

01

.NET Fundamentals

Giovanni Ciatto
`giovanni.ciatto@unibo.it`

Dipartimento di Informatica – Scienza e Ingegneria
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM—Università di Bologna, Cesena

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- 1 .NET Overview
- 2 Code Base Organization
 - Overview
 - Directory Structure
 - Handling a Solution
- 3 Coding Conventions

What is .NET

Definition

.NET is a free, general-purpose, open-source, and multi-platform *programming ecosystem*

programming ecosystem — as it comprehends several languages, compilers, tools, libraries, etc.

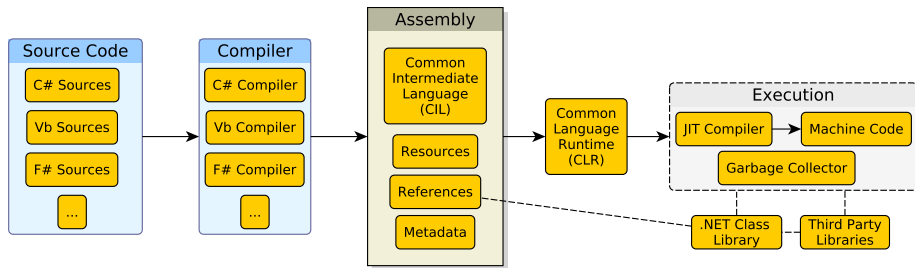
multi-platform — as it can be used on several OS and architectures (e.g. Win, Linux, MacOS, Android, etc)

open-source — as its source code is publicly available and openly licensed

general-purpose — as it supports several sorts of applications (e.g. desktop, mobile, web, videogames, databases, etc)

free — as it is can be exploited with no additional costs

.NET in a Nutshell I



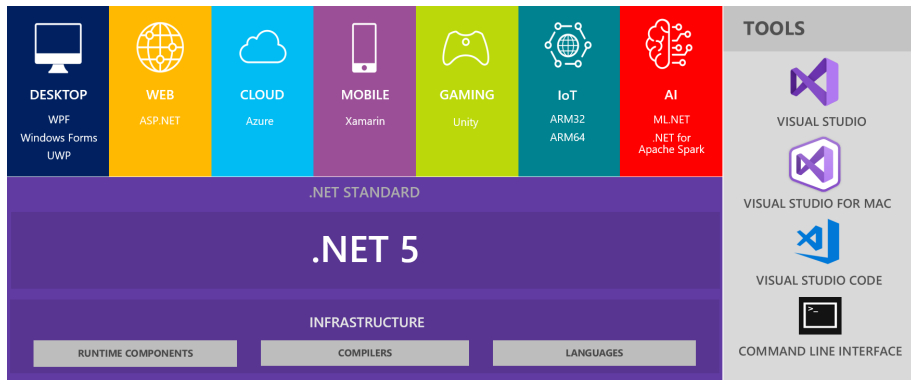
.NET in a Nutshell II

1. Sources written using disparate **languages** (e.g. C#, Vb, F#, etc.)
2. can be compiled, via as many **compilers**
3. into **assemblies** containing
 - common intermediate language (CIL)** — a language- and platform-agnostic, compiled version of the sources
 - references** — dependencies declarations for the assembly
 - resources** — non-code files (e.g. internationalization strings, icons, default configurations, etc.)
 - metadata** — for identifying the specific *version* of the assembly
4. which can then be executed by the **common language runtime (CLR)**
 - ▶ essentially, an *interpreter* for the CIL
5. on any platform, via a **just in time (JIT)** conversion into **machine code**.

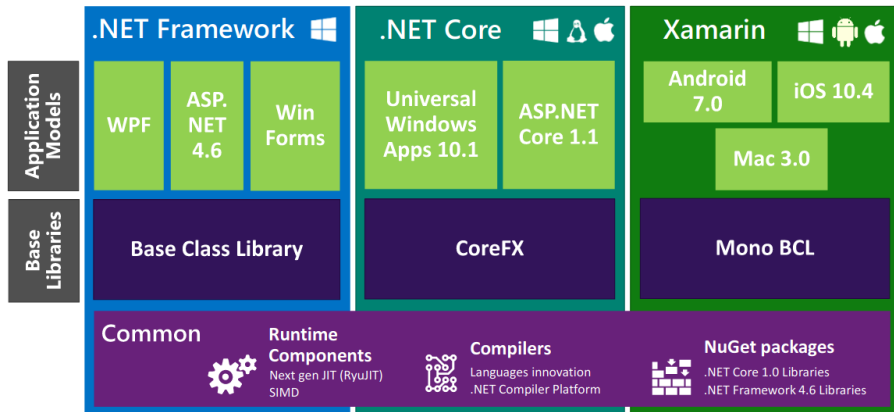
6. Execution of .NET code is *managed* by default, meaning that:
 - ▶ developers must not take care of allocating/freeing memory
 - ▶ as a **garbage collector** is in charge of dynamically taking care of that

