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From .Net C# interview questions

Question:

What are the benefits and drawbacks of using `LinkedList<T>` compared to `List<T>`

Answer:

`LinkedList<T>` and `List<T>` are both generic collections but have different performance characteristics and use-cases:

Benefits of `LinkedList<T>`:

- 1) Dynamic: Each element (node) contains a reference to the next (and/or previous) node. It can be more memory-efficient when frequently adding and removing nodes, especially in the middle of the list.
- 2) Performance: Better performance for insertions and deletions within the list, as it just involves changing the node links.

Drawbacks of `LinkedList<T>`:

- 1) Memory Overhead: Each node in a linked list requires extra memory for its previous/next references.
- 2) Access Time: Poor performance for indexed access or search. It requires linear time to traverse the list from the start to reach the desired element.

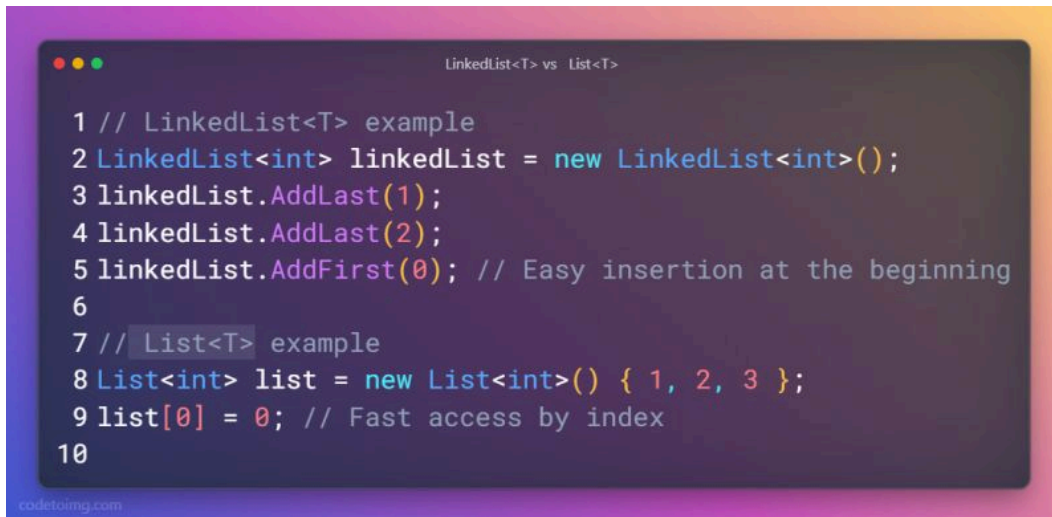
Benefits of `List<T>`:

- 1) Indexed Access: Provides fast indexed access to elements. It's an array-backed list, so accessing an element by index is an  $O(1)$  operation.
- 2) Memory: Generally more memory-efficient for a large number of elements as it doesn't require extra space for node references.

Drawbacks of `List<T>`:

- 1) Resizing: When the underlying array reaches its capacity, the list needs to be resized, which can be a costly operation.
- 2) Insertions/Deletions: Inserting or deleting elements in the middle of the list can be costly as it requires shifting elements.

#csharp #dotnet #interview #interviewquestions #interviewpreparation #list #linkedlist



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LinkedList<T> vs List<T>

1 // LinkedList<T> example
2 LinkedList<int> linkedList = new LinkedList<int>();
3 linkedList.AddLast(1);
4 linkedList.AddLast(2);
5 linkedList.AddFirst(0); // Easy insertion at the beginning
6
7 // List<T> example
8 List<int> list = new List<int>() { 1, 2, 3 };
9 list[0] = 0; // Fast access by index
10
```

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