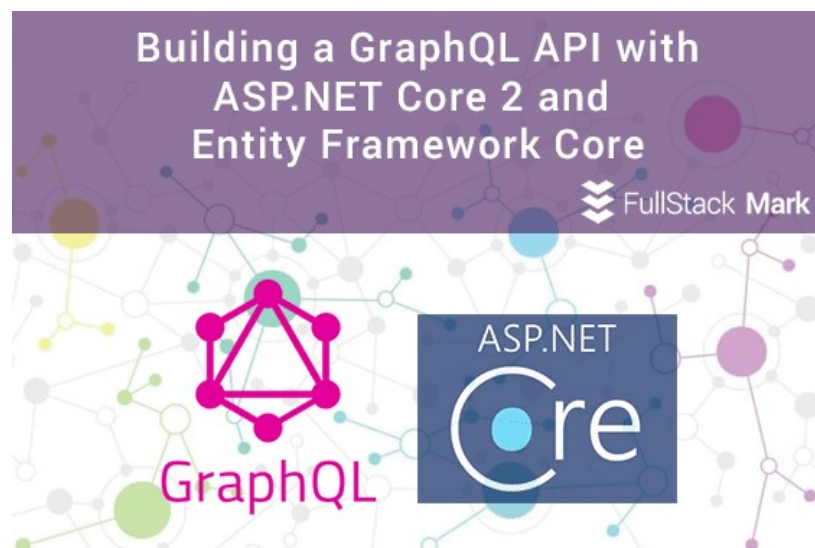Home   Login

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Building a GraphQL API with ASP.NET Core 2 and Entity Framework Core

March 29, 2018

GraphQL is a relatively new technology developed initially at Facebook and open-sourced to the world in 2015. In 2017, it really took off and made the leap from a cool, niche technology to one of the primary ways companies like Walmart and IBM are starting to work with their APIs and data.

If you're new to GraphQL, here's a definition that sums it up nicely.

> GraphQL is a query language for your API, and a server-side runtime for executing queries by using a type system you define for your data. GraphQL isn't tied to any specific database or storage engine and is instead backed by your existing code and data.
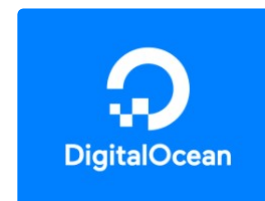> — Source: *graphql.org*

The last sentence is an important one to be mindful of when getting started with GraphQL. So, I'll repeat it by saying GraphQL is not any specific framework or database but rather a *specification* that describes the capabilities and requirements of data models in client-server applications. There's a growing number of libraries out there to help you implement the GraphQL spec in your app for a number of different languages.

In this post, we'll learn about designing and building a GraphQL powered API using ASP.NET Core 2, Entity Framework Core and Joe Mcbrides's excellent graphql-dotnet library.

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