7. .NET programs may reference (a.k.a. depend upon) other assemblies, such as
 - ▶ the **.NET class library**, containing the standard SDK
 - ▶ **third party libraries**, either locally or remotely availableand therefore exploit any class therein contained.

.NET Platform – The Present



.NET Platform – The Past



.NET Platform – Present vs. Past

- Before .NET 5 there used to be three major implementations of the *class library*:

.NET Framework — Windows-specific, full-featured, targetting desktop and web applications

.NET Core — multi-platform (Win, Mac, Linux), less-featured, targetting desktop and web applications

Xamarin — mobile-oriented (Android, iOS, Mac OS)

- Since .NET 5, implementations are aligned

In this course

We stick to **.NET Core 6.0**, to maximise interoperability and to avoid compatibility issues

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Next In Line...

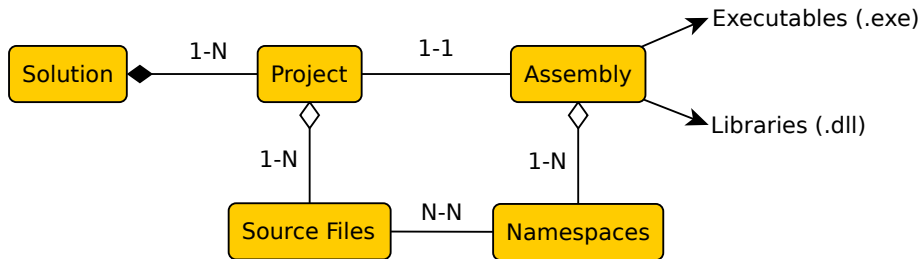
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Overview about Code Base Organization I



1. A .NET code base is called **solution**

2. Each solution is a set of one or more related **projects**

- ▶ each project can contain sources written using a single .NET language
- ▶ different projects may target different .NET languages
- ▶ each project explicitly targets one *application model*

eg Class Library, Console/WinForms/WPF/Web Application, etc.

Overview about Code Base Organization II

3. Each project is compiled into an **assembly**
 - ▶ assemblies can either be executable or not—i.e. they can be *libraries*
 - ▶ executable assemblies have the `.exe` extension
 - ▶ library assemblies have the `.dll` extension
4. Each project is a container of several **source** files
 - ▶ containing several classes, structures, interfaces, or delegates definitions
 - ▶ possibly organised into a number of **namespaces**
5. Therefore, each assembly may *expose* a number of namespaces, along with their definitions

Takeway

Assemblies (and therefore projects) are *deployment* and *execution* **units**

Code Base Organization Enforcement

- Tools (such as IDEs) *enforce* such code base organization
- You can expect all .NET-enabled tools to stick to this organization
eg Visual Studio (VS) or JetBrains Rider
- Analogies exists with other IDEs:

	VS/Rider	Eclipse	Idea
Code Base	Solution	Workspace	Project
Deployment Unit	Project	Project	Module

Next In Line...

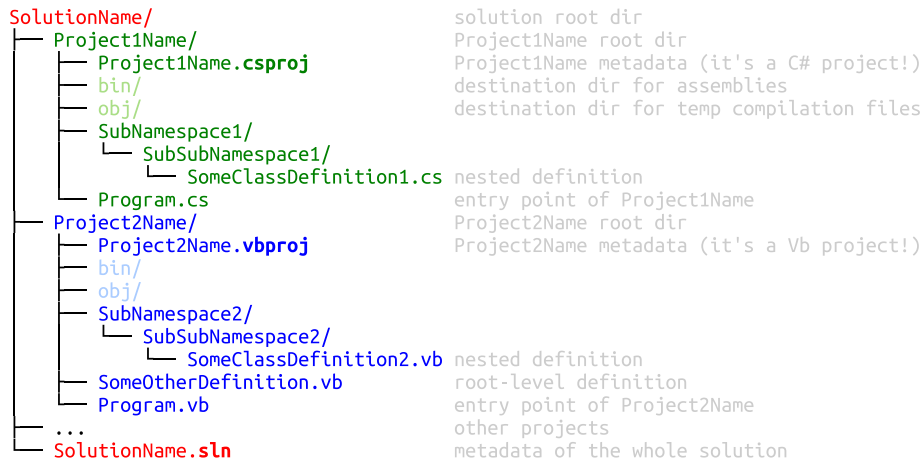
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Canonical Directory Structure of a .NET Solution I



