Generic Collections

Generic collections are the preferred type to use as long as every element in the collection is of the same data type. Only desired data types can be added to a generic collection and this is enforced by using strong typing which reduces the possibility of errors.

The .NET Framework provides a number of generic collection classes, useful for storing and manipulating data.

The **System.Collections.Generic** namespace includes the following generic collections:

- **List<T>**
- **Dictionary<TKey, TValue>**
- **SortedList<TKey, TValue>**
- **Stack<T>**
- **Queue<T>**
- **Hashset<T>**

To access a generic collection in your code, you will need to include the statement:
using Systems.Collections.Generic;

Non-Generic Collections

Non-generic collections can store items that are of type Object. Since an Object data type can refer to any data type, you run the risk of unexpected outcomes. Non-generic collections may also be slower to access as well as execute.

The **System.Collections** namespace includes the following non-generic collections:

- **ArrayList**
- **SortedList**
- **Stack**
- **Queue**