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Kestrel Server in ASP.NET Core

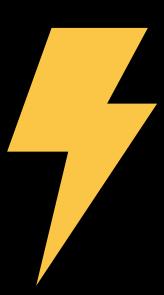Aram Tchekrekjian   @AramT87

What is Kestrel Server?

It is the default standalone web server that comes bundled with ASP.NET Core

It allows ASP.NET Core applications to be deployed cross-platform:

Windows, Linux, MacOS

Kestrel Server is lightweight and much faster than other web servers

Kestrel doesn't provide all features of other servers like:

Hosting Static Files, URL Rewriting, Compression and others

Communication Protocols Supported by Kestrel are:

- HTTP

- HTTP/2

- HTTP/3

- HTTPS for secured connections

- WebSockets

Starting ASP.NET Core 8 HTTP /3 has been enabled by default beside HTTP /1 and HTTP /2

Kestrel provides built-in diagnostics features:
Logging
and
Metrics

Even though Kestrel is a standalone server by design, but
it is recommended to use it behind a reverse-proxy full-fledged server like IIS or nginx
To benefit from their complete features like security, caching, rate limiting, load balancing and others

Interesting Fact

The term Kestrel comes from any of several small birds of prey of the genus Falco (family Falconidae) known for their habit of hovering while hunting

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