Canonical Directory Structure of a .NET Solution II

- Each solution S has its own directory – named S – containing:
 - ▶ a single $S.sln$ file
 - ▶ a sub-directory for each project
- Each project P has its own directory – named P –, within the solution directory, containing:
 - ▶ a single $P.csproj$ file (or $P.vbproj$ for Vb projects)
 - ▶ a directory for each namespace
 - possibly containing other sub-namespaces (and their directories)
 - containing $.cs$ source files (or $.vb$ for Vb projects)
 - ▶ two directories, namely $bin/$ and $obj/$, automatically generated
 - ▶ some root-level $.cs$ source files (or $.vb$ for Vb projects)
- Conventionally, *executable* projects contain a root-level $Program.cs$ (or $.vb$) file
 - ▶ containing a `Main` method which is the **entry point** of the program

Example of .sln File I

```
1 Microsoft Visual Studio Solution File, Format Version 12.00
2 Project("{FAE04EC0-301F-11D3-BF4B-00C04F79EFBC}") = "GreetingsLib", "GreetingsLib\
   GreetingsLib.csproj", "{A2010235-65D9-475D-A870-5D7AE6FB722F}"
3 EndProject
4 Project("{FAE04EC0-301F-11D3-BF4B-00C04F79EFBC}") = "GreetingCLI", "GreetingCLI\
   GreetingCLI.csproj", "{D9218FDA-9CBB-44ED-925D-4690EAD32428}"
5 EndProject
6 Project("{FAE04EC0-301F-11D3-BF4B-00C04F79EFBC}") = "ExampleProject", "ExampleProject\
   ExampleProject.csproj", "{8B2DA644-0577-45D0-B768-E1AB9F8FACBC}"
7 EndProject
8 Project("{FAE04EC0-301F-11D3-BF4B-00C04F79EFBC}") = "CodingConventionsExample", "
   CodingConventionsExample\CodingConventionsExample.csproj", "{1140EED2-83B9-4F06-A59D
   -4C36E6781A93}"
9 EndProject
10 Project("{FAE04EC0-301F-11D3-BF4B-00C04F79EFBC}") = "Snippets", "Snippets\Snippets.csproj
   ", "{117EC99C-8522-4F20-B72A-BBBD22C33CB7}"
11 EndProject
12 Global
13     GlobalSection(SolutionConfigurationPlatforms) = preSolution
14         Debug|Any CPU = Debug|Any CPU
15         Release|Any CPU = Release|Any CPU
16     EndGlobalSection
17     GlobalSection(ProjectConfigurationPlatforms) = postSolution
18         {A2010235-65D9-475D-A870-5D7AE6FB722F}.Debug|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Debug|Any CPU
19         {A2010235-65D9-475D-A870-5D7AE6FB722F}.Debug|Any CPU.Build.0 = Debug|Any CPU
20         {A2010235-65D9-475D-A870-5D7AE6FB722F}.Release|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Release|Any CPU
21         {A2010235-65D9-475D-A870-5D7AE6FB722F}.Release|Any CPU.Build.0 = Release|Any CPU
22         {D9218FDA-9CBB-44ED-925D-4690EAD32428}.Debug|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Debug|Any CPU
23         {D9218FDA-9CBB-44ED-925D-4690EAD32428}.Debug|Any CPU.Build.0 = Debug|Any CPU
```

