

# What is a private assembly in .Net?

Asked 16 years, 2 months ago   Modified 12 years ago   Viewed 5k times



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I understand access modifiers at the class level and below, but why would an entire assembly be private? I assume by default, assemblies are public?



.net

assemblies



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edited Apr 25, 2009 at 13:45



starblue

56.7k ● 14 ● 99 ● 153

asked Oct 1, 2008 at 13:24



user18931

11k ● 9 ● 30 ● 21

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Well, in the context of assemblies, private means the assembly cannot be referenced by another application outside the directory it's contained in. Therefore, private to the application it's being used for.



As for your question about the default being public....someone correct me if I'm wrong, but there is no public. It would be shared. A shared assembly can



obviously be referenced by multiple applications and must reside in the GAC. All the rules of the GAC would then apply.

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answered Oct 1, 2008 at 13:25

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Kilhoffer

32.9k ● 22 ● 99 ● 124

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Technically, you can share assemblies without them residing in the GAC, but it's extremely cumbersome and invasive. See [devcity.net/Articles/254/1/article.aspx](http://devcity.net/Articles/254/1/article.aspx) for more; but generally I agree that shared assemblies SHOULD be in the GAC. :)

– John Rudy Oct 1, 2008 at 14:13

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I think they can be called both shared and public, here's a quote from the 'Visual Basic Programming 2008' book 'Public assemblies are designed for shared use among multiple .NET applications.' – Omar Abid Feb 15, 2009 at 8:56

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The *private* in *private assembly* is not an access modifier. This is just a term used for assemblies that are specific to one application - i.e. in this application's directory, as opposed to shared assemblies in the Global Assembly Cache.



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answered Oct 1, 2008 at 13:29



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Sander

26.3k ● 3 ● 54 ● 88

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I began to understand... but that was very confusing!!

– Omar Abid Feb 15, 2009 at 8:54

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Private assembly is an assembly which is particularly an assembly which can't be referred outside the application while a public or shared or we can say it Global can be easily referred outside an assembly.

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edited Nov 26, 2012 at 8:34



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ajtrichards

30.6k ● 13 ● 98 ● 102



answered Mar 26, 2011 at 18:14



King

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