**.NET and C# - Differences.**

**.NET Framework** is a proprietary, partially [open source](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_Source_Software) [freeware](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freeware) [software framework](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_framework) developed by [Microsoft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft) that runs primarily on [Microsoft Windows](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Microsoft_Windows). It includes a large [class library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Class_library) known as [Framework Class Library](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Framework_Class_Library) (FCL) and provides [language interoperability](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_interoperability) (each language can use code written in other languages) across several [programming languages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programming_language). Programs written for .NET Framework execute in a [software](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software) environment (as contrasted to [hardware](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Computer_hardware) environment), known as [Common Language Runtime](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Language_Runtime) (CLR), an [application virtual machine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Process_virtual_machine) that provides services such as security, [memory management](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memory_management), and [exception handling](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exception_handling). FCL and CLR together constitute .NET Framework.

**C#** is an object oriented programming language, developed by Microsoft within its .NET initiative and later approved as a standard by Ecma (ECMA-334) and ISO (ISO/IEC 23270:2006). C# is one of the programming languages designed for the Common Language Infrastructure.

To sum up, .NET is an application development framework - it contains numerous libraries and a range of functionality, while C# is an object oriented programming language that is mostly built on the .NET framework.