Example of .sln File II

```
24 {D9218FDA-9CBB-44ED-925D-4690EAD32428}.Release|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Release|Any CPU
25 {D9218FDA-9CBB-44ED-925D-4690EAD32428}.Release|Any CPU.Build.0 = Release|Any CPU
26 {8B2DA644-0577-45D0-B768-E1AB9F8FACBC}.Debug|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Debug|Any CPU
27 {8B2DA644-0577-45D0-B768-E1AB9F8FACBC}.Debug|Any CPU.Build.0 = Debug|Any CPU
28 {8B2DA644-0577-45D0-B768-E1AB9F8FACBC}.Release|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Release|Any CPU
29 {8B2DA644-0577-45D0-B768-E1AB9F8FACBC}.Release|Any CPU.Build.0 = Release|Any CPU
30 {1140EED2-83B9-4F06-A59D-4C36E6781A93}.Debug|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Debug|Any CPU
31 {1140EED2-83B9-4F06-A59D-4C36E6781A93}.Debug|Any CPU.Build.0 = Debug|Any CPU
32 {1140EED2-83B9-4F06-A59D-4C36E6781A93}.Release|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Release|Any CPU
33 {1140EED2-83B9-4F06-A59D-4C36E6781A93}.Release|Any CPU.Build.0 = Release|Any CPU
34 {117EC99C-8522-4F20-B72A-BBBD22C33CB7}.Debug|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Debug|Any CPU
35 {117EC99C-8522-4F20-B72A-BBBD22C33CB7}.Debug|Any CPU.Build.0 = Debug|Any CPU
36 {117EC99C-8522-4F20-B72A-BBBD22C33CB7}.Release|Any CPU.ActiveCfg = Release|Any CPU
37 {117EC99C-8522-4F20-B72A-BBBD22C33CB7}.Release|Any CPU.Build.0 = Release|Any CPU
38 EndGlobalSection
39 EndGlobal
```

! This is not something a developer may manually write!

Example of .csproj File

```
1 <Project Sdk="Microsoft.NET.Sdk">
2
3   <PropertyGroup>
4     <OutputType>Exe</OutputType>
5     <TargetFramework>net6.0</TargetFramework>
6   </PropertyGroup>
7
8   <ItemGroup>
9     <ProjectReference Include="..\GreetingsLib\GreetingsLib.csproj" />
10   </ItemGroup>
11
12 </Project>
```

! This is not something a developer may comfortably manipulate!

Next In Line...

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Handling a Solution via the Command Line I

The dotnet tool

- All modern .NET installations comprehend a command-line tool named **dotnet**
- It is the simpler way to handle a solution *without* an IDE
- Among the many functionalities, it allows developers to:
 1. create a solution
 2. add projects to a solution
 3. compile a project into an assembly
 4. execute an executable assembly
 5. etc.

Handling a Solution via the Command Line II

How to use the dotnet tool

- General syntax (square brackets denote optionality):
`$ dotnet [sdk-options] [command] [command-options] [arguments]`
- How to learn how to use dotnet:
 - ▶ Run `dotnet [command] --help`
 - ▶ See <https://docs.microsoft.com/dotnet/core/tools/dotnet>

Handling a Solution via the Command Line III

How to create & manage a a solution with via dotnet

1. Create a directory for the solution, say MySolution
2. Open a shell into that directory
3. Create an empty .sln file named after the current directory (i.e. MySolution):

```
$ dotnet new sln
```

4. Create a C# console app. project named MyConsoleProject:

```
$ dotnet new console -n MyConsoleProject -o MyConsoleProject  
(where -n indicates the project name, and -o its relative path)
```

5. Register MyConsoleProject into MySolution.sln:

```
$ dotnet sln add MyConsoleProject/MyConsoleProject.csproj  
(recall to use '\' instead of '/' on Windows systems)
```

6. Run MyConsoleProject (re-compilation is implicit):

```
$ dotnet run --project  
MyConsoleProject/MyConsoleProject.csproj
```

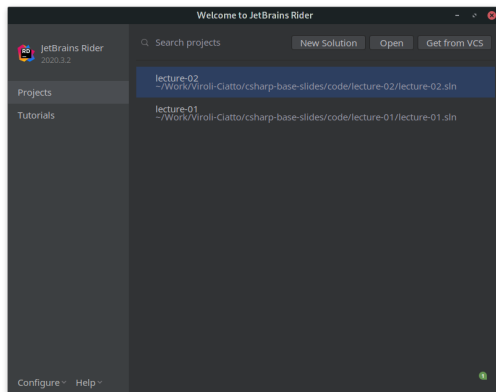

Handling a Solution via the IDE I

Disclaimer

- Using the command line may be hard, but it is free
- IDEs (e.g. Rider or VS) may be used instead, but they require a license
- We provide instructions for Rider, as it is multi-platform
- Apart for the appearance, VS is functionally very similar to Rider
 - ▶ as they rely on the same abstractions (solution, project, assembly, etc.)

