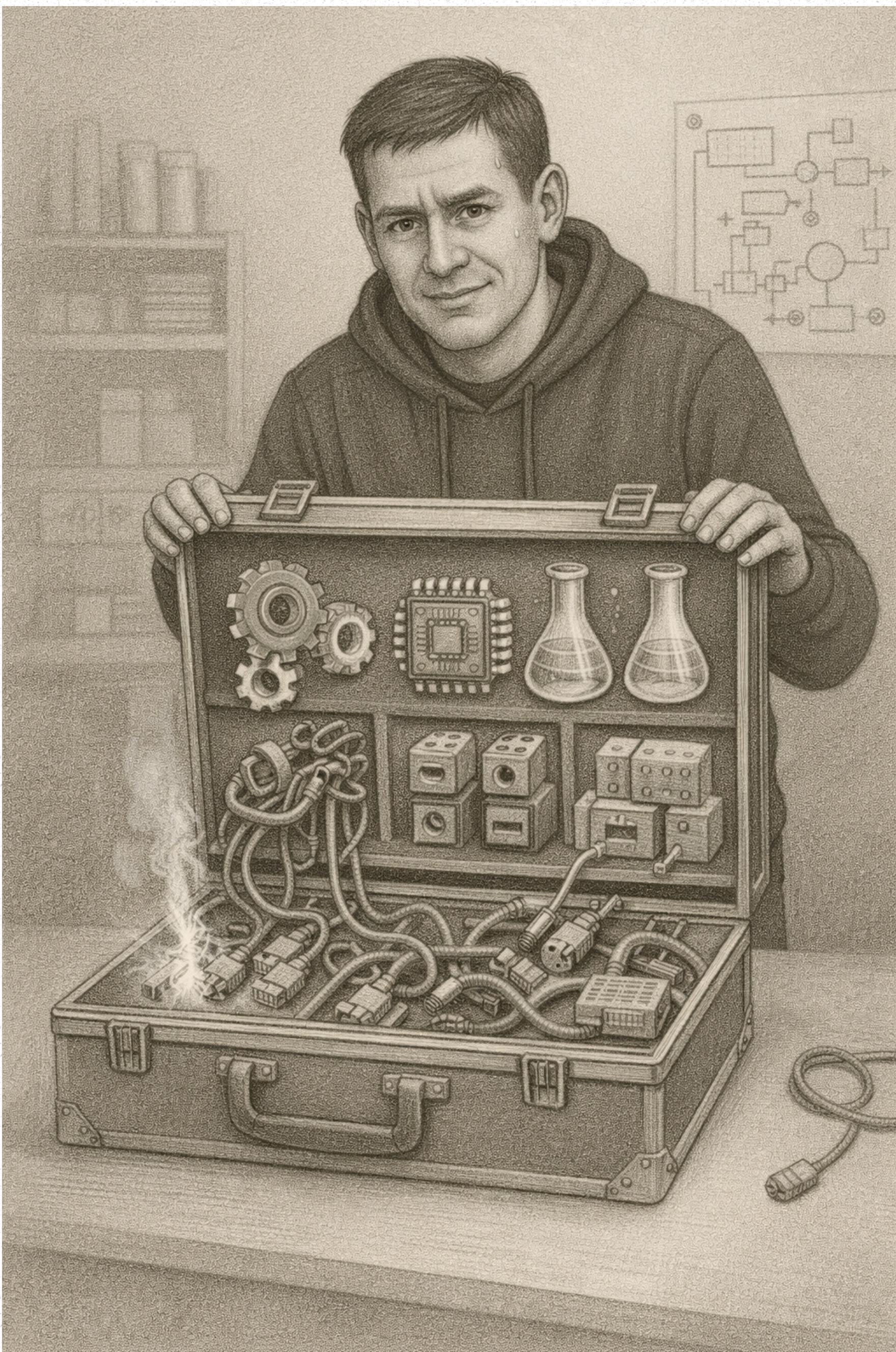


Top 20 NuGet Packages

For .NET devs in 2026



01

Entity Framework Core



- Object-relational mapper for working with databases using C# objects
- Lets you write queries using LINQ instead of raw SQL
- Tracks changes and saves updates automatically
- Supports migrations to evolve database schema safely
- Works with many databases like SQL Server and PostgreSQL



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02

Dapper



- Lightweight micro ORM focused on speed
- Uses raw SQL with object mapping
- Very fast with minimal overhead
- Gives full control over SQL queries
- Easy to add on top of existing database code



