Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for C#

Microsoft provides the following development tools for C# programming:

- Visual Studio 2010 (VS)
- Visual C# 2010 Express (VCE)
- Visual Web Developer

The last two are freely available from Microsoft official website.

Using these tools, you can write all kinds of C# programs from simple command-line applications to more complex applications.

You can also write C# source code files using a basic text editor, like Notepad, and compile the code into assemblies using the command-line compiler, which is again a part of the .NET Framework.

Visual C# Express and Visual Web Developer Express edition are trimmed down versions of Visual Studio and has the same appearance. They retain most features of Visual Studio.

Writing C# Programs on Linux or Mac OS

Although the.NET Framework runs on the Windows operating system, there are some alternative versions that work on other operating systems.

Mono is an open-source version of the .NET Framework which includes a C# compiler and runs on several operating systems, including various flavors of Linux and Mac OS.

The stated purpose of Mono is not only to be able to run Microsoft .NET applications cross-platform, but also to bring better development tools for Linux developers.

Mono can be run on many operating systems including Android, BSD, iOS, Linux, OS X, Windows, Solaris, and UNIX.