Handling a Solution via the IDE II

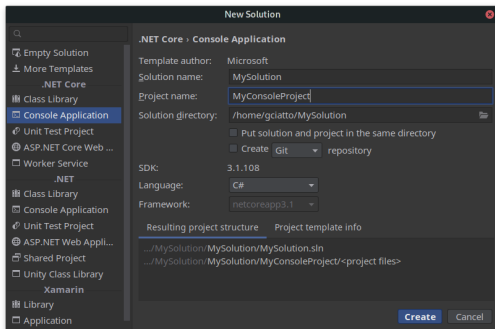
1. Open your IDE



(if you cannot see the welcome dialog above, then click on 'File' → 'New...' to proceed)

Handling a Solution via the IDE III

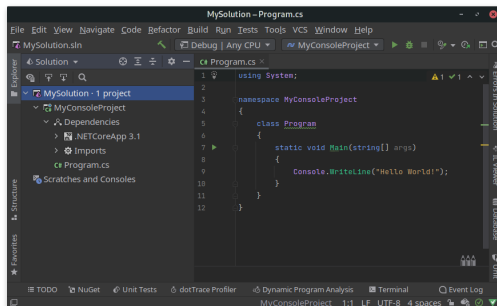
2. Click on 'New Solution'



- 2.1 Choose the 'Console Application' template from the '.NET Core' group
- 2.2 Set the 'Solution Name' to 'MySolution'
- 2.3 Set the 'Project Name' to 'MyConsoleProject'
- 2.4 Ensure the 'Solution Directory' ends with 'MySolution'
- 2.5 Press the 'Create' button

Handling a Solution via the IDE IV

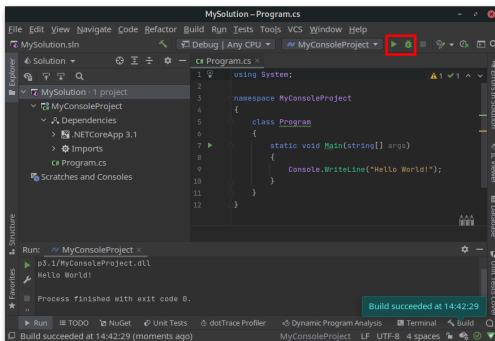
3. The IDE should now appear like this:



- ▶ The *Solution Explorer* view (here on the left) shows all the projects, along with their source files, dependencies (a.k.a. references), and resource files
- ▶ You can use that to browse the code base or you can **Ctrl+Click** any symbol of any source file to jump to its definition

Handling a Solution via the IDE V

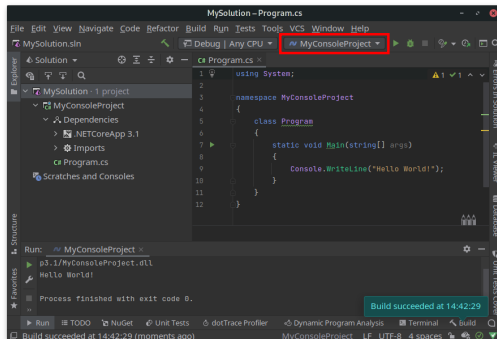
4. You may use the 'Play' or 'Bug' button to run a project



- ▶ The output of the program appears either below (Rider) or into a new window (VS)
- ▶ The 'Play' appears close to the Main method as well

Handling a Solution via the IDE VI

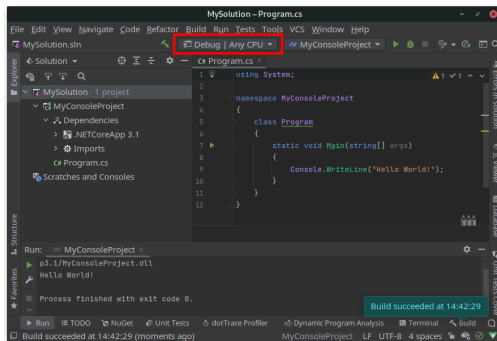
5. Which project is actually run when you press 'Play' depends on which project is currently selected:



- ▶ Only *executable* projects can be selected on that menu
- ▶ Recall that each executable project has a single *entry point*
ie its `static void Main` method

