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Why .NET AOT Compilation Isn't Always the Best Solution

Limited Reflection and Dynamic Features 🔍

.NET's powerful reflection and dynamic code generation are essential for:

- 1) Serialization: Dynamically inspecting and manipulating object properties.
- 2) Dependency Injection: Creating and injecting dependencies at runtime.
- 3) Runtime Type Discovery: Loading and interacting with types unknown at compile time.

However, for the majority of use cases where types are known at compile time, Roslyn code generation can be a faster and more efficient alternative to runtime reflection. Tools like source generators can optimize serialization and DI container setups, reducing overhead and improving performance.

Secure and Controlled Environments 🛡️

AOT shines in secure and controlled environments, such as:

- 1) Embedded Systems: Optimizes for resource constraints and predictability.
- 2) Security-Sensitive Environments: Eliminates runtime code generation, reducing attack surfaces.
- 3) Real-Time Systems: Ensures deterministic performance and consistent response times.

AOT Challenge: Increased build complexity, testing and debugging difficulties, and potential compatibility issues with certain libraries and frameworks.

The Balancing Act ⚖️

While AOT can boost startup times and security, it introduces trade-offs like:

- 1) Larger Code Size: More dependencies and native code.
- 2) Reduced Runtime Optimizations: JIT's adaptive optimizations aren't available.
- 3) Development Overhead: Slower development cycles and more complex maintenance.

So, should you go AOT? It depends on your specific needs and constraints. Evaluate carefully and choose

the best tool for the job! 🧰

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