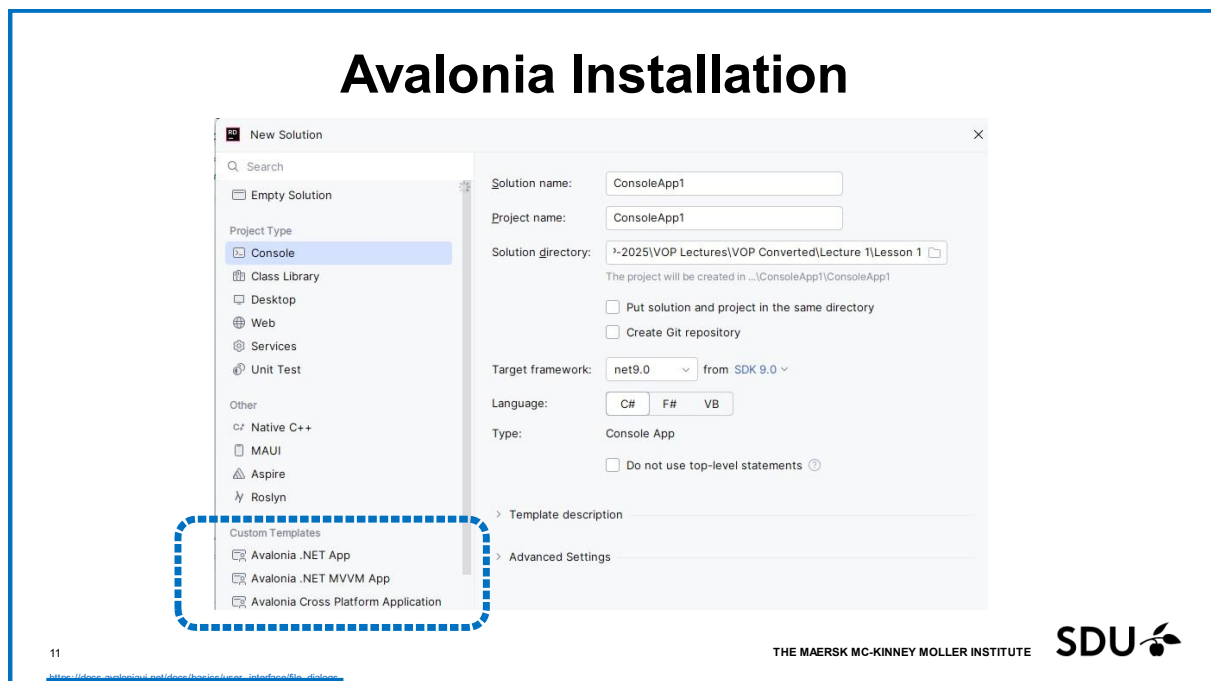
For Lecture 2, we'll dive into **Avalonia**, a GUI framework for building cross-platform desktop applications.

To prepare, please complete the following:

- **Finish the Lecture 1 exercises:** Make sure you've practiced the programming concepts from the previous lecture.
- **Install Rider:** Everyone should have the Rider IDE installed. It's my top recommendation for .NET development, especially for Avalonia.
- **Install Avalonia Templates:** Get Avalonia set up in your Rider environment. Follow the instructions given in the link below

<https://docs.avaloniaui.net/docs/get-started/install>

After Avalonia **Installation**, and Rider **restart**, you should be able to see the Avalonia templates as below:



- **Install Avalonia Plugin:** To provide a design previewer for your axaml file, install Avalonia plugin following the instructions below in the screen shot.

Avalonia Installation

- Open Rider's plugin settings: Go to "Settings/Preferences" -> "Plugins".
- Search for the plugin: In the Marketplace tab, search for "AvaloniaRider".
- Install the plugin: Click "Install" on the AvaloniaRider plugin.
- Restart Rider: Rider will prompt you to restart the IDE. Click "Restart IDE" to apply the changes.

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Why I recommend Rider:

While both Rider and VS Code are popular for C# development, Rider offers powerful and feature-rich IDE, especially for beginners working with Avalonia.

- **Full-featured IDE:** Rider is a complete Integrated Development Environment with advanced tools for coding, debugging, and testing .NET applications.
- **Excellent Avalonia Support:** Rider has built-in features specifically designed for Avalonia development, such as code completion, XAML preview, and easy installation of Avalonia.

VS Code is a great code editor, but it requires extensions for Avalonia support and might involve more manual configuration. Rider provides a smoother and more integrated experience for Avalonia development.