Handling a Solution via the IDE VII

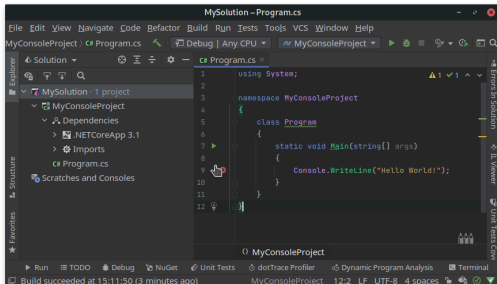
6. Assemblies may be compiled either in 'Debug' or in 'Release' mode:



- ▶ When compiled in 'Release' mode, optimisations are performed, which makes step-by-step debugging hard as some instructions may be pruned
- ▶ When compiled in 'Debug' mode, no optimisation is performed

Handling a Solution via the IDE VIII

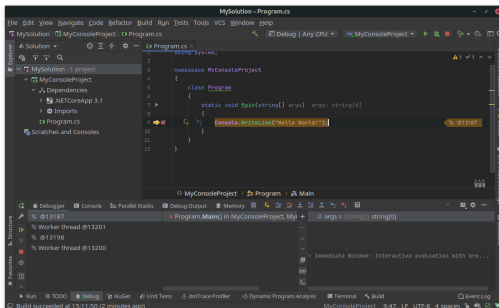
7. You may click close to a code line to set up a **breakpoint** on that line



- ▶ breakpoints are *ignored* when launching the program with 'Play'
- ▶ breakpoints may **suspend** a program execution, if it has been launched via the 'Bug' button—i.e. in **debug mode**

Handling a Solution via the IDE IX

8. While in debug mode, the program execution is suspended whenever the program **reaches** a break point



- ▶ while suspended, you may **inspect** the current status of a program execution
 - eg variables values, content of objects, call stacks, etc.
- ▶ you may also make the program proceed **step-by-step**

- Microsoft's official .NET Extension pack

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About Coding Style Conventions I

Definition

- Stylistic rules about how to write good-quality code
 - eg fields/properties/methods/types names, usage of white spaces, empty lines, comments, etc.
- Usually **followed** by all developers in a given community / project
- Possibly **enforced** by *automatic* tools
- Aimed at easing:
 - ▶ interoperability among developers,
 - ▶ readability of the source code, and
 - ▶ the maintainability of the code base

About Coding Style Conventions II

Coding Style Conventions are **Important**

- Sticking to some **shared** coding style is *fundamental*
 - ▶ especially, when working in **teams**
- Even if you are working alone, people may eventually join the project, forming a team
 - always act like you are in a team, even when coding alone
- Coding conventions are **not** a matter of **taste**
 - ▶ **do not ignore** some convention just because it appears **ugly** to you
 - ▶ conventions are never ugly/beautiful, nor right/wrong
 - ▶ conventions are important as they are **shared**
- One everybody gets used to conventions, they easy developers' understanding of the code
 - eg** naming conventions help understanding what a symbol is without need to see its definition
 - violating a convention is harmful: it misleads code readers

About Coding Style Conventions III

C# Coding Conventions

We stick to the conventions enumerated here:

<https://github.com/dotnet/runtime/blob/main/docs/coding-guidelines/coding-style.md>

→ we provide an overview of most relevant conventions in the next slides

Concatenated Words Styles around the World

`camelCase` — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camel_case

`PascalCase` — like `camelCase` but the first letter is uppercase

`snake_case` — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Snake_case

`kebab-case` — https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kebab_case

! .NET conventions mostly rely on `camelCase` and `PascalCase`

C# Coding Style II

Suggested Naming Conventions for C#

namespaces names are in PascalCase

type names (classes, interfaces, structures, delegates) are in PascalCase
eg String, List, Int32, Action etc.

interface names start with a 'I' and are in PascalCase
eg IList, ISet, IDictionary etc.

abstract class names start with 'Abstract' and are in PascalCase

field names start with a '_' and are in camelCase

method names are in PascalCase

property names are in PascalCase

local variables and **methods parameters** names are in camelCase

! all names are in English

C# Coding Style III

Suggested Bracing Conventions for C#

C# bracing style is **Allman's** one^a

- braces are always mandatory, except in single-line **if/else** bodies
- open and closed braces always lay their own line
- indentation levels of open/closed braces is the same of the clause they belong to
- statements within braces are subject to 4-spaces indentation
- ! this style is different from Java's and JavaScript's ones

```
1 if (/* ... */)
2 {
3     // something
4 }
```