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03

Serilog



- Structured logging library for .NET applications
- Logs data as structured events, not plain text
- Supports many sinks like files, Seq, and Elasticsearch
- Makes logs easy to search and analyze
- Integrates well with ASP.NET Core



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04

FluentValidation



- Library for validating models using fluent rules
- Keeps validation logic out of controllers
- Easy to read and maintain rule definitions
- Supports async and complex validation rules
- Integrates with ASP.NET Core automatically



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05

Polly



- Resilience and fault-handling library
- Handles retries, timeouts, and circuit breakers
- Helps apps survive temporary failures
- Works great with HTTP and any external calls
- Easy to configure using fluent policies



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06

Refit



- REST API client generator for .NET
- Uses interfaces to define HTTP APIs
- Removes boilerplate HTTP client code
- Supports JSON and XML serialization automatically
- Works well with dependency injection



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07

Wolverine



- Messaging and command handling framework
- Focuses on high performance and low overhead
- Supports in-process and distributed messaging
- Encourages vertical slice architecture
- Built on top of modern .NET features



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08

Dapr



- Distributed application runtime
- Simplifies building microservices
- Provides building blocks like pub/sub and state
- Works across languages and platforms
- Runs side-by-side with your application (SideCar)



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09

TickerQ (Scheduling)



- Lightweight job scheduling library
- Runs background tasks on a schedule
- Easy to configure with simple APIs
- Integrates with ASP.NET Core and EF Core
- Good alternative to heavy schedulers



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Swagger (Swashbuckle)



- API documentation generator
- Creates an interactive UI for API docs
- Uses OpenAPI specification
- Helps frontend and backend teams align
- Easy to add to ASP.NET Core projects



xUnit



- Popular unit testing framework for .NET
- Designed for modern testing practices
- Supports parallel test execution
- Clean and simple test syntax
- Integrates well with CI pipelines



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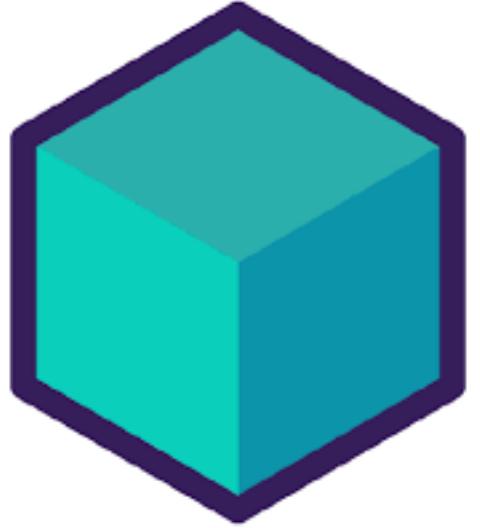
Shouldly



- Assertion library for readable tests
- Produces clear and helpful error messages
- Makes tests easy to understand
- Works with xUnit and other frameworks
- Improves test readability greatly



TestContainers



- Library for integration testing with real services
- Runs dependencies in Docker containers
- Uses real databases instead of mocks
- Improves test reliability and confidence
- Automatically manages container lifecycle



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Bogus



- Fake data generator for testing
- Creates realistic test data easily
- Supports many data types and locales
- Helps avoid hardcoded test values
- Great for seeding databases



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Moq



- Mocking framework for unit tests
- Creates fake implementations of interfaces
- Verifies method calls and behavior
- Helps isolate code under test
- Simple and widely used



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MailKit



- Email client library for .NET
- Supports SMTP, POP3, and IMAP
- More secure and modern than SmtpClient
- Supports async operations
- Used for sending and reading emails



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FastEndpoints



- Alternative to traditional MVC controllers and Minimal APIs
- It is a well-designed wrapper around Minimal APIs
- Uses request and response models
- Built-in validation and documentation
- Encourages clean endpoint design



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HotChocolate GraphQL



- GraphQL server framework for .NET
- Strongly typed schema and resolvers
- Supports filtering, sorting, and paging
- Integrates with EF Core and MongoDB out of the box
- Great tooling and performance



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SignalR



- Real-time communication library
- Pushes updates from server to clients
- Uses WebSockets when available
- Great for chats and live dashboards
- Works with ASP.NET Core



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UnitsNet



- Library for working with physical units
- Prevents unit conversion mistakes
- Supports many units like length and speed
- Strongly typed and safe
- Makes calculations clearer and safer



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