^a(cf. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indentation_style#Allman_style)

Suggested White Space Conventions for C#

- Indentation exploits 4 spaces instead of tabulations
 - ▶ you may need to enable white characters visualization to spot the difference
- A space is mandatory before and after each infix operator
 - ie arithmetic, boolean, bitwise, comparison operators, etc.
 - eg 'a + b' is ok, 'a!=b' is not ok
- Commas require no space before and a single space after
 - eg 'a, b' is ok, 'a , b' or 'a,b' are not ok
- Semicolons require no space before
- Constructs require a single space within name and round parenthesis opening
 - eg 'if (...', 'while (...', 'for (...', 'do ... while (...'

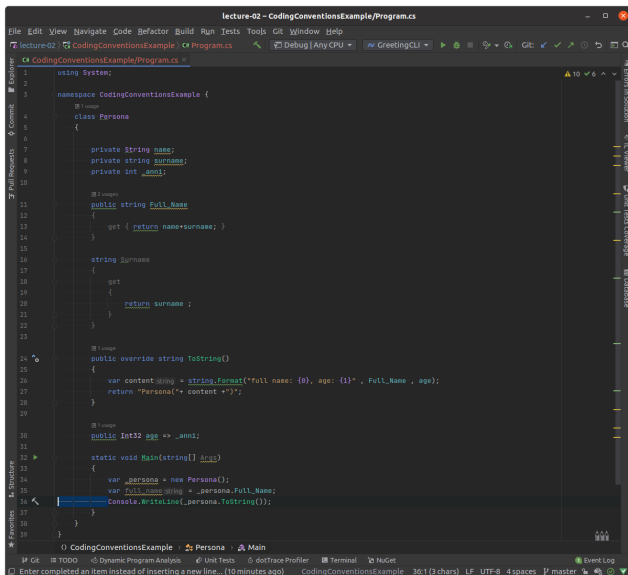
Other Suggested Conventions for C#

- Define variables with `var` only if the type is **obvious and evident** in that context
- Use keywords instead of full names for built-in types (e.g., `int` instead of `System.Int32`)
- Define **readonly** variables/fields/properties whenever possible (cf. `final` in Java)
- Always specify visibility modifiers explicitly
- Order classes members as follows (top-down):
 1. fields
 2. constructors
 3. properties (public first)
 4. methods (public first)
 5. static members

Suggested File/Directory Organization for .NET

- One type definition (class, struct, enum, delegate, ...) per file
 - ▶ so that developers may easily locate definitions
- Name the file after the type definition it carries
 - eg class `Person` defined into `Person.cs` (or `Person.vb`)
- Each project exposes a **root namespace** named after it
 - eg the root namespace of project `P` is named `P`
- All source files from a project root directory contain type definitions laying within that project root namespace
 - eg the file `P/Person.cs` defines class `Person` within namespace `P`
- Sub-directories reflect sub-namespaces
 - eg the file `P/People/Person.cs` defines class `Person` within namespace `P.People`

C# Coding Style – Can you spot all the problems?

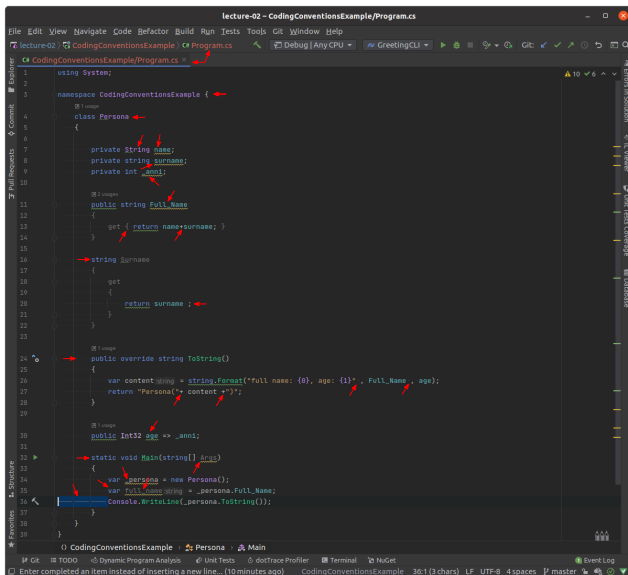


The screenshot shows a Visual Studio window with the file `lecture-02 - CodingConventionsExample/Program.cs` open. The code defines a `Persona` class and a `Main` method. Several coding style issues are highlighted by the IDE:

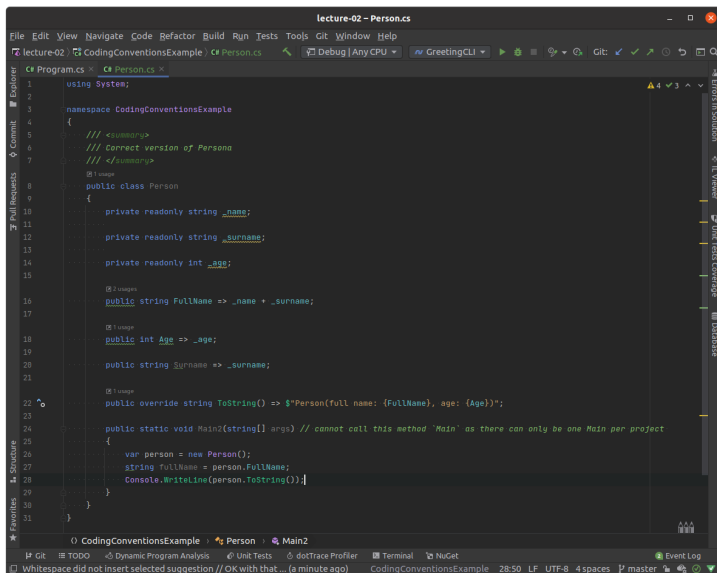
- Line 11:** `public string Full_Name` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (camel case).
- Line 12:** The opening curly brace of the `Full_Name` property is highlighted with a red squiggly line, indicating a brace style issue.
- Line 24:** `public override string ToString()` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (Pascal case).
- Line 25:** The opening curly brace of the `ToString` method is highlighted with a red squiggly line, indicating a brace style issue.
- Line 26:** `var content:string = string.Format("full name: {0}, age: {1} ", Full_Name , age);` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (camel case for `content`).
- Line 27:** `return "Persona(" + content + ")";` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (camel case for `content`).
- Line 32:** `static void Main(string[] Args)` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (Pascal case for `Main`).
- Line 33:** The opening curly brace of the `Main` method is highlighted with a red squiggly line, indicating a brace style issue.
- Line 34:** `var _persona = new Persona();` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (Pascal case for `persona`).
- Line 35:** `var Full_name:string = _persona.Full_Name;` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (Pascal case for `Full_name`).
- Line 36:** `Console.WriteLine(_persona.ToString());` is highlighted with a yellow squiggly line, indicating a naming convention issue (Pascal case for `Full_name`).

The IDE interface includes a menu bar, a toolbar, a Solution Explorer on the left, and a status bar at the bottom.

C# Coding Style – Can you name all the problems?



C# Coding Style – Correct Version



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio IDE with a C# file named `Person.cs` open. The code is written in a dark theme and follows C# coding conventions. The `Person` class is defined within the `CodingConventionsExample` namespace. It has three private readonly fields: `_name`, `_surname`, and `_age`. There are three public properties: `FullName`, `Age`, and `Surname`. The `FullName` property is a string that concatenates `_name` and `_surname`. The `Age` property is an integer. The `Surname` property is a string. There is a public override `ToString()` method that returns a string representation of the person. A static `Main2` method is also present, which creates a `Person` object and prints its `ToString()` output. The code is well-formatted with proper indentation and line numbers are visible on the left. The status bar at the bottom indicates the current file is `Person` and the solution is `CodingConventionsExample`.

```
1 using System;
2
3 namespace CodingConventionsExample
4 {
5     /// <summary>
6     /// Correct version of Person
7     /// </summary>
8     public class Person
9     {
10         private readonly string _name;
11
12         private readonly string _surname;
13
14         private readonly int _age;
15
16         public string FullName => _name + _surname;
17
18         public int Age => _age;
19
20         public string Surname => _surname;
21
22         public override string ToString() => $"Person(full name: {FullName}, age: {Age})";
23
24         public static void Main2(string[] args) // cannot call this method 'Main' as there can only be one Main per project
25         {
26             var person = new Person();
27             string fullName = person.FullName;
28             Console.WriteLine(person.ToString());
29         }
30     }